



## Musical Heroes: Stories of African-American Composers

### Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953)

#### Suggested Recordings, Resources, and Topics for Classroom Discussion

##### Recordings

###### Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3

Philadelphia Orchestra; Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/florence-price-symphonies-nos-1-3/1584343055>

###### Symphony No. 1

New Black Repertory Ensemble; Leslie B. Dunner, conductor

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s4yY\\_A2A2kand](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s4yY_A2A2kand) (Note: YouTube clips often contain ads.)

###### Violin Concerto No. 2

Kelly Hall-Tompkins, violin

Urban Playground Ensemble; Thomas Cunningham, conductor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMRTUI-rNkc> (Note: YouTube clips often contain ads.)

###### Piano Concerto in One Movement

Lara Downes, piano

Brevard Music Center Orchestra; Keith Lockhart, conductor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fU9NHe2zVk> (Note: YouTube clips often contain ads.)

##### Adoration

Randall Goosby, violin; Zhu Wang, piano

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6brnswWmZ8Xdf4MWeskofY?si=2eebef3b62e4116>

##### Additional Resources

**Book:** [The Heart of a Woman: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price](#)

**Book:** [It's Our Music Too: The Black Experience in Classical Music](#)

**Website:** [FlorencePrice.com](http://FlorencePrice.com)

**Video Interview:** <https://www.publicradiotulsa.org/post/pianist-lara-downes-re-centers-music-great-migration#stream/0> Lara Downes on NPR discusses Black American music during the Great Migration of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

## Upcoming San Francisco Symphony performances:

**Florence Price** Symphony No. 3

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 8:00pm

Friday, February 18, 2022 at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 8:00pm

San Francisco Symphony; Akiko Fujimoto, conductor

<https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2021-22/PRICE-3>

## Topics for classroom discussion, further research, and discovery

- The Great Migration
- Chicago Black Renaissance
- Jim Crow legislation

### The Great Migration

- What was the Great Migration? What were the causes and effects of this demographic phenomenon?
- How were African Americans influenced by the Great Migration? What were the biggest factors in the migration process for African Americans?
- Use maps to track migratory patterns of African Americans from the South to localities in the North, Midwest, and West. Identify some of the principal cities where African-American migrants established communities as their new home.

### Chicago Black Renaissance

- What was the Chicago Black Renaissance? What factors led to the creation of an African-American cultural movement based in Chicago? What was the movement's historical and cultural significance?
- Research and summarize the achievements of some Chicago Black Renaissance luminaries:
  - Margaret Bonds - composer
  - Richard Wright - writer
  - Lorraine Hansberry - playwright
  - Katherine Dunham - choreographer and dancer
  - Earl Hines - jazz pianist and bandleader
  - Archibald Motley - painter

### Jim Crow legislation

- Where did the name "Jim Crow" originate? Why were laws enacted that placed restrictions on rights for certain populations?
- Research examples of Jim Crow laws and discuss how the legislation affected communities.
- What effects did the laws have on the lives of African Americans? What difficulties did the laws impose, and how did African Americans navigate these difficulties?