

Nkeiru Okoye, Composer

BIO

Longer version

A composer with a gift for incorporating many influences and styles within her work, Guggenheim Fellow Nkeiru Okoye is perhaps best known for her opera, “**Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom**,” the orchestral work, “**Voices Shouting Out**,” which is an artistic response to 9/11, and her suite, “**African Sketches**,” which has been performed by pianists around the globe. Dr. Okoye is profiled in the, “Music of Black Composers Coloring Book,” and Routledge’s “African American Music: An Introduction” textbook. She is the inaugural recipient of the International Florence Price Award for Composition. A recent New York Times article mentioned, “Okoye’s work would make a fitting grand opening for an opera company’s post-pandemic relaunch.”

The State of Michigan issued a proclamation acknowledging Dr. Okoye’s “extraordinary contributions” to the history of Detroit, Michigan, for “**Black Bottom**,” a symphonic experience commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, in celebration of the centennial season of Orchestra Hall. Her other recent works include “**Tales from the Briar Patch**,” commissioned by The American Opera Project, and “Charlotte Mecklenburg,” commissioned by the Charlotte Symphony. Some of her upcoming compositions for the 2021-2022 season include “Euba’s Dance,” for cellist Matt Haimowitz, “When young spring comes” for pianist and NPR Host, Laura Downes, and a micro-opera, “600 Square Feet,” for Cleveland Opera Theatre.

Dr. Okoye is a board member of Composers Now!. She holds a BM in Composition from Oberlin Conservatory, and a PhD in Music Theory and Composition from Rutgers University.

– 244 words. April 12, 2021

Shorter version

A composer with a gift for incorporating many influences and styles within her work, Guggenheim Fellow Nkeiru Okoye is perhaps best known for her opera “**Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom**,” and orchestral work “**Voices Shouting Out**,” composed as an artistic response to 9/11. Profiled in the “Music of Black Composers Coloring Book” and Routledge’s “African American Music: An Introduction,” Dr. Okoye is the inaugural recipient of the International Florence Price Award for Composition. A recent *New York Times* article mentioned, “Okoye’s work would make a fitting grand opening for an opera company’s post-pandemic relaunch.”

–98 words

Condensed version

Nkeiru Okoye is an internationally recognized composer of opera, symphonic, choral, chamber, solo piano and vocal works. She is a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in music composition and the inaugural recipient of the Florence Price Award for Composition.

For more information, visit www.nkeiruokoye.com.

Discover

