


# **Exploring the Piano Repertoire of African-American Women Composers and Their Pedagogical Contributions: Margaret Bonds, Florence Price, and Undine Smith Moore**

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## **I. Florence B. Price (1887-1953)**


- Rooted in African-American spirituals and folk melodies
- Incorporated syncopated rhythms and blues patterns
- Focus on developing students' sense of rhythm and musicality

 Honeysuckle (A Southern Sky) (1939)

 From the Dances in the Canebrakes – I. Nimble Feet (1953)

## **II. Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)**

- Rooted on African-American spirituals and hymns. Secular works frequently include Christian texts and incorporate spirituals and folk tunes
- Uses universal language, tonally conservative
- Focus on developing students' musical sensitivity and appreciation for the emotional and spiritual contents of each composition

 Before I'd be a Slave (1952)

## **III. Margaret A. Bonds (1913-1972)**

- Deeply rooted on the African-American heritage
- Incorporates elements of jazz, blues, and gospel styles
- Focus on developing students' understanding of the cultural context and historical significance of the works they play

 From Spiritual Suite- The Valley of the Bones (1952)

## REPERTOIRE LIST

Composer	Work Title	Publisher	Comments	Suggested Level
Bonds, Margaret	Spiritual Suite for Piano: Valley of the Bones, The Bells, and Troubled Water	Videmus / Classical Vocal Reprints	Rich and expressive works, showcasing Bond's harmonic complexities	Advanced
Bonds, Margaret	Two Works for Solo Piano: Tangamerican, Fugal Dance	Hildegard Publishing Co.	A tribute to the Argentinian tango, and a technically difficult and complex Fugue.	Intermediate, Advanced
Bonds, M., Price, F., and Smith Moore, U	Collection: Black Women Composers: A Century of Piano Music (1893-1990)	Hildegard Publishing Co.	Featuring: Troubled Water (Bonds), Fantasie Negre in E minor (Price), Before I'd Be a Slave (Smith Moore)	Advanced
Bonds, M., and Price, F.	Collection: Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora, Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4	Oxford University Press	Vol. 1- Ticklin' Toes (Price) Vol. 2- Silk Hat and Walking Cane (Price) Vol. 3- Nimble Feet (Price) Vol. 4- Troubled Water (Bonds)	Intermediate, Advanced
Price, Florence	An Old Love Letter	Schirmer	Work of considerable emotional range	Interm./Adv.
Price, Florence	At the Cotton Gin	Owain Evans	Offers a rhythmic challenge	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Barcarolle	Schirmer	A beautiful testament to Price's fluency in musical Italianisms	Advanced
Price, Florence	Collections: A Collection of Florence Price's Piano Teaching Music- Volumes 1 and 2: Beginning Pieces	ClarNan Editions/ Classical Vocal Reprints (CN 93, CN98)	Vol. 1- On Higher Ground, The Froggie and the Rabbit, 9 Little Pieces on White Keys, including Marching Men, 14 Little Pieces on Black Keys including This Way and That Way Vol. 2- Autumn Echoes, Climbing up the Mountain, Brownies on the Seashore, Set of Pieces 1. Follow Me, 2. Little Pal, 3. Little Soldiers, 4. Little Miss Muffet, 5. Here and There, 6. Clover Blossoms, 7. Roly Poly, 8. Criss Cross, 9. Rock-a-bye, 10. March of the Beetles	Elementary
Price, Florence	Concerto in One Movement	Schirmer	Substantial work demanding technical proficiency	Advanced
Price, Florence	Child Asleep	Schirmer	Short work of ingeniously terraced tonal design	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Clouds	Schirmer	Tender meditative, post-tonal work with alternating tonally stable structures	Advanced
Price, Florence	Colonial Dance	Schirmer	Stylized dance, with strong rhythmic energy	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Cotton Dance	Schirmer	Virtuoso work, rhythmically intense displaying tricky syncopations	Advanced
Price, Florence	Dances in the Canebrakes- Nimble Feet, Tropical Noon, and Silk Hat and Walking Cane	Affiliated Musicians, Inc.	Ragtime inspired with characteristic syncopations	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Dance of the Cotton Blossoms	Classical vocal reprints	A lively piece with characteristic rhythms	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Down a Southern Lane	Schirmer	A short descriptive work, a study in contrasts	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Etude	Schirmer	A pedagogical composition that challenges the student in a Liszt Paganini n.4 style technique.	Elementary/ Intermediate

Price, Florence	Fantasia nègre No. 1 in E minor	Schirmer	An interesting blend of European traditional writing with African American idioms, a virtuoso successful piece	Advanced
Price, Florence	Fantasia nègre No. 2 in G minor	Schirmer	Complex and expressive work, displays Price's pianistic virtuosity	Advanced
Price, Florence	Fantasia nègre No. 3 in F minor	Schirmer	Distinct rhythmic and melodic characteristics inspired by African American spirituals while maintaining classical piano fantasies.	Advanced
Price, Florence	Fantasia nègre No. 4 in B minor	Schirmer	An extraordinary virtuoso work that evokes traditional spirituality, in dramatic harmonic language	Advanced
Price, Florence	First Romance	Schirmer	Charming and poignant piece	Interm./Adv.
Price, Florence	Florence Beatrice Price: An Album of Piano Pieces	ClarNan Editions/ Classical Vocal Reprints (CN 101)	Individual works and works from collection sets: African Drums, A Hillside, Bayou Dance, Cabin Capers, Dark Pool, Flame, Honeysuckle, Honeysuckle at Dusk, Jig Jog, Little Melody in E flat, Memory Mist, On a Summer's Eve, Placid Lake, Popcorn, Rainbow Waltz, Reverie, Rocking Chair	Intermediate-Advanced
Price, Florence	Four Piano Pieces -Levee at Noontime (Barcarolle); Little Miss Perky; Smile, Smile!; and Fairy Fun (Little Toe Dancer)	Schirmer	Delightful, wit set, musically rewarding but technically accessible pieces	Intermediate
Price, Florence	His Dream	Schirmer	A Relaxed, songlike work that presents a darker, impetuous middle section	Intermediate
Price, Florence	I'm Troubled in My Mind	Schirmer	Arrangement of the famous African American spiritual, work of great emotional power, a sorrow song	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Impromptu No. 1	Schirmer	It reveals the Price's genius writing integrating conventional White styles and Black vernacular idioms	Intermediate/Advanced
Price, Florence	In Sentimental Mood	Schirmer	Distinct piece with melodic beauty and rich harmonic language, in the style of a romance	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho	Schirmer	The arrangement of the famous spiritual, chromatic harmonies and intense counterpoint characterizes this version	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Joy in June	Schirmer	A light-hearted piece with interesting harmonic language	Interm./Adv.
Price, Florence	Levee Dance	Owain Evans	Vibrant dance with strong rhythm	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Meditation	Schirmer	Folk-like melodies, cheerful, songlike outer sections contrasting with a melancholy middle section	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Mellow Twilight	Schirmer	An expressive tone- poem	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Memory Mist	Schirmer	Compact and deliciously evocative, blues-influenced harmony and African American influenced texture.	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen	Schirmer	Profoundly emotional rendition, technically accessible	Intermediate
Price, Florence	On a Quiet Lake	Schirmer	Evocative masterpiece rich of musical imagination	Advanced
Price, Florence	On a Summer's Eve	Schirmer	An example of Bond's digressions into post-tonal and impressionist idioms, flowing rhythm	Elementary/Intermediate
Price, Florence	Preludes: I. Allegro moderato, II. Andantino cantabile, III. Allegro molto, IV. Allegretto con tenerezza	Schirmer	Vibrant collection with impetuous, fanfare-like, and lyrical works	Intermediate-Advanced

	(Also published as Wistful), V. Allegro			
Price, Florence	Scenes in Tin Can Alley – I. The Huckster, II. Children at Play, III. Night	Schirmer	Colorful set that moves from darkness or mystery to lightness and gaiety, which delivers a powerful message	Advanced
Price, Florence	Seven Descriptive Pieces: Little Truants, Two Busy Little Hands, Hard Problems, Tittle Tattle, In Romance Land, Hilda’s Waltz, Pensive Mood	Schirmer	Earlier works which reflect Price’s rich harmonic language	Advanced
Price, Florence	Six Pieces for Piano Solo	Schirmer	Charming pieces which underline Black vernacular styles	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Snapshots: I. Lake Mirror, II. Moon behind a Cloud, III. Flame	Schirmer	Most large works and most persistently modernist	Advanced
Price, Florence	Remembrance	Schirmer	Sophisticated piece in which stylistic techniques from both vernacular and cultivated spheres are integrated	Intermediate/ Advanced
Price, Florence	Rowing: Little Concert Waltz	Schirmer	A lilting, sparkling waltz, highlighting Price’s gift as a melodist.	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Sonata in E minor	Schirmer	Showcases Price's virtuosic demand	Advanced
Price, Florence	Scherzo in G	Schirmer	An interesting play of “wrong key” areas, in a lighthearted, witty work	Advanced
Price, Florence	Sketches in Sepia	Schirmer	Homophonic texture, light dolce melody.	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Song Without Words in A Major	Schirmer	An intense, passionate work in which lyricism is privileged over drama	Intermediate/ Advanced
Price, Florence	Song Without Words in G Major (Pleading)	Schirmer	Contrapuntal work with distinct interaction between parts	Advanced
Price, Florence	Summer Moon	Schirmer	Rich jazz-influenced harmonies and deeply songful melodies	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Tarantella	Schirmer	Rapid work featuring running scales that lead to strong punctuating chords	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Ten Negro Spirituals: Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler; I’m Troubled In my Mind; I Know the Lord Has Laid His Hands on Me; Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho; Gimme That Old Time Religion; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Peter, Go Ring dem Bells; Were You There When They Crucified My Lord; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian	Schirmer	Deeply felt, personalized readings of well-known tunes that offer a lens into Price’s brilliance in integrating Black vernacular styles and melodies into the idioms of Western concert music	Intermediate/ Advanced

Price, Florence	The Goblin and the Mosquito	Clayton F. Summy	A whimsical piece with varied dynamics	Intermediate
Price, Florence	The Old Boatman	Schirmer	A piece of texture and articulation-rich proportions	Elementary
Price, Florence	Three Sketches for Little Pianists- I. Cabin Song, II. Bright Eyes, III. A Morning Sunbeam	Schirmer	Simple pieces developing balance and hands coordination	Elementary
Price, Florence	Three Miniature Portraits of Uncle Ned – I. At Age Seventeen, II. At Age Twenty-Seven, III. At Age Seventy	Schirmer	Colorful set that portrays a jovial tone, pompous and mature tone through the character’s ages	Intermediate/ Advanced
Price, Florence	Three Little Negro Dances- I. Hoe Cake, II. Rabbit Foot, III. Ticklin’ Toes	Schirmer	Strong rhythm and tuneful set	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Three Roses: To a Yellow Rose; To a White Rose; To a Red Rose	Schirmer	Thematic quotation and motivic allusion connects each movement in this lovely set	Intermediate- Advanced
Price, Florence	To a Brown Leaf	Schirmer	Work of compact scale that displays a great deal of compositional richness	Intermediate
Price, Florence	To a Certain Pair of Newlyweds	Schirmer	A Juba Dance with flavorful blue thirds	Advanced
Price, Florence	Thumbnail Sketches of a Day in the Life of a Washerwoman- I. Morning, II. A Gay Moment III. Evening Shadows, Dreaming at the Washtub	Schirmer	Personal, depth of character, work of colorful portrait, with interesting harmonic language. Includes a juba dance.	Advanced
Price, Florence	Until We Meet	Schirmer	Sophisticated harmonic technique, work of exquisite tenderness and unassuming beauty	Advanced
Price, Florence	Valsette Mignon	Schirmer	Gentle waltz, with clear a harmonic interest	Interm./Adv.
Price, Florence	Village Scenes: Church Spires in Moonlight; A Shaded Lane; The Park	Schirmer	Evocative post-impressionist techniques, rich chromatic post-Romantic harmonic language inflected with African American patterns	Intermediate- Advanced
Price, Florence	Waltz of the Spring Maid	Schirmer	Gapped scales and Circular melodies blended with a variety of figurations and textures in a sparkling waltz	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Waltzing on a Sunbeam	Schirmer	A work of stylistic elegance and richness	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Whim Wham	Schirmer	A rollicking piano miniature, filled with syncopations and various uses of pentatonic, and blue thirds.	Intermediate
Price, Florence	Your Hands in Mine	Schirmer	Lush harmonies and rich textures, one of Price’s most sumptuously romantic works	Intermediate/ Advanced
Smith Moore, Undine	Before I'd Be a Slave	Hildegard Publishing Co.	Profound and demanding	Advanced
Smith Moore, Undine	Fugue in F Major	Manuscript (University of Colorado Boulder)	Three parts contrapuntal in Sonata allegro form	Intermediate

Smith Moore, Undine	Many Thousands Gone	Manuscript (University of Colorado Boulder)	Chordal texture with jazz style	Advanced
Smith Moore, Undine	The Romantic Young Clown	Manuscript (Emory University)	Combined time signature, Atonal	Advanced
Smith Moore, Undine	Scherzo	Manuscript (Emory University)	Waltz pattern	Intermediate

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Resources:

<https://www.classicalondemand.com/>

<https://www.classicalvocalrep.com/products/An-Album-of-Piano-Pieces-384534.html>

<https://www.hildegard.com/resources/black-women-composers/>

<https://www.hildegard.com/>

<https://florenceprice.com/>

<https://www.ceomta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Piano-Works-by-African-American-Composers.pdf>

<https://music.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Solo-and-Collaborative-Piano-Music-by-Composers-of-African-Descent-and-Women.pdf>

<https://www.colorado.edu/project/hidden-voices/undine-smith-moore>

<https://www.nkoda.com/artists/Undine-Smith-Moore>

<https://www.aseatathepiano.com/composers/florence-price>