Women Composers for Essay contest

Please choose an influential female composer who wrote instrumental or vocal music in the Classical concert tradition, from any period of time up to the present day. Below is a list of influential composers you may choose from, although you may choose a composer not on this list. For a more complete list of women composers, you can refer to:


For a brief introduction to many of these composers, you can visit the following websites:


Adriana Holszky
Agata Zubel
Alexandra Gardner
Amy Beach
Andrea Clearfield
Anna Clyne
Anna Thorvaldsdottir
Anne LeBaron
Arlene Sierra
Augusta Read Thomas
Barbara Kolb
Barbara Strozzi
Bernadette Speach
Betsy Jolas
Caroline Shaw
Cécile Chaminade
Chen Yi
Cindy McTee
Clara Wieck Schumann
Dalit Warshaw
Du Yun
Elena Kats-Chernin
Elena Ruehr
Ellen Taaffe Zwilich
Elodie Lauten
Ethel Smyth
Eve Beglarian
Fanny Mendelssohn
Florence Price
Gabriela Lena Frank
Galina Ustvolskaya
Germaine Tailleferre
Gloria Coates
Hannah Lash
Hildegard von Bingen
Jennifer Higdon
Joan Tower
Judith Lang Zaimont
Judith Weir
Julia Wolfe
Kaija Saariaho
Kate Soper
Kati Agocs
Laura Kaminsky
Lera Auerbach
Libby Larsen
Lili Boulanger
Lisa Bielawa
Lori Laitman
Lucia Długoszewski
Margaret Brouwer
Marti Epstein
Mary Ellen Childs
Melinda Wagner
Meredith Monk
Missy Mazzoli
Nancy van de Vate
Nicola LeFanu
Olga Neuwirth
Paola Prestini
Pauline Oliveros
Peggy Glanville-Hicks
Peggy Stuart Coolidge
Rachel Portman
Rebecca Clarke
Ruth Crawford Seeger
Sarah Kirkland Snider
Shulamit Ran
Sofia Gubaidulina
Tania Leon
Thea Musgrave
Tina Davidson
Unsuk Chin
Ursula Mamlok
Valerie Coleman
Victoria Bond
Zoe Keating