

David Lang Short Bio



David Lang is the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *the little match girl passion*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall for the vocal ensemble Theatre of Voices, directed by Paul Hillier.

One of America's most performed and honored composers, many of Lang's pieces resemble each other only in the fierce intelligence and clarity of vision that inform their structures. His catalogue is extensive, and his opera, orchestra, chamber and solo works are by turns ominous, ethereal, urgent, hypnotic, unsettling and very emotionally direct. Much of his work seeks to expand the definition of virtuosity in music—even the deceptively simple pieces can be fiendishly difficult to play and require incredible concentration by

musicians and audiences alike.

His recent works include *writing on water* for the London Sinfonietta, with libretto and visuals by English filmmaker Peter Greenaway; *the difficulty of crossing a field* – a fully staged opera for the Kronos Quartet; *loud love songs*, a concerto for the percussionist Evelyn Glennie, and the oratorio *Shelter*, with co-composers Michael Gordon and Julia Wolfe, at the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, staged by Ridge Theater and featuring the Norwegian vocal ensemble Trio Mediaeval. The commercial recording of 'the little match girl passion' was released in 2009 on Harmonia Mundi, and received the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance.

His music is published by Red Poppy (ASCAP) and is distributed worldwide by G. Schirmer, Inc.