

A series of articles celebrates historical Finnish women who wrote music

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How many Finnish women composers can you name from the early 20th century? What about the 19th century? Thirty? Three? This article series in FMQ will help you expand your knowledge about historical women composers in Finland.

In approaching the 2020s, we can no longer tolerate gender discrimination in concert programming, pedagogical practices or the writing of history.

The series of articles for FMQ by **Susanna Välimäki** and **Nuppu Koivisto**, derived from their book project titled *Sävelten tyttäret: Säveltävät naiset Suomen historiassa 1700-luvun lopulta 1900-luvun alkuun* [Daughters of music: Finnish Women Composers, from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries], discusses the lives and music of historical women composers in Finland.

The first article (<https://fmq.fi/articles/activists-strive-for-gender-equality>) is an introduction and also showcases a concert series given by violinist **Mirka Malmi** to give voice to forgotten music. The following articles in the series will shed light on the life and music of selected composers.

Here we present briefly some of the composers and interesting projects on women, music and equality.

SELECTED COMPOSERS FROM THE HISTORY OF FINNISH MUSIC

These women born in the late 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries are known to have composed music and are being researched by Susanna Välimäki and Nuppu Koivisto for their book project. The project is in its early days, and the list is only a rough draft.

Charlotte Lithander-Carlbohm (1784–1858)

Henriette Nyberg (1830–1911)

Lilli (Hilma Rosaura) Thuneberg (Leinberg) (1836–1922)

Fanny Mannsen (1834–1856)

Laura Netzel (1839–1927)

Anna Charlotta Blomqvist (1840–1925)

Ida Basilier (1846–1928)

Minna von Knorring (1846–1918)

Sofie Lithenius (1847–1926)

Maria Josefine Woldstedt (1848–1913)

Vendla Forsström (1858–?)

Agnes Tschetschulin (1859–1942)

Ida Moberg (1859–1947)

Betzy Holmberg (1860–1900)

Aina Korhonen (?–?)

Hanna Hällström (1864–1942)

Hulda Kronqvist (1864–1934)

Alexandra Zheleznova-Armfelt (1866–1933)

Edith Sohlström (1870–1934)

Alma Wikeström (1870–1952)

Jenny (Erlevi) Elfving (1871–1932)

Alice Hornborg (Helsingius) (1875–1863)

Lullu (Julia) Woldstedt-Buch (1883–1965)

Lilly Kajanus-Blenner (1885–1963)

Greta Dahlström (1887–1978)

Ruth Forsström (Vaaranen) (1889–1974)

Gertrud (Marau) Ollus (1890–1951)

Anne-Marie Mechelin (1892–1929)

Helvi Leiviskä (1902–1982)

Aili Auer (1902–1968)

Heidi Sundblad-Halme (1903–1973)

Mails Välisalo-Wright (1908–?)

Maija Korkeakoski-Haupt (1909–1983)

COMPOSING, WOMEN AND EQUALITY - PROJECTS AND MATERIALS

Mirka Malmi's Woman and Music Concert Series Web Page (<http://www.mirkamalmi.fi/nainenjaviulu.html>)

Kokonainen Music Festival (<https://www.kokonainenfestival.fi/>)

Promoting Women in Music.

Theses for promoting equality and diversity in the music sector in Finland (<https://www.yhdenvertainenmusiikkiala.com/in-english>)

The Research Association Suoni ry (<https://www.suoni.fi/english/>)

Promoting Societally Activist Music Research.

Equity in Composing Project (Yhdenvertaisesti säveltäen) (<https://sites.uniarts.fi/documents/372711/O/YS-hankekuvaus.pdf/7bc6a8e5-bbdc-433b-bde0-367b021a4cc7>)

The purpose of this research and development project, being launched in spring 2019, is to alleviate gender bias in occupational selection in the field and to dismantle stereotypical notions about composing music. (website in Finnish)

Keychange Project (<https://keychange.eu/>)

Encouraging festivals to sign up to a 50:50 gender balance pledge by 2022.

The Association of Swedish Women Composers (Kvinnlig Anhopning av Svenska Tonsättare – KVAST): The Repertoire Bank (<http://eng.kvast.org/the-repertoire-bank/>)

Illuminate Women's Music Project (<https://www.illuminatewomensmusic.co.uk/illuminate.html>)

Sophie Drinker Institute für Musikwissenschaftliche Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung (<http://www.sophie-drinker-institut.de/startseite>)

Forschungszentrum Musik und Gender (Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover) (<https://www.fmg.hmtm-hannover.de/de/start/>)

International Women and/in Musical Leadership Conference (<http://fass.open.ac.uk/iwmlc>)

Translation: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi

Featured photo: The Helsinki Women's Orchestra in the 1950s. The conductor is the founder of the orchestra, composer Heidi Sundblad-Halme (1903–1973) (front row, sixth from the left).

