

Nkeiru Okoye

A composer with a gift for incorporating many influences and styles within her work, **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 she composed as an artistic response to 9/11, and her suite, “African Sketches,” which has been performed by pianists around the globe. Profiled in both the, “Music of Black Composers Coloring Book,” and Routledge’s “African American Music: An Introduction” textbook, Dr. Okoye is also the inaugural recipient of the 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,” a sung story, 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 the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a PhD in Music Theory and Composition from Rutgers University.