

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*), and "haunting" (*Strings Magazine*). During the 2003-04 concert season, 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 is the 2003 recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Fellowship in Music Composition.

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 and the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. He has been in residence at the La Napoule Arts Foundation in Cannes, and at the Cliff Dweller Club in Chicago.

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* will premiere in Boston and Minneapolis in April, 2006, and in Brazil soon thereafter. He is also the 2004 winner of the Connecticut State Music Teachers commission competition. *A Canticle in Shards*, for flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and piano, will premiere at Edmond Hall in Newtown, Connecticut, in October, 2005. He is the inaugural winner of the Lester S. Abelson Foundation Commission Prize, organized by the Chicago Composers Forum. A new work for soprano and mixed chamber ensemble, *Fallen Eve*, after the poetry of Ted Hughes, will premiere on the International Contemporary Ensemble's 2005-06 concert series. Additional performances are scheduled for Paris and Washington, DC--including the Library of Congress and the French Chancellery--as part of a planned collaboration between Ensemble Aleph and the Contemporary Music Forum, in early 2006. The excellent Avalon String Quartet have commissioned a new work for the 2006 concert season. *Ink on Paper* will premiere at Interlochen and elsewhere--details to be announced. And an exciting new project with the Aguava' New Music Studio, and Artistic Director Carmen Tellez, is in the works for 2006, which will feature premiere performances of *Love Among the Ruins*. A new work for Aguava' is planned for 2007.

He is a 2004 winner of a Barlow Endowment commission, through which he will write a new work for Duo46, a Cyprus-based guitar and violin duo in residence at Eastern Mediterranean University. *Fancywork*--inspired by the late 19th c. American arts movement--will premiere as part of the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival, just outside Florence, Italy, on 16 July, 2006. Several US performances, during the 2006-07 season, will follow, and a recording is planned.

His music has been featured on the Skylight Chamber Music Series in Milwaukee, subscription concerts with the Contemporary Music Consortium in Salt Lake City, the Music 98, 99 and 2000 Festivals in Cincinnati, the Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia and the Warebrook Festival in Vermont. In August of 1998, his chamber work *Lines Written in Early Spring* premiered at the Musique Autour des Vieilles Pierres Festival in Normandy, France; the Chicago-based CUBE Ensemble performed the work as part of the South Loop New Music Festival in March, 2003. His *Impromptu for solo piano* was performed at the Alfio Gigli Festival in Bologna, Italy in November, 2000, and included on the US tour performances of the Italian pianist Emanuele Arciuli in November, 2002. (Mr. Arciuli has commissioned a concerto from Mr. Gordon for the 2006 season.) The Riverside Symphony, resident orchestra at Columbia University, selected Mr. Gordon's *Concerto in One Movement for Violin and Orchestra* for performance and recording during its International New Music program, in May, 1999. His *Mise en scene* was selected by the Minnesota Orchestra for its Perfect Pitch program. The work was performed and recorded at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, in October, 1999. One of Mr. Gordon's works--*An imagined Poussin Triptych*, for string orchestra-- was selected for inclusion in Music at the Anthology's Fourth Annual Festival of Music, in May, 2003.

Commissions have included new works for the Milwaukee Symphony--which gave the world premiere of his *Millenniumiana* on 31 December 1999, Music Director Andreas Delfs conducting--and the Minneapolis-based vocal ensemble Dare to Breathe, which premiered Mr. Gordon' *Collage a Trois Trobar* at the Weisman Art Gallery in Minneapolis in November, 1999. The work has since received a highly acclaimed Chicago premiere. Cellist Elizabeth Morrow commissioned *Lorca Musica per cello solo*, and has performed it extensively in recital across the United States. *Fanfare* magazine called the work, "*the absolute standout . . . remarkable.*" *Lorca* has been recorded on Ms. Morrow' s debut CD *Soliloquy*, and was featured during the World Cello Congress in June, 2000. Mr. Gordon was selected as a Fellow to the 2000 Composers Conference at Wellesley College, where, during his residency, a new chamber work, *Sonata da chroma*, was performed and recorded.

Ensemble Aleph selected Gordon's chamber work, *Caravaggio*, for inclusion in the First International Composers Forum, held in Cannes, France, 15-25 August, 2000. (Mr. Gordon was the only American composer selected.) Following the ten day residency and performances at the La Napoule Arts Foundation, *Caravaggio* received a formal premiere at the Theatre Dunois in Paris, on a series of five concerts, in October, 2000. Ensemble Aleph also toured this work through Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom in 2001. *Cool RED Cool*, a new work for chamber sextet, received the Andy Warhol Social Observer Prize, awarded in connection with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. The PAFA presented the world premiere of this new work in Philadelphia on 13 September, 2000. (*The Philadelphia Inquirer* called the work "a stunner . . .")

The Channel Islands Ballet opened their 2002-03 season with a revival of Gordon's three act ballet after the Garcia Lorca play, *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*, commissioned by 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; the UK premiere is planned for Wigmore Hall, London, dates to be confirmed. (The work will be published in September, 2005 by the UK-based Peacock Press.) A concert devoted to Mr. Gordon's works was a part of the NorthRiverMusic Series at the Greenwich House in New York City, on 11 March, 2004.

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