

# **Uncovering Hidden Voices: Exploring Piano Works by Black Women Composers In the Helen Walker-Hill Collection**

CU Boulder Collegiate Chapter of MTNA

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## **About the Walker-Hill Special Collection at CU Boulder**

- The Helen Walker-Hill Collection at the University of Colorado Boulder is composed of musical compositions by black women composers throughout the United States and England.
- The collection was compiled by pianist and musicologist, Dr. Helen Walker-Hill, and is hosted by American Music Research Center.
- Proceeding from a desire to use music of black women composers in her piano performance and teachings, Dr. Walker-Hill has dedicated herself since 1987 to uncovering the material, utilizing secondary sources and numerous archives, conducting interviews with composers, and engaging in voluminous correspondence with individuals and institutions.

## **Publications by Helen Walker-Hill**

*Piano Music by Black Women Composers: A Catalog of Solo and Ensemble Works*  
(Greenwood Press, 1992)

- A catalog of music composed by black women to date including over 300 piano works and 200 detailed descriptions of works the author was able to obtain and study.

*Black Women Composers: A Century of Piano Music 1893-1990* (Hildegard, 1992)

- An anthology of music by nineteen black women composers. The volume includes an historical overview, short biographies, and pictures of the composers

*From Spirituals to Symphonies: African-American Women Composers and Their Music*  
(Greenwood Press, 2002)

## **Sources and Websites**

Hidden Voices: <https://www.colorado.edu/project/hidden-voices/>

Helen Walker-Hill Collection: <https://archives.colorado.edu/repositories/3/resources/2199>

American Music Research Center: <https://www.colorado.edu/amrc/>

To request music from the Helen Walker-Hill Collection, contact [sca@colorado.edu](mailto:sca@colorado.edu)  
 (A small copying fee may apply)

### Selected Composers and Works from the Helen Walker-Hill Collection

<b>Anna Gardner Goodwin</b> (1874-1959)	<i>Adelene</i> <i>Cuban Liberty March</i> <i>The Educational Congress March</i>
<b>Florence Beatrice Price</b> (1887-1953)	<i>Arkansas Jitter</i> <i>At the Cotton Gin</i> <i>Bayou Dance</i> <i>Cotton Dance</i> <i>Dances in the canebrakes (3 mvts.)</i> <i>Fantasia Negre</i> <i>Rabbit Foot</i> <i>Rocking Chair</i> <i>The Sea Swallow</i>
<b>Undine Smith Moore</b> (1904-1989)	<i>Many Thousand Gone</i> <i>Before I'd Be A Slave</i> <i>Fugue in F Major</i> <i>Scherzo</i> <i>The Romantic Young Clown</i>
<b>Irene Britton Smith</b> (1907-1999)	<i>Passacaglia and Fugue</i> <i>Prelude</i> <i>Variations on a theme by MacDowell</i>
<b>Zenobia Powell Perry</b> (1908-2004)	<i>Piano Potpourri (14 pieces)</i> - <i>Vignette No. 1</i> - <i>A Jazz Trifle</i> - <i>Homage</i> <i>Rhapsodie</i> <i>Sonatina (2 mvts.)</i>
<b>Julia Perry</b> (1924-1979)	<i>Miniature</i> <i>Prelude for piano</i>
<b>Valerie Capers</b> (1935-Present)	<i>Portraits in Jazz (12 pieces)</i> - <i>Billie's Song</i> - <i>Bossa Brasilia</i> - <i>Cool-Trane</i>

<b>Mable Bailey</b> (1939-Present)	<i>Dance</i> <i>Prankster</i> <i>Dialogue</i> <i>Child's World</i> (song cycle) * <i>Bee Suite</i> (brass trio) *
<b>Jeraldine Sanders Herbison</b> (1941-Present)	<i>Piano Sonata</i> (4 mvts.) <i>Prelude and Rondo</i>

\*Indicates works not in the Helen Walker-Hill Collection