Classical music history is filled with women who were composers, performers, conductors and even musical inspiration.

Women who composed at a time when most women did not have careers include Francesca Caccini, Marianna Martines, Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach, Florence Price, and Queen Lili‘oukalani.

Today, there are many women who compose, including Caroline Shaw, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Lera Auerbach, Chen Yi, Jennifer Higdon, Libby Larsen and Tania León.

Women have also been some of classical music's top performers. Clara Wieck Schumann, Rebecca Clarke, Jacqueline Du Pré, Evelyn Glennie, Marian Anderson, and Leontyne Price are all great examples.

JoAnn Falletta conducts orchestras in the United States and around the world. Nadia Boulanger was not only a composer, conductor and organist; she also taught other composers including Aaron Copland.

Plus, the stories of great women are often told through opera productions and orchestral works. Cleopatra, Elizabeth I, Elizabeth II, Joan of Arc, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Grace Hopper all inspired classical music compositions.

It’s A Match!
Match each woman with her role in classical music history.

1. Clara Schumann  A. Conductor
2. JoAnn Falletta  B. Opera Singer
3. Evelyn Glennie  C. Composer
4. Chen Yi  D. Pianist
5. Nadia Boulanger  E. Percussionist
6. Leontyne Price  F. Teacher
A Musical Crossword
Complete the crossword below

Across
3. Instrument with four strings; popular in Hawaii
4. The person who stands in front of an orchestra and makes sure they are playing together.
6. Musician Evelyn Glennie plays what instruments?
8. His music was played on a computer.
9. First American woman to compose and publish a symphony.
10. Composed for an all-girl orchestra.

Down
1. A book that shows all the notes in a piece of music and the instruments used to play it.
2. Queen of the Piano
5. Opera written about Sojourner Truth
7. Opera about Queen Elizabeth I

Word Search

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Cleopatra
Amy Beach
Florence Price
Wendy Carlos

Tania Leon
Rosa Parks
Maria Callas
Marian Anderson

Joan of Arc
Caroline Shaw
Chen Yi
Libby Larsen

Women In History Timeline

1098 - 1179
Hildegard von Bingen

1412 - 1431:
Joan of Arc

1500 AD
1533 - 1603:
Queen Elizabeth I of England

1600 AD
1640 - 1689:
Aphra Behn, the first English woman to earn a living as a writer

1700 AD
1744 - 1818: Abigail Adams
1797 - 1893: Sojourner Truth

1800 AD
1805 - 1847: Fanny Mendelssohn
1819 - 1896: Clara Schumann
1820 - 1906: Susan B. Anthony
1852: Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes “Uncle Tom's Cabin”
1896: Amy Beach publishes her “Gaelic” symphony

1900 AD
1903: Metropolitan Opera performs Edyth Smith's Der Wald
1913 - 2005: Rosa Parks
1923 - 1977 Maria Callas
1955: Marian Anderson sings at the Metropolitan Opera
1983: Ellen Taaffe Zwilich wins the Pulitzer Prize for Music

2000 AD
2016: Metropolitan Opera performs Kaija Saariaho's L'Amour de Loin