

# KEYBOARD KIDS COMPANION

Created by teachers. *Approved by kids!*

Helen Smith Tarchalski

## NOTE- WORTHY WOMEN IN MUSIC



CÉCILE CHAMINADE

### CÉCILE CHAMINADE

*Born:* Aug 8, 1857 • Paris, France

*Died:* Apr 13, 1944 • Monte Carlo, Monaco

Cécile Louise Stéphanie Chaminade was a French composer and pianist. She performed frequently in France, Belgium, and Great Britain, and was a guest of Queen Victoria. Chaminade made her American debut in 1908 performing her *Concertstück* with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She was very popular in America; Chaminade clubs formed around the country. She had nearly 400 compositions published during her lifetime; about half are short piano pieces that became very popular. In 1913, she became the first woman to be awarded the Legion of Honour by the French government.

### FLORENCE PRICE

*Born:* Apr 9, 1887 • Little Rock, AR

*Died:* Jun 3, 1953 • Chicago, IL

American composer Florence Beatrice Price was the first black woman composer to be recognized nationally. In a 1943 letter to conductor Serge Koussevitzky, she wrote: "My dear Dr. Koussevitzky, To begin with, I have two handicaps—those of sex and race. I am a woman; and I have some Negro blood in my veins." Her music was mostly ignored for decades with the exception of the Chicago Symphony's music director. In 2009, a couple in Illinois, planning to renovate a house they had just bought, discovered books and music with the name "Florence Price." After researching her name on the Internet, they contacted the library at the University of Arkansas.

### FANNY MENDELSSOHN HENSEL

*Born:* Nov 14, 1805 • Hamburg, Germany

*Died:* May 14, 1847 • Berlin, Germany

Fanny Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Hensel was a German pianist and composer. She composed more than 400 pieces of music, including a piano trio and several books of solo piano pieces and songs. Many of her songs were originally published under her brother Felix Mendelssohn's name because women were not accepted as composers at that time. However, Fanny became one of the first female composers to have works published under her own name.



FLORENCE PRICE



FANNY MENDELSSOHN  
HENSEL



JULIETTE NADIA  
BOULANGER



MARIE-JULIETTE OLGA  
"LILI" BOULANGER



AMY CHENEY BEACH



CLARA WIECK  
SCHUMANN

**JULIETTE NADIA BOULANGER***Born:* Sept 16, 1887 • Paris, France*Died:* Oct 22, 1979 • Paris, France

Nadia Boulanger was a French composer, conductor, teacher, and organist. Many of her students became famous composers and musicians. When her sister Lili died, Nadia gave up composing and concentrated on teaching. People came from all over the world to study with her. She was the first woman to conduct major symphony orchestras. When asked how she felt about being the first woman to conduct the Boston Symphony she said, "I've been a woman for a little over fifty years, and have gotten over my initial astonishment."

**MARIE-JULIETTE OLGA "LILI" BOULANGER***Born:* Aug 21, 1893 • Paris, France*Died:* Mar 15, 1918 • Mézy-sur-Seine, France

In 1913 at age nineteen, French composer Lili Boulanger became the first female winner of the Prix de Rome composition prize. She was the younger sister of Nadia Boulanger. Often ill during her short lifetime, Lili died at the age of twenty-four. The asteroid 1181 Lilith, discovered in 1927, was named in her honor!

**AMY CHENEY BEACH***Born:* Sept 5, 1867 • Henniker, New Hampshire*Died:* Dec 27, 1944 • New York

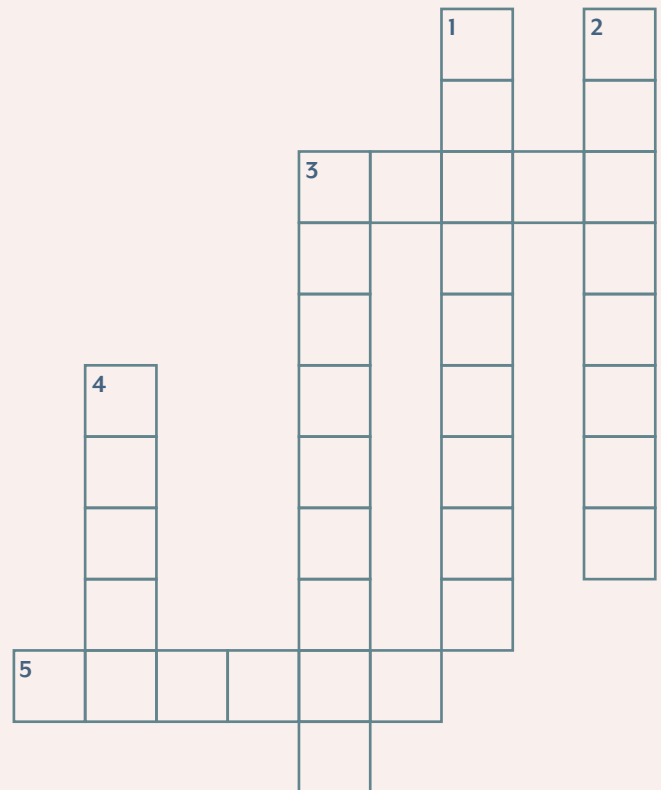
Amy Cheney Beach was an American composer and pianist. Her "Gaelic" Symphony was the first symphony to be published by an American woman. It was premiered by the Boston Symphony in 1896. When she married, her husband insisted that she discontinue teaching and limit her performances. When he died, she began performing again. She worked hard to encourage other women in music, and called her work "pioneer" work. The 1893 Columbian Exposition was the first World's Fair with a building for women's accomplishments. Amy Beach was commissioned to write a composition for the occasion. In addition, Beach and Maud Powell presented papers and premiered Beach's *Romance* for violin and piano, Op. 23. It was so popular with the audience that they had to repeat the performance!

**CLARA WIECK SCHUMANN***Born:* Sept 13, 1819 • Leipzig, Germany*Died:* May 20, 1896 • Frankfurt, Germany

One of the finest pianists of her time, Clara Wieck Schumann was the daughter of a piano teacher. She performed her first full piano solo recital at the age of eleven, and by twelve, she was on concert tour. She is reportedly the first to play entire piano recitals from memory. Her future husband, Robert Schumann, was her father's student. She wrote a large amount of music but gave up composing. The Schumanns had eight children, and when Robert was hospitalized for mental illness, Clara went on a concert tour to support the family. She was a major influence on Robert's composing and on the music of the Schumanns' dear friend, Johannes Brahms. 🎹

# Ladies first!

*As we begin the new school year, we are celebrating triumphs by famous women in music history. Read about our featured composers in this issue of Keyboard Kids' Companion. Then use their last names to solve this puzzle about "firsts" achieved by these women.*



1. Cécile \_\_\_\_\_: First woman awarded Legion of Honour from the French government.
2. Clara Wieck \_\_\_\_\_: First known to play complete piano recitals from memory.
3. Nadia and Lili \_\_\_\_\_: Sisters. Nadia was first woman to conduct a major symphony orchestra. At nineteen, Lili was first woman awarded Prix de Rome.
4. Florence \_\_\_\_\_: First black woman nationally recognized in U.S. as a serious composer.
5. Fanny Mendelssohn-Bartholdy \_\_\_\_\_: One of first women to be published; previously published under brother's name.