

Castle of Our Skins Wins 2019 Foote Award

Born out of the desire to foster cultural curiosity, Castle of our Skins celebrates Black artistry through music, often blending poetry, other arts, and history in its programming. In the fall of 2020, Castle of our Skins will join with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston in honoring the 100th anniversary of the women's suffragist movement and celebrate the power of women's voices.

An international call for proposals held in the fall of 2018 selected three female composers, two of whom are African American, to realize their concepts over the course of the next year and a half. The resulting concert will also include existing works composed by Black composers from across the African diaspora. Composer announcement is [HERE](#).

Fiber art and spoken word poetry showcases will be woven into the concert experience. Black women poets, quilters, musicians, and composers will all be elevated and celebrated through this experience.

Black women fiber artists will be invited to showcase their quilts and artworks for display and purchase. In addition to creating an economic opportunity for several artists, Castle of our Skins will commission one woman, the celebrated, Boston-based fiber artist L'Merchie Frazier for a quilt to be musically paired with one of the winning composers selected from our call for proposals.

L'Merchie Frazier, a fiber artist, noted historian, and Director of Education and Interpretation of the Museum of African American History in Boston, will present a lecture contextualizing both the importance of quilting in the African American community and Black women's struggle for equity within the women's suffragist movement.

The project seeks to:

- 1.) Inspire composers of all racial/ethnic backgrounds to explore the tradition of quilting within the African American community as a source for musical inspiration.
- 2.) Honor the rich history of concert music in Black culture by presenting works of established and emerging Black female composers, both well-known and lesser programmed.
- 3.) Create an inspiring, cross-disciplinary, high quality event as a result of collaboration.
- 4.) Engage a diverse audience in cultural exploration, interaction, and dialogue through multi-sensory access points (visual, auditory, tactile/kinesthetic).