




# Composer Portfolios

# PRICE



Name	Florence Price
Nationality	American
Born-Died	1887-1953
Quote	<p><i>Price described classical music as 'the kind of music which lies closest to my heart'</i></p> 

## Interesting Stories

### Spirituals

Throughout her career, Price felt a profound connection to spirituals and songs created by African-American slaves. Price was fully aware of the powerful symbolic and musical potential carried by the spirituals. In a class essay she wrote in 1938, she explained, “We are even beginning to believe in the possibility of establishing a national musical idiom. We are waking up to the fact, pregnant with possibilities, that we already have a folk music in the Negro spirituals—music which is potent, poignant, compelling. It is simple heart music and therefore powerful. It runs the gamut of emotions.” Price’s *Symphony in E Minor* became one of the first works by Americans of African ancestry to integrate the ethos of the spirituals fully into classical symphonic molds.

### Facts:

- Florence Price was born on April 9, 1887, in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.
- In 1898, she published her first composition.
- Price was the first African-American woman to be recognised as a symphonic composer.
- In 1940, she was inducted into the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.
- Florence died of a stroke on June 3, 1953.

### Price's Music

*Now we know more about the woman, why not listen to some of her music!*

- Symphony No.1 in E minor
- Symphony No.2 in G minor
- Symphony No.3 in C minor
- Symphony No.4 in D minor
- Violin Concerto No.1 in D major
- Mississippi River Suite
- Chicago Suite
- Colonial Dance Symphony
- The Moon Bridge
- The New Moon
- Song of Hope
- Dreamin' Town
- String Quartet in G major
- Fantasie in G minor for violin and piano
- Rock-a-bye
- Dances in the Canebrakes