



THE MUSIC: COMPOSERS AND PERFORMERS

LASSE THORESEN — *composer*

Lasse Thoresen (b. 1949) is a professor of composition at the Norwegian State Academy of Music where he has taught composition, electrophony, and sonology since 1975. He received a graduate degree in composition in 1972 from the Oslo Music Conservatory, where he studied under Finn Mortensen, after which he studied electrophony and composition under Werner Kaegi at the Institute of Sonology in Utrecht, the Netherlands. From 1988 to 2000 Mr. Thoresen occupied the principal chair of composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo.

A number of his works have achieved wide recognition, such as *The Garden*, written for the inauguration of the chamber music auditorium of the Oslo Concert Hall; *Rettferdighetens Sol* (The Sun of Justice), commissioned by the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra; *Violin Concerto* and *Emergence*, commissioned by the Oslo Philharmonic; and *Bird of the Heart*, written for the Oslo Trio. Mr. Thoresen has received a number of important awards: the Norwegian Society of Composers' Work of the Year award for *Stages of the Inner Dialogue* for piano (1981); the Critics' Award for *Qudrat*, a work for synthesizer and percussion and the Lindeman award for his work as a composer (1987); and the Spellemannsprisen—the Norwegian equivalent of a Grammy—for the CD *The Sonic Mind*, a violin and a cello concerto recorded by the Oslo Philharmonic (1998).

Influenced by Norwegian folk music, French spectral music and Harry Partch's tonal system "Just Intonation," Mr. Thoresen has been working on microtonality since 1985. He was the first Norwegian composer to integrate the non-tempered intervals of folk music into art music. His 1992 work *AbUno*, which received the Work of the Year award in 1993, shows the influence of spectral music.

He says that his commitment to the Bahá'í Faith is what motivated him to express himself through music. In his own words: "Music is not just music.... It should not merely be an exposition on the potential of sound, it should use this potential to express the human condition."

TOLIB SHAHIDI — *composer*

Tolib Shahidi, born in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in 1946, began his musical career at the age of fourteen and graduated from the college of music in Dushanbe in 1965, from the composition class of Uri Ter-Osipov. That same year he entered the Moscow State Conservatory. During his student years, conductors such as Mikhail Terion and Maxim Shostakovich performed his orchestral and instrumental compositions. He graduated in 1972 from the class of Aram Khachaturian, who wrote on Mr. Shahidi's graduation photograph, "Tolib, your time is precious." Since then, this has become the composer's fundamental belief both in life and in his creative work.

With his understanding of orchestration and familiarity with different musical styles, Mr. Shahidi has composed innovative and powerful works that attempt to create a synthesis between East and West. His compositions for theater and cinema have drawn inspiration from playwrights such as Sophocles and Shakespeare. He has also written operas, ballets, symphonies, and instrumental compositions, fusing the best of European and Asian musical traditions.

A contemporary artist whose world outlook transcends national boundaries, Mr. Shahidi regularly participates in international festivals of contemporary and world music in a number of different countries. Tolib Shahidi won the International Competition of Contemporary Music in the United States in 1987, and the National Rudaki Prize in Tajikistan in 1993. He is currently working on a piece commissioned by renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma, director of “The Silk Road Project.”

STANLEY SPERBER — *conductor*

Stanley Sperber, the music director and chief conductor of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra from 1985 to 2000, is now its conductor laureate.

Mr. Sperber graduated from Columbia University in musicology and from the Julliard School of Music in conducting. In New York he founded the Zamir Chorale and made his Israel Philharmonic Orchestra debut in 1973, a year after immigrating to Israel. He served as the music director of the Holon Chamber Orchestra and the Tel Aviv Philharmonic Choir, and as the music director and chief conductor of the Rinat National Choir. He also conducted Sondheim’s “Sweeney Todd” at the New Israeli Opera.

Mr. Sperber has toured extensively in Europe and North America. He has conducted the Symphony Orchestra of Baku, Azerbaijan, the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic in Zholin, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra (London), the Budapest Philharmonic, orchestras in Canada and the USA, the Saloniki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra, the Colorado Music Festival, the Estonian Symphony Orchestra, two performances of Handel’s “Messiah” in Chicago’s Orchestra Hall with a chorus of 2500 singers, the Sofia Symphony Orchestra, and the Krakow Symphony Orchestra.

While music director of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, maestro Sperber commissioned numerous world premieres from Israeli composers and was recognized with awards such as the Order of Merit from the Israeli Composers Association (1987) and the National Council for the Arts and Culture Prize for the Performance of Israeli Music (1992).

PATRICIA GREEN — *mezzo-soprano*

Mezzo-soprano Patricia Green has gained international acclaim for her expressive voice, noted for its three-octave ease in diverse repertoire, during performances at the Kennedy Center and the Concertgebouw with L’Orchestre de Radio-France, with the Dutch Radio Philharmonic, the National Symphony and the Cathedral Choral Society, and at the Posthoornkerk Concerts (Amsterdam), Continuum (London), MUSICA (Strasbourg), Library of Congress Concerts, Bethlehem Bach Society, Toronto Symphony’s Massey Hall New Music Festival, the U.S. National Holocaust Museum Chamber Music series, Toronto’s Opera in Concert, Vancouver New Music, Washington Choral Arts, Wolf Trap Festival, the Scotia Festival of Music, and the Michoacan Tri-National Arts Festival in Mexico. She is a member of Theatre Chamber Players of the Kennedy Center and has appeared with conductors Peter Eötvös, Zoltan Pesko, Leonard Slatkin, and Leon Fleisher. An avid performer of contemporary music, Ms. Green has sung works of Ligeti, Boulez, Berio, Dusapin, Schwantner, Schoenberg, Wuorinen, Berg, Schafer, and Weir, and has premiered many works of young composers.

Her performances have been broadcast on television and radio in Holland, France, Canada, and the US, and she has recorded the JS Bach and CPE Bach Magnificat with the Washington Bach Consort on CD.

Ms. Green received the Artist Diploma in Voice and the George Castelle Prize from the Peabody Conservatory, where she studied with Phyllis Bryn-Julson. She is a member of the voice faculty at Michigan State University. She comes from Saskatchewan, Canada.

NORMAN BAILEY — *baritone*

Dramatic baritone Norman Bailey has been listed as one of the top one hundred opera singers of the twentieth century. His career has spanned almost 50 years, and he has sung leading roles in virtually all of the major opera houses in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera House in London, the Vienna State Opera, and the Paris Opera. He has also performed with the Berlin State Opera, with many major opera companies throughout the United States, including the Chicago Lyric Opera, and has appeared twice in Israel.

Mr. Bailey was born in England and immigrated with his parents to South Africa as a young man. After completing his initial studies there, he returned to Europe, singing in Austria and Germany before returning to the United Kingdom, where he appeared with all the major opera companies and orchestras. He was a member of the English National Opera before becoming a freelance singer in the 1970s.

Among the conductors with whom he has sung, both in opera and in concert, are Sir Georg Solti, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davies, Sir Reginald Goodall, James Levine, Eric Leinsdorf, Wolfgang Sawalisch, Carlo Maria Giulini, and Otto Klemperer. His audio and video recordings include *Der Fliegende Holländer* (Solti), *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Solti), the entire *Ring* (Goodall), *King Priam* (Atherton), *Peter Grimes* (Davis), and *La Traviata* (Gibson).

He lives in Victor, Idaho, with his wife Kristine Ciesinski, a dramatic soprano.

JOHN DAVEY-HATCHER — *tenor*

John Davey-Hatcher is currently a regular chorus member of the San Francisco Opera, having previously sung the role of Piangi in the Toronto production of *Phantom of the Opera*. His opera experience includes Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, and Faust in *Faust*. He has performed with the Phoenix Symphony, the Phoenix Bach Choir, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Opera, and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

Mr. Davey-Hatcher holds a master's degree in music from Arizona State University, has taught voice privately for several years, and has experience in film and television. A symphony member of the Second Bahá'í World Congress and a member of the choir that recorded the Congress music, he has founded and directed choirs in Bahá'í communities in both the United States and Canada.

His future engagements include Alfredo in *La Traviata*, and Pinkerton in *Madam Butterfly* with the San Francisco Lyric Opera. He comes from Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

BIJAN KHADEM-MISSAGH — *violinist*

Bijan Khadem-Missagh is an award-winning violinist and conductor who has toured internationally, made many radio and television recordings, and compiled a substantial discography. His book *Das Musische als Lebensweise* was published in 1998.

After graduating with distinction from the Academy of Music in Vienna, he founded the Eurasia Quartet and was the Grand Prix and first prize winner at the International Chamber Music Festival in Colmar, France, in 1971. That same year he was appointed First Concertmaster of the NTO Symphony Orchestra Vienna and subsequently became a professor at the J.M. Hauer Conservatory in Austria. He founded the Tonkünstler Chamber Orchestra Vienna (1977); Allegro Vivo, the International Chamber Music Festival Austria (1979); and the Midsummer Music Academy Umeå, Sweden (1980–1990), serving as artistic director of the latter two.

International contemporary composers K.H. Fuessl, L. Thoresen, K. Rapf, K. Etti, A. Rahbari, A. Baksa, A. Vujic, L. Schmetterer, and R. Stiegler have all dedicated works to him, and Mr. Khadem-Missagh has himself composed instrumental and vocal works.

He has received many awards, including the Austrian Cross for Sciences and Arts, and is president of GLOBArt, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of peace and the transformation of human society through the arts.

THE TRANSYLVANIA STATE PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

The Transylvania State Philharmonic Choir of Cluj was founded in 1972 by composer Sigismund Toduță, then the artistic director of the philharmonic. The choir's first conductor was Professor Dorin Pop, a well-known personality in choral music in Romania. In 1976, Florentin Mihăescu, the assistant of Maestro Pop, assumed the directorship, broadening the choir's repertoire and achieving its first international successes; he was followed in 1986 by Cornel Groza. Main emphases of the ensemble are its vocal-symphonic repertoire, a cappella music, and Romanian works.

The choir has collaborated with Romanian and foreign conductors such as Gary Bertini, János Ferencsik, Lawrence Foster, Michi Inoue, Leopold Hager, Maurice Handford, Emil Simon, Edward Tschijew, Cristian Mandeal, László Heltai, Donato Renzetti, Lü Jia, and Klaus Peter Flor, as well as with the Israel Philharmonic, the Zürich Tonhalle, and the Luxembourg RTL orchestras, Philharmonie Lorraine, "George Enescu" Philharmonic Bucharest, and Orchestra Internazionale dell'Italia. It has performed at major festivals in Romania and in Berlin, Lucerne, Ravello, Pesaro, Macerata, Napoli, Luxembourg, Assisi, Amsterdam, Geneva, and Athens.

The choir's performances have been broadcast on radio and television. Its latest CD is of works by Brahms with the Bucharest Philharmonic under Cristian Mandeal.

THE ISRAEL NORTHERN SYMPHONY (*Haifa Symphony Orchestra*)

The Israel Northern Symphony, Haifa, was founded in 1950 by pianist-composer Frank Peleg. Today it has 75 musicians and is the focus of musical life in Haifa and northern Israel, attracting audiences of 100,000 to its annual season of 100 concerts.

Former music directors include Sergiu Commissiona, Avi Ostrovki, Mendi Rodan, Yuval Zaliouk, Dan Vogel, Urs Schneider, and Stanley Sperber. The present music director is Cristian Mandeal, formerly general music director of the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra.

The orchestra has toured in France, Switzerland, Belgium, West Germany, and Italy and has appeared at international festivals in Corsica, Besançon, Liège, Düsseldorf, and Cremona.

Guest conductors and soloists with the orchestra have included Sergiu Commissiona, Sidney Harth, Yoel Levy, John Nelson, Mendi Rodan, Gilbert Varga, and Ronald Zollman, Henryk Szeryng, Ida Haendel, Boris Belkin, Ivry Gitlis, Shira Rabin, Peter Zazovsky, Mischa Malsky, Boris Berman, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Gerhard Oppitz, Nicolai Petrov, Arie Vardi, Gary Karr, and Pieter Wispelwey.

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