



Francesca Caccini



A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN COMPOSERS

FINALLY BREAKING THROUGH THE MALE-DOMINATED WORLD OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

There have always been women composers. As far back as the seventh century BC, Sappho, the Greek lyric poetess, played her own accompaniments on the barbiton and the pektis.

Throughout the twelfth century there were female troubadours and during the sixteenth, madrigal composers.

Francesca Caccini (1587-1638) is thought to be the first woman to write an opera and Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre (1663-1729), the author of an early ballet. It is not until the end of the nineteenth century, however, that significantly more women begin to enjoy public performances of their music and become professional composers. Perhaps you've heard of Amy Beach, Augusta Holmes and Dame Ethel Smyth?

Jeffrey Engel (<http://www.jeffreyengel.net/>) will highlight the lives and the music of several distinguished female composers who attained recognition and success during the last decades of the nineteenth and the early ones in the twentieth centuries.



Fanny Mendelssohn



Ethel Smyth