



# UPON THESE SHOULDERS

2021 Composer Guide

*featuring*

Adolphus Hailstork

Andre Myers

Gary Powell Nash

Nailah Nombeko

Florence Price

Dave Ragland

Alvin Singleton

Errollyn Wallen

John W. Work Jr.

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[www.intersectionmusic.org](http://www.intersectionmusic.org)

# ADOLPHUS HAILSTORK

b. 1941



Adolphus Hailstork received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He had previously studied at the Manhattan School of Music, under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax. Dr. Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band, orchestra, and opera. Dr. Hailstork resides in Virginia Beach Virginia, and is Professor of Music and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University in Norfolk.

**Learn More:**

[www.adolphushailstork.com](http://www.adolphushailstork.com)

# ANDRE MYERS

b. 1973

Andre Myers is an artist and instructor of piano, composition and theory based in California's Inland Empire. He serves on the faculty at the University of Redlands School of Music, teaching composition, music theory, and electronic music. Intense and lyrical, his music mixes narrative drama, poetry, and meditations on color to create work that aspires to moments of honesty, poignancy, and depth. A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Andre has three times been commissioned by the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra, where he served as composer-in-residence for the Philharmonic's CLASSical music outreach program. His second commission from the Philharmonic, a musical adaptation of Holling C. Holling's picture book Paddle to the Sea, has been performed regularly since 2005 as a part of the orchestra's "Koncert for Kids" series, and the composer has narrated the work for tens of thousands of school children.



**Learn More:**  
[www.andremyers.com](http://www.andremyers.com)

# GARY POWELL NASH

b. 1964



Gary Powell Nash, a native of Flint, Michigan is Professor of Music at Fisk University in Nashville, TN where he teaches and coordinates courses in music theory, technology, composition, applied woodwinds and conducts the Fisk Jazz Ensemble. Nash holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition from Michigan State University. As a composer of Western classical music, Nash has composed musical works for orchestra, band/wind ensemble, choir, art songs (four in Chinese), electroacoustic works and instrumental chamber compositions, including two short film scores. His music has been performed in all major regions of the United States and abroad on the continents of Asia and Europe. Eleven of Nash's compositions are featured on compact disc with five of those appearing on Albany, Centaur and Citadel Records labels.

**Learn More:**

[www.garynash.musicaneo.com](http://www.garynash.musicaneo.com)



# NAILAH NOMBEKO

Nailah Nombeko, a native of New York, comes from a musical family. She attended the Preparatory Division of Manhattan School of Music, LaGuardia High School (Music and Art) and she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Mannes College of Music with additional studies in orchestration at The Juilliard School. Some recent projects were with international opera star Karen Slack for Sparks and Wiry Cries and a commission from Ethel Quartet which was premiered in December 2019 at National Sawdust.



**Learn More:**  
[www.nailahnombeko.com](http://www.nailahnombeko.com)

# FLORENCE PRICE

1887–1953



Composer and organist Florence Price was the first female African American composer to have a composition premiered by a leading orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Frederick Stock in 1933. Price wrote symphonic compositions, arrangements of Negro spirituals, and organ and piano suites. In addition to composing, Florence Price also wrote popular tunes and accompanied silent films.

**Learn More:**

[www.florenceprice.com](http://www.florenceprice.com)



# DAVE RAGLAND

Dave Ragland is a two-time EMMY nominated composer, vocalist, pianist, and conductor. Hailed as “über-talented” by The Nashville Scene, Dave's recent commissions include ONE VOTE WON for Nashville Opera and STEAL AWAY for OZ ARTS. Dave's compositions have been presented by Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Nashville Symphony, and Portland Opera. Previous commissions include Nashville Ballet, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Frist Art Museum, African-American Art Song Alliance, and the GRADY-RAYAM Negro Spiritual Foundation. As a conductor and vocalist, Dave has performed with Brandi Carlile, Ruby Amanfu, Jennifer Hudson, John Prine, and GRAMMY-winning songwriter Marcus Hummon.



**Learn More:**  
[www.daveragland.com](http://www.daveragland.com)

# ALVIN SINGLETON

b. 1940



**Learn More:**

[www.alvinsingleton.com](http://www.alvinsingleton.com)

Alvin Singleton was born in Brooklyn, New York and attended New York University and Yale. As a Fulbright Scholar, he studied with Goffredo Petrassi at Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Italy. After living and working in Europe for fourteen years, Singleton returned to the United States to become Composer-in-Residence with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (1985-88). He subsequently served as Resident Composer at Spelman College in Atlanta (1988-91), as UNISYS Composer-in-Residence with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (1996-97), and was the 2002-03 Composer-in-Residence with the Ritz Chamber Players of Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, he has served as Visiting Professor of Composition at the Yale University School of Music. Singleton has amassed numerous awards throughout his compositional life. He is the recipient of a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship and was commissioned by The Serge Koussevitsky Music Foundation and American Composers Orchestra for the orchestral work *When Given a Choice*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in April 2004.



# ERROLLYN WALLEN

b. 1958

Born in Belize, Errollyn Wallen gave up her training at the Dance Theater of Harlem, New York to study composition at the universities of London and Cambridge. She founded her own Ensemble X, and its motto 'We don't break down barriers in music... we don't see any' reflects her genuine, free-spirited approach and eclectic musicianship. She has been commissioned by outstanding music institutions from the BBC to the Royal Opera House and performed her songs internationally.



**Learn More:**

[www.errollynwallen.com](http://www.errollynwallen.com)

# JOHN WESLEY WORK, III

1901–1967



John Wesley Work, III was educated at Fisk University and received his Masters degree from Columbia University. He also attended Yale University. Work taught at Fisk from 1926–1966, as theory professor, chairman of the Fisk University Department of Music, composer and Director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. He composed “Mandy Lou” while in high school and received a prize from the Fellowship of American Composers in 1946 for “The Singers,” originally scored for chorus, baritone and orchestra. His compositions numbering over 100, included “Soliloquy,” and collections of 221 religious and secular songs.

**Learn More:**

<https://bit.ly/3v46tNJ>



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<http://africandiasporamusicproject.org/>**