

GEOFFREY GORDON

- 2018 Biography and List of Works



US/UK composer Geoffrey Gordon's contributions to the contemporary music repertoire have been and continue to be exceptional. Intense and luxuriant harmony, passionate melody and superb handling of instrumentation and sonic textures define his music. His works include orchestral and chamber music—vocal and instrumental—as well as scores for theater, dance and film. His music has been called “darkly seductive” (New York Times), “brilliant” (Boston Globe), “stunning” (Milwaukee Journal), “wonderfully idiomatic” (Salt Lake Tribune), “haunting” (Strings Magazine) and “remarkable” (Fanfare). Chicago Tribune music critic John von Rhein called Mr. Gordon's *lux solis aeterna*, “a cosmic beauty ... of acutely crafted music.” The Philharmonia identifies “his infectious style and “an ear for melody”, the New York Times his “zest for sonic experimentation”.

Honoured by a number of residencies internationally, he has twice served as composer-in-residence at the Aaron Copland House and is winner of 2017 Mario Merz Prize for Music, an honor which includes a major commission for the 2018 concert season. His work has been funded by the Barlow Endowment, the National Endowment for the Arts, the United Performing Arts Fund, the Concert Artists Guild, the American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, the MacArthur Foundation, the American Music Center, the Abelson Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Trust, the Cheswatyr Foundation 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. He has been nominated for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Elise Stoecker Prize, and recognized by the Academy of Arts and Letters. He has received academic fellowship support from Boston University, New York University and the Guildhall in London.

Over the past several seasons, Mr. Gordon's works have been performed more than fifty times on three continents, including premieres conducted by rising stars including Rory Macdonald, James Gaffigan, Christoph Mueller and Ilan Volkov, and featuring soloists Toke Møldrup, Moshe Aharonov, Megumi Kanda and Carol Winenc, English String Orchestra principals Simon Desbruslais and Clare Hammond (trumpet and piano), and Grammy award-winning saxophone soloist Tim McAllister. Mr Gordon has worked with (or soon will work with) some of the best ensembles in the world, including The Philharmonia, the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, Malmö Symfoniorkester, Britten Sinfonia, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic, the English String Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, JACK Quartet, Ensemble Meitar, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Future projects include new orchestral and chamber works in collaboration with with top international soloists, including new concertos for guitarist Craig Odgen and BBC Young Musician horn soloist, Benjamin Goldscheider.

Recently and upcoming, the Philharmonia gives the premiere of Mr. Gordon's bass clarinet concerto “Prometheus” after the treatment by Franz Kafka, at the RFH, London www.philharmonia.co.uk/concerts/2132, and US and Nordic premieres follow in 2019 with Minnesota Orchestra and Malmo Symphony. A new chamber work based on research into the first vibrations of the universe commissioned by Muse-IC Project, founded by the “University Paris Sciences et Letters” and hosted by the Institut Curie and CNSM, premieres in 2019 in Paris by members of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. His setting of Keats' “Ode to a Nightingale” for choir and cello premiered in May 2018 in Copenhagen by Mogens Dahl Chamber Choir and a new CD of cello works will be released on the Bridge label in 2018 featuring the Copenhagen Philharmonic under Lan Shui. His “Saint Blue,” double concerto for trumpet, piano and strings has been released on CD by English String Orchestra. His song cycles “Peter Quince at the Clavier” and “Sonnets from Neruda” premiered in March 2018 at the Arnold Schoenberg Center, Vienna, and in October 2017 Munich Philharmonic under James Gaffigan premiered his trumpet Concerto “CHASE,” after the sculptures of Giacometti. His cello sonata “FATHOMS” premiered at Carnegie Hall in December 2015, and his “Winterleben” for horn, mezzo and piano (commissioned for Los Angeles Philharmonic principal horn, Andrew Bain), premiered in August 2015 as part of the 47th International Horn Symposium in Los Angeles. He received the 2015 commission award from the American Music Project with a major new chamber work for clarinet and string quartet (the JACK Quartet and Anthony McGill, principal clarinet of New York Philharmonic) which premiered in New York City and Chicago. In 2016, he was awarded composer in residence at the International Centre for Composers in Visby, Sweden. Mr. Gordon has also served as an ASCAP representative in Washington, lobbying Congress on behalf of copyright protection and composers' rights.