

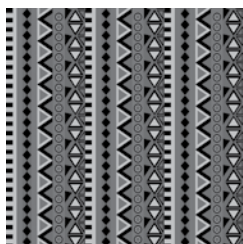
## MUSIC FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We should be playing music from underrepresented communities all year round, but if you focus on Black History Month in February, here are some Canadian composers, or composers who lived/studied in Canada, to investigate. These are composers who have written music that may be useful to church musicians. Of course, whenever a list is made, inevitably someone is left out. Please let us know who we missed!



Name	Background	Music Type	Source
<b>Kola Owolabi</b>	Professor of Organ at University of Notre Dame; of Nigerian heritage; grew up in Ontario; studied in Quebec and the US	organ/choral	<a href="http://www.kolaowolabi.com/compositions">www.kolaowolabi.com/compositions</a>
<b>Ted Runcie</b>	Born in Jamaica; grew up in Toronto; has worked and taught in Europe and the US; currently based in Taiwan	choral, piano, chamber, orchestra, vocal	<a href="http://www.tedruncie.ca/works">www.tedruncie.ca/works</a>
<b>David Eastmond</b>	Grew up in Brampton, Ontario	mostly wind band, but some chamber, piano	<a href="http://www.davidaeastmond.com/music">www.davidaeastmond.com/music</a>
<b>Duncan Wambugu</b>	Kenyan; studied in Alberta and the US; professor of Music and Dance, Kenyatta University	choral	<a href="https://excelciamusic.com/product-category/composers/duncan-miano-wambugu">https://excelciamusic.com/product-category/composers/duncan-miano-wambugu</a>
<b>Karen Burke</b>	Grew up and studied in Ontario; conducts Toronto Mass Choir and York University Gospel Choir	gospel choir	<a href="https://burkemusic.ca/home">https://burkemusic.ca/home</a>
<b>Jude Nwankwo</b>	Nigerian; studied in Nigeria and the US; currently studying in Alberta	choral	<a href="http://www.judenwankwo.musicaneo.com">www.judenwankwo.musicaneo.com</a> <a href="http://www.giamusic.com/sacred-music/">www.giamusic.com/sacred-music/</a> (search by name)
<b>David Bontemps</b>	Haitian born; lives in Quebec	piano, voice, chamber	<a href="http://www.davidbontemps.site/scores">www.davidbontemps.site/scores</a>
<b>Larry Strachan</b>	Grenadian heritage; born and raised in Winnipeg; studied in Manitoba and the US	art songs, choral, chamber	<a href="http://www.cmccanada.org">www.cmccanada.org</a> (search by name)
<b>Maria Thompson Corley</b>	Jamaican born; raised and studied in Alberta and the US	vocal solos and duets, piano, choral	<a href="http://www.sheetmusicplus.com">www.sheetmusicplus.com</a> (search by name)
<b>Oliver Jones</b>	Born in Montreal; parents from Barbados	jazz	<a href="http://www.sheetmusicplus.com">www.sheetmusicplus.com</a> (search by name) and other internet sources

Name	Background	Music Type	Source
Robert Nathaniel Dett	1882–1943; his Canadian/American parents escaped to Canada from the US; born in Ontario and later returned to US to study and work	choral, piano	www.imslp.org (search by name)
Oscar Peterson	1925–2007; born in Montreal to parents from Saint Kitts and Nevis and the British Virgin Islands	jazz; some music that works well in a sacred setting, especially “Hymn to Freedom,” and jazz etudes	www.halleonard.com (search by name)



For more resources, visit

- [www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/black-history-month](http://www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/black-history-month)
- [www.canadianartsongproject.ca/black-canadian-composers-of-art-song/](http://www.canadianartsongproject.ca/black-canadian-composers-of-art-song/)
- [www.morebipocvoices.com](http://www.morebipocvoices.com)

Some universities, such as the University of Saskatchewan and Queens University, also have lists of BIPOC composers.

## LEADING HYMNS : A Q&A WITH KEYBOARD STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

*As you will learn from these responses, hymn playing can take a lot of thought, practice, and patience. The more you work on it, the easier it gets and the more satisfied you and the congregation will be! Thanks to the students and teachers for their input on this article.*

**Rachele Playford (RP)** is a psychology and music student at Concordia University of Edmonton and has taken organ lessons for two-and-a-half years.

**Lucas Ogrins (LO)** is a beginner adult student in his second year of lessons. He has some music experience. He wants to be able to play preludes and hymns at his church in Calgary.

**Trevor Lee (TL)** is an adult student who studied organ as a university student and has returned to organ in retirement in Calgary. He is taking a Royal Canadian College of Organists exam and is learning to play hymns for the exam. He has never held a church position.

**Luke Haslbeck (LH)** is a third-year university student and an organist at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Calgary.

**Chellan Hoffman (CH)** is an organ instructor at Mount Royal Conservatory in Calgary and a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary. Chellan has over 30 years’ experience as a church musician and collaborative keyboardist. She is the associate director at Knox United Church in downtown Calgary.

**Tammy-Jo Mortensen (TM)** is the music editor of Gathering. She has been a church musician for over 35 years in many different denominations. She is currently teaching organ at Concordia University in Edmonton.

