

Voices of 21st Century American Women

Dr. Leslie Jones

ABSTRACT:

Women composers have historically faced special challenges in comparison with their male counterparts. They were often discouraged from pursuing roles that were traditionally seen as belonging to men, and their contributions were generally not taken as seriously because of their gender. Over time, those circumstances began to change. Today, there are many successful, respected women composers. This presentation will examine three of these composers, focusing on American composers of art song in the 21st century. Information about the composers will be accompanied by recordings of sample art songs and a selected bibliography of works. This is a rich source of new repertoire that deserves a wider audience.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY:

Leslie Jones, contralto, is a professor of music at Southeast Missouri State University. She received her B.M. and M.M. from Southeastern Louisiana University and her D.M.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. She is an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and she was selected in 2002 for that organization's summer intern program. At Southeast, Dr. Jones co-directs the Opera Workshop and teaches studio voice, diction, vocal literature, and online music appreciation classes. In addition to teaching at Southeast, she has been a faculty member and soloist at the Berkshire Choral Festival, and she is active as a concert and recital soloist.