

Roger Zahab

www.rogerzahab.net

born January 5, 1957, Akron, Ohio of Lebanese-American parents

Education:

State University of New York at Stony Brook 1978-80 MM violin performance

University of Akron, Ohio 1974-78 BM violin performance

Professional Training:

Violin with Paul Zukofsky, Hiroko Yajima, Paul Biss, Vincent Frittelli & Carla Spannbauer

Chamber music with John Graham

Other chamber music studies with Samuel Baron and Charles Rosen

Baroque and classical performance with David Schulenberg

Contemporary practice with Arthur Weisberg

Academic Experience:

2011 – present Vermont College of Fine Arts: founding core faculty member
for the MFA in music composition

2002-present University of Pittsburgh: Senior Lecturer, Theory, composition, and
orchestration; Instructor of violin and viola.
Director of the University Symphony Orchestra (from 1993) and Music on
the Edge Chamber Orchestra (from 1997).

1999-2002 University of Pittsburgh: first as part-time instructor, later Visiting
Lecturer, Theory, composition, and orchestration; Instructor of violin and
viola. Director of the University Symphony Orchestra and Music on the
Edge Chamber Orchestra

Selected Creative Activities

2016 **entelechron symphonies** - for orchestra in celebration of the 40th
anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Morning on 56th Street - for string orchestra, with or without solo violin
or violin and/or viola and/or cello soloists. (also in an alternate version for
string quintet, with or without soloists)

2015 **green emotion censer** - for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano, written
for the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble in celebration of their 40th
anniversary.

I doubt this is over - for flute/piccolo, clarinet, violin, cello and piano, commissioned by IonSound Project

2014 **Happy Hour!** - opera commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Jonathan Eaton, artistic director for SummerFest 2014

In the moment for violin and piano, commissioned by the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, for their exhibit: Small Prints, Big Artists: Masterpieces from the Renaissance to Baroque.

Evening on 57th Street for solo violin and string orchestra
First performance - October 19, 2014, with the composer as soloist and the Music on the Edge Chamber Orchestra conducted by Robert Frankenberry

2013 **Penthouse Suite** libretto by Robert Handel
Characters:
Miss Darlington, the hotel manager: soprano
Rudy, the bellboy: tenor or soprano
Torta Gwentrob, a diva: coloratura soprano
Buster Peeves, a heartthrob: tenor
Dolores, a tall woman: acting role
Two Concert Promoters: soprano and mezzo
Male Chorus of Assistants to Ms. Gwentrob: TTBB
Female Chorus of Assistants to Mr. Peeves: SS

Orchestra: flute, clarinet in b flat, violin, cello, drum set and piano
may also be performed with the piano reduction
commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

2009-2012 **A Christmas Carol:** a chamber version of Charles Dickens' classic tale with flexible instrumentation and production formats. Scored for flute, violin, viola, cello, piano and percussion, it may also be performed with either two pianos or one piano, four-hands.

2012 **Presidential Suite** libretto by Robert Handel
five singers (flexible assignments)
flute, clarinet in b flat, violin, cello, vibraphone and piano
may also be performed with the piano reduction
commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

each second a first

for four players (small triangle, squeaky toy, voice, half a cup of dried lentils or short grain rice, a very small suspended cymbal)

for Third Coast Percussion

for John C. at his first century

winterspring *for violin*

evening respiration guide *for clarinet – for John Culver*

suspicion of nakedness *for flute – for Lindsey Goodman*

2012 **Akron Chronogram** (2011) for large orchestra with video by Laura Ruth Bidwell, commissioned by the Akron Symphony Orchestra in celebration of its 60th anniversary, premiered April 21, 2012

2012 **at the piano** a large work for solo piano in recollection of Thomas F. Hutchins

2009 **vioentelechron** (2007) for violin and orchestra, premiere: September 30, 2009 by the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Walter Morales, conducting with the composer as soloist.

2008 **blue emotion sensor** (2008) for violin and vibraphone, for David Skidmore. First performed on May 9, 2009 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chelsea, NYC

Membership in Professional Societies:

BMI

American Music Center

President of Prism Projects Inc. New York City

Honors and Awards:

1978 Louis Lane Scholarship (given by the Akron Symphony Orchestra)

1995 Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Grant

2005 Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship

Selected Commissions

I doubt this is over (2015) for flute/piccolo, clarinet, violin, cello and piano
commissioned by IonSound Project

Happy Hour! (2014) An opera to libretti by Laci Corridor, Jonah Eisenstock, Josh Ginsburg, Wei He, Barbara Jwanouskos, Tracy Held Potter, Stephen Webb and Roger Zahab, commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Jonathan Eaton, artistic director for SummerFest 2014 for performances in July.

In the moment (2014) for violin and piano (2014),
commissioned by the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, for their exhibit:
Small Prints, Big Artists: Masterpieces from the Renaissance to Baroque.

Penthouse Suite (2013) libretto by Robert Handel;
commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

Presidential Suite (2012) libretto by Robert Handel;
commissioned by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

Akron Chronogram (2011) with video by Laura Ruth Bidwell
commissioned by the Akron Symphony Orchestra
in honor of its 60th anniversary

interwoven graces (2010) commissioned by Phoenix Concerts in New York City for The Hymn Tune Project and The Finisterra Piano Trio.

Be Joyful (2009) for SATB choir and organ with optional solo violin and cello parts is a setting of the last words of Saint David of Wales. Commissioned by James Cassaro for the Music & Architecture Project at Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh. It was premiered on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, 2009 at Calvary Episcopal Church under the direction of Alan Lewis.

vibrant life (2007) commissioned by the Botzum Farmstead Summer Festival Orchestra in honor of Margaret Baxtresser, and first performed at the Farmstead in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, August 5, 2007

ardent life (2007) for trumpet and orchestra, commissioned by the Atlantic Chapter of the Music Library Association, premiered by Andrew Levin, trumpet and the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra conducted by RZ, March 1, 2007, Bellefield Hall, Pittsburgh

reaching after (2003) for scordatura 'cello. Commissioned and premiered by Lawrence

Stomberg at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on September 7, 2003.

levitation of pianos during a waltz (2001) commissioned by pianist Eric Moe and recorded by him on Albany Records

Goodfriday 1613. Riding Westward. Choral setting of the poem by John Donne for the University of Akron Chamber Choir, performed throughout Italy, summer 2001

Uncovered by Night - a ghost opera in six scenes commissioned for Ohio Chautauqua/Peninsula 2000. First performances given in the Bronson Memorial Church, Peninsula Ohio on June 24 & 25, 2000

Afterglow (2000) for woodwind ensemble in celebration of Aaron Copland's 100th anniversary commissioned by the Tuscarawas Philharmonic

...some measures for living (1998) for flute and piano commissioned by George Pope for performance at the 1998 National Flute Association Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

Signs of Life (1997) commissioned by the Children's Concert Society for performances by the Akron Symphony Orchestra in November, 1997

Recordings of Compositions

...some measures for living

George Pope, flute, Eric Charnofsky, piano – Some Measures for Living
Crystal Records , CD718

I still dream for double second steel drums & **Jump** for two double second steel drums, recorded by Josh Quillen on: Steel Drums (available on Bandcamp.)

entelechron: time + memory: chamber music by Roger Zahab

Personal Dances (1996) - Roger Zahab, violin; Eric Moe, piano

Amnesia Kiss (1995) – David Russell, cello

Selected Melodies (1997) - David Russell, cello; Robert Frankenberry, piano

and four works for piano trio performed by Zahab, Russell and Frankenberry:

how to sing properly (2008), **interwoven graces** (2010), **not later** (1999)
and **Ohio transparency** (2005)

[label:] Ohio entelechron

deceived by starlight

Dale Speicher, vibraphone
[label:] Seattle Percussion Collective

levitation of pianos during a waltz

Eric Moe, piano – New Waltzes for Piano
Albany Records , TROY 689

The Earth's Jig and Silence Orchids for piano

Bennett Lerner, piano – *Music by my Friends*
Albany Records, TROY 695/96

Fall/Return for guitar

James Marron, guitar
on the CD titled *Spring Rising*, released 1998

Doubles Keening for wind quintet

Pennsylvania Quintet
(Centaur)

your offending kiss for wind quintet

Solaris
(Capstone)

Doubles Keening for wind quintet

Solaris Quintet
(Capstone)

Verging Lightfall by Roger Zahab

Thirteen Harmonies by John Cage

performed by Roger Zahab, violin and Eric Moe, piano, harpsichord
and organ

Koch International Classics, 1995

Recordings as Conductor:

the grief that does not speak by Tamar Diesendruck

Furious Band

Centaur CRC 3193

Recordings as Performer:

Bolga Sonata by J.H.Kwabena Nketia

performed by Roger Zahab, violin and Robert Frankenberg,
piano for a CD to accompany a biography of the composer
produced by Akin Euba

Blue Air by Eric Moe
performed by Roger Zahab, violin and Eric Moe, piano
on the recording *Up and At 'Em* (Albany)

Thirteen Harmonies by John Cage
Verging Lightfall by Roger Zahab
performed by Roger Zahab, violin and Eric Moe, piano, harpsichord
and organ
Koch International Classics, 1995

Six Melodies Variation by Christian Wolff
in the two-disc set
A Chance Operation- tribute to John Cage
Koch International Classics, 1993

Stubborn Beauties
works for violin by Charlillo, Mackey, Macbride, Mamlok, Dennis Riley
and Zahab
Truemedial Records Ltd., 1993

Publications:

tapping points for solo snare drum has been published as part of The Noble Snare collection of compositions for unaccompanied snare drum, volume 4. (Other composers include Eugene Novotney, Ralph Shapey, Christopher Burns, Gustavo Aguilar, Salvatore Martirano, John Welsh, Robert Ashley, William Ortiz and Pauline Oliveros.)
Smith Publications, 54 Lent Road, Sharon, Vermont 05065

Musical arrangement:

Thirteen Harmonies by John Cage, version for violin and keyboard instrument by Roger Zahab, Henmar Press/C.F. Peters Corporation, NYC 1986