

East Carolina Musical Arts Education Foundation
The 2020-2021 Fisk on Fourth Concert Series
presents

Katherine Johnson, organist

Präludium in F

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel
(1805-1847)

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel composed Präludium in F in 1829 for her marriage to Wilhelm Hensel. She had asked her brother, Felix Mendelssohn, to compose the wedding march, but Felix suffered a leg injury that prevented him from finishing the composition and from attending the wedding. Fanny composed Präludium in F to be played during the wedding procession instead. This work is one of only a few pieces Fanny Hensel wrote for organ, and like most of her other compositions, was not published until after her death.

Prélude et Fugue

Elsa Barraine
(1910-1999)

French composer and teacher Elsa Barraine wrote her Prélude et Fugue pour orgue in 1929, the same year in which she became the fourth woman to receive the much-sought-after Prix de Rome award. During the German Occupation, Barraine became involved in the French Resistance, primarily through an organization entitled The National Front of Musicians. This group sought to perform the works of Jewish composers whenever possible and to raise money for Jewish families who had been forced into hiding. The Fugue recorded here is based on a Jewish prayer, Avinu Malkeinu, which is typically used in services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Suite No. 1 for Organ

Florence Price
(1887-1953)

- I. Fantasy
- II. Fughetta
- III. Air
- IV. Toccato

Florence Price, now considered the first Black woman recognized as a symphonic composer, began her musical studies at a very young age. She was composing by the time she was 11 years old, and started studying at the New England Conservatory of Music by the time she was 15. After three years of study, she graduated with an Artist's Diploma in organ and a Teacher's Diploma in piano. During the rest of her career, she wrote extensively for piano, organ, and orchestra. Many of her works, including Suite No. 1 for Organ, combine a variety of American and European musical styles.

Katherine Johnson is a junior in the organ department at Oberlin Conservatory, where she studies with Christa Rakich. She is enrolled in Oberlin's double degree program, studying Organ Performance and English. Katherine currently serves as Organist and Music Director at Church of the Redeemer in Lorain, O.H. Prior to taking this position, Katherine worked as Organ Scholar at Plymouth Church UCC in Shaker Heights, and before beginning at Oberlin, as the Cathee Jean Huber Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, N.C. In 2016, Katherine was awarded the first prize in the high school division of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition. She then performed on the Winner's Recital at the 2017 Schweitzer Festival. She has participated in a number of other competitions in the southeastern U.S., including the Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists, the Greater Columbia AGO Competition, and the 2014 ECMAEF competition in Greenville, N.C. Katherine spent the summer of 2019 working as Organ Teaching Assistant at Interlochen Arts Camp, with Thomas Bara. Her former teachers are Phil Valera, Samantha Koch, and Andrew Scanlon.