

Geoffrey Gordon, Composer

Biography

Geoffrey Gordon's list of works includes orchestral and chamber music--vocal and instrumental--as well as scores for theater, film and dance. His music has been called "brilliant" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), "stunning" (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*), "wonderfully idiomatic" (*Salt Lake Tribune*), "haunting" (*Strings Magazine*) and "remarkable" (*Fanfare*). During the past year, Mr. Gordon's works were performed more than fifty times on three continents. He has been nominated for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Elise Stoeger Prize, which honors achievement in chamber music composition, and has been the recipient of numerous other awards. He is a 2007 Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship nominee.

His work has been funded by the Barlow Endowment, the National Endowment for the Arts, the United Performing Arts Fund, the American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, the MacArthur Foundation, the American Music Center, the Abelson Foundation, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust and the Bush Foundation. He has been in residence at the La Napoule Arts Foundation in Cannes, and at the historic Cliff Dweller Club in Chicago. His large-scale orchestral work *Mis en Scene* was selected for the Minnesota Orchestra's prestigious Perfect Pitch program. The Riverside Symphony, in residence at Columbia University, toured the United States with the Monteverdi-inspired, *An Imagined Poussin Triptych*; and the Milwaukee Symphony commissioned *Milleniumianna* to celebrate the new century. *Cool RED Cool*, a jazz-tinged chamber work for seven players, won the 2000 Andy Warhol Social Observer Prize. In that same year, Mr. Gordon received a Fellowship to the highly regarded Composers Conference at Wellesley College, where his chamber work, *Sonata da Chroma*, was performed and recorded. A concert devoted to Mr. Gordon's works was a part of the NorthRiver Music Series at the Greenwich House in New York City, on 11 March, 2004. He has been featured on the cover of M Magazine, and his work has been published in the Oregon Literary Review.

Mr. Gordon has been signed by Meet the Composer, through their New Music/New Donors program, to a four year, three work commission scheme, beginning in spring, 2007. This exciting project will include the creation of new works for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the Parker String Quartet, as well as a new chamber opera for 2010. He is a 2003-04 recipient of an American Composers Forum (JCCP) commission, funding a new work for Brazilian recorder virtuoso Clea Galhano and harpsichordist Vivian Montgomery. *Echoes of Ferrara* premiered in Boston and Minneapolis in March, 2006. He is also the 2004 winner of the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association commission competition. *A Canticle in Shards*, for flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and piano, premiered in Hartford, Connecticut, in November, 2005. This work subsequently featured on the 10th London New Wind Festival, in November of this year. He is the inaugural winner of the Abelson Prize, funding a new work for soprano and mixed chamber ensemble, *Fallen Eve*, after the poetry of Ted Hughes, which premiered on the International Contemporary Ensemble's 2005-06 concert season. In May, *Fallen Eve* was the centerpiece of a major French-American music festival in Paris, with reciprocal performances set for Washington, DC, in Spring, 2008. He is a 2004 winner of a Barlow Endowment commission, through which he has composed a new work for Duo46. The new piece, *Fancywork*, premiered as part of the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival, outside Florence, Italy, on 16 July 2006. A series of US performances, including the US premiere at Sundin Hall in Minneapolis in September, 2006 followed. (*Fancywork* will feature on a series of four Duo46 concerts in Germany later this year.) Aguava' New Music Studio will tour with *Love Among the Ruins*, for SATB and a mixed ensemble, during the 2006-07 season, with stops to include Dartmouth University, Merkin Hall and the Library of Congress. A new work for Aguava' is planned for 2009.

The Channel Islands Ballet opened their 2002-03 season with a revival of Gordon's three act ballet after Garcia Lorca's, *The House of Bernarda Alba*. *Interiors of a Courtyard*, commissioned for the German guitar Duo Ahlert & Schwab and published by Wolfhead Music in August, 2005, premiered at the La Guitarra Festival in California in September, 2003; additional performances, including a national radio broadcast on WFMT in Chicago and a concert at Sundin Music Hall in Minneapolis, followed. *La tristesse durera toujours*, written for Ensemble Aleph, premiered in connection with joint composer/ensemble residencies at the University of Pittsburgh and Brigham Young University in March, 2004. The European premiere, as part of Ensemble Aleph's subscription season, took place at the Theatre Dunois in Paris in May, 2004. L'Ensemble Portique gave a series of premiere performances of *wrecked angels* (flute, cello and guitar), commissioned for their inaugural season, in May, 2003; the work was featured on the Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival in Vermont, in July, 2004. A new work commissioned for UK-based ensemble Passacaglia, *Stanza della Segnatura* (after the Raphael frescoes in the Vatican), featured on a 2004 US tour; performances in Australia are planned for 2009. (The work will be published by the UK-based Peacock Press.) Additional collaborations for 2007 and beyond include a new concerto for recorder virtuoso Antje Hensel, a piano concerto for new music specialist Emanuele Arciuli, and performances/premieres with the Rosario Ensemble, the UK ensemble Rarescale, Bellatrix, Israeli mandolinist Avi Avital, the MAVrick Ensemble, Fulcrum Point, the Aurora Orchestra (UK), the chamber ensemble Treffpunkt (UK), and the Milwaukee Ballet.