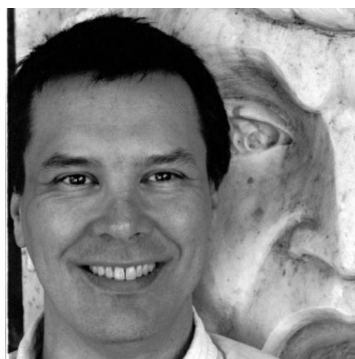


GEOFFREY GORDON - 2020 Biography and List of Works



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), “complex, richly-satisfying” (BBC Music Magazine), “luminous and ecstatic” (Gramophone), “iridescent and fierce” (The Chicago Tribune), “taut and exhilarating” (Classical Ear), “haunting” (The Strad), “gripping” (Bachtrack) and “magnificent” (Fanfare). Chicago Tribune music critic John von Rhein called Mr. Gordon's *lux solis aeterna*, “a cosmic beauty ... of acutely crafted music.” The London 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 2017-18 Mario Merz Prize for Music, an honor which included a major commission for the 2018 concert season. He was also a finalist for the 2019 Krzysztof Penderecki International Composers Competition Award and he has served a residency at the International Centre for Composers in Visby, Sweden. His work has been funded by Arts Council England, 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, New Music USA, the MacArthur Foundation, the American Music Center, the Abelson Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Trust, the Cheswaty 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.

Mr Gordon has worked with and been commissioned by many of the finest ensembles in the world, including The Philharmonia, the Munich Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, Malmö Symfoniorkester, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the English String Orchestra, the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, Britten Sinfonia, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, JACK Quartet, Ensemble Meitar, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Upcoming commissions include the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Antwerp Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Lausanne Chamber Orchestra. His chamber music has premiered worldwide, including at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Schoenberg Center in Vienna, Hakuju Hall in Tokyo, and St John's Smith Square and Wigmore Hall in London. In 2021/22 cellist Benedict Klöckner will be premiering a new solo commission in Berlin (Philharmonic Hall), Frankfurt (Alte Oper) and New York (Carnegie Hall) which will also be included on his next CD release in 2021. Saar Berger, solo horn at Ensemble Modern Frankfurt will premiere a new work, *Roman Rituals*, as part of the prestigious Donaueschingen Music Days Festival.

Recently, the Philharmonia under Martyn Brabbins gave the world premiere of Gordon's bass clarinet concerto, *Prometheus*, after the treatment by Franz Kafka, at Royal Festival Hall, London, with US and Nordic premieres in 2019 with the Minnesota Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä and Malmö Symphony under Marc Soustrot. His concerto for English horn and orchestra, *Mad Song*, after William Blake's well-known poem, will be premiered in 2021 by the Antwerp Symphony with soloist Dimitri Mestdag, and later in the season the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (NTSO) with soloist Toke Møldrup will give the Asian premiere of his *Doktor Faustus Cello Concerto*. This work, as well as Gordon's ravishing setting of Keats' *Ode to a Nightingale* for choir and cello, which premiered in May 2018 in Copenhagen, was included on *Cello Libris*, a new disc on the BIS records label, featuring the Copenhagen Philharmonic under conductor Lan Shui. 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, the 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. His *Saint Blue*, (trumpet, piano and strings) which was commissioned by the English String Orchestra, has been released commercially on the Signum label, and was praised in the BBC Music Magazine (“a sonic exploration of the sacred and profane in a complex and richly satisfying work”). 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. His riveting horn trio *THORN* was premiered by Ben Goldscheider, Callum Smart and Richard Uttley in London in February 2019, and his chamber work *Cosmic inflation*, based on research into the first vibrations of the universe commissioned by Muse-IC Project, hosted by Institut Curie, premiered in March 2019 in Paris with members of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. His *Harmonie - An Jenny*, for soprano and solo cello, was a prize winner in the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group's Marx Lieder Competition, premiered by BCMG in Marx's hometown of Trier, Germany and has been released on CD on the Coviello label. His *Crucifixus* for double choir and cello will be performed in London during Holy Week 2020. An advocate for composers' rights, Mr. Gordon has also served as an ASCAP representative in Washington, lobbying Congress on behalf of copyright protection and digital media law.