

FACULTY RESEARCH FUND

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Proposal Title: Mary Chandler: Bringing her lost history to the world

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ABSTRACT

Throughout history it has been common place to elevate the work of men, littering history books with the accomplishments of these men, while only pulling a tiny percentage of the exceptional work done by women and other minority groups. While some of that is simply because every exceptional thing done by every human being can't be taught in our history classes, it is also just because it was more the accepted norm to highlight the successes of men. This is in no way to disparage the past, but to highlight the fact that the accomplishments of many women and minorities have effectively been diminished. Many of these people's lives have been lost to history because of that.

The research of the British composer and oboist, Mary Chandler is a small effort to bring a great artist to a rightful pedestal that someone like her belongs. She expressed herself a number of times that her greatest disappointment was the lack of recognition as a composer. Chandler was an important musician, who made a difference as a composer, oboist, and teacher quietly through her contribution to music education as well as her service and involvement as a composer and performer with the Society of Women Musicians. She died twenty-five years ago, which means that the timeliness of this research is of the utmost importance. Her only remaining living family members are in their later years, and many of her friends and musicians are getting closer to the end of their life. In short, the living history of Mary Chandler will soon be gone. It will be sad to lose the history, life, and works of another female musician who helped to pave a path for the female musicians of today.