

From Hildegard in the 12th century through to the present day, women have made a significant contribution to classical music which has often been overlooked...

If you're familiar with the history of classical music, you may know that historically classical music hasn't been the most welcoming field for women, and there is a long way to go before women classical composers of today are performed and recognized at the same level as their male peers.

When Clara Schumann wrote, 'A woman must not desire to compose - not one has been able to do it, and why should I expect to?' she can't possibly have known about her illustrious predecessors, who include the 12th-century abbess Hildegard of Bingen, Francesca Caccini, jewel of the Medicis, or Elisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, France's first female opera composer.

Clara was by no means alone yet, even today, female composers of the past are still not on equal footing with their male counterparts.

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