



Libby Larsen

"Music exists in an infinity of sound. I think of all music as existing in the substance of the air itself. It is the composer's task to order and make sense of sound, in time and space, to communicate something about being alive through music."
- Libby Larsen

Libby Larsen (b. 24 December 1950, Wilmington, Delaware) is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 400 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over twelve operas. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit.

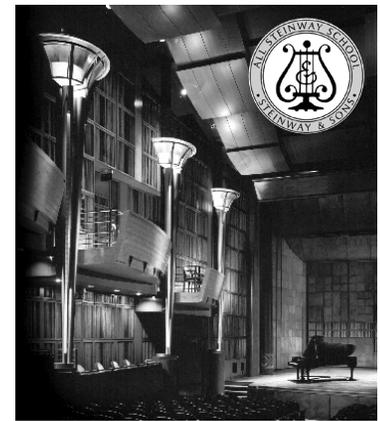
Constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles and orchestras around the world, Libby Larsen has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory.

Larsen has been hailed as "the only English-speaking composer since Benjamin Britten who matches great verse with fine music so intelligently and expressively" (USA Today); as "a composer who has made the art of symphonic writing very much her own." (Gramophone); as "a mistress of orchestration" (Times Union); and for "assembling one of the most impressive bodies of music of our time" (Hartford Courant). Her music has been praised for its "clear textures, easily absorbed rhythms and appealing melodic contours that make singing seem the most natural expression imaginable." (Philadelphia Inquirer) "Libby Larsen has come up with a way to make contemporary opera both musically current and accessible to the average audience." (The Wall Street Journal). "Her ability to write memorable new music completely within the confines of traditional harmonic language is most impressive." (Fanfare)

Libby Larsen has received numerous awards and accolades, including a 1994 Grammy as producer of the CD: The Art of Arlene Augér, an acclaimed recording that features Larsen's Sonnets from the Portuguese. Her opera Frankenstein, The Modern Prometheus was selected as one of the eight best classical music events of 1990 by USA Today. The first woman to serve as a resident composer with a major orchestra, she has held residencies with the California Institute of the Arts, the Arnold Schoenberg Institute, the Philadelphia School of the Arts, the Cincinnati Conservatory, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, and the Colorado Symphony. Larsen's many commissions and recordings are a testament to her fruitful collaborations with a long list of world-renowned artists, including The King's Singers, Benita Valente, and Frederica von Stade, among others. Her works are widely recorded on such labels as Angel/EMI, Nonesuch, Decca, and Koch International.

As a past holder of the 2003-2004 Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education at the Library of Congress and recipient of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Libby Larsen is a vigorous, articulate champion of the music and musicians of our time. In 1973, she co-founded (with Stephen Paulus) the Minnesota Composers Forum, now the American Composers Forum, which has been an invaluable advocate for composers in a difficult, transitional time for American arts. Consistently sought-after as a leader in the generation of millenium thinkers, Libby Larsen's music and ideas have refreshed the concert music tradition and the composer's role in it.

CCCM PRESENTS



LIBBY LARSEN RESIDENCY

Wednesday, April 4, 2012
Robert J. Werner Recital Hall

Libby Larsen, composition

04/04/12 Master Class 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

04/04/12 SongFest: American Composers Series of Cincinnati Concert 8:00 p.m.

Gwen Coleman Detwiler, residency coordinator

Master Class

FROM Try Me Good King
Anne Boleyn

Meryl Gellman

FROM Try Me Good King
Katherine Howard

Alexandra Kassouf

When soft voices die

Andrea Spencer
Youngchul Go, cello

When I am an old woman

Marie McManama

I it am

Aria

Eric Jurenas

Question/Answer with Libby Larsen

Libby Larsen
(b. 1950)

SongFest: American Composers Series of Cincinnati Libby Larsen, composition



Cowboy Songs

- I. *Bucking Bronco* – Kathryn Papa, soprano
- II. *Lift Me Into Heaven Slowly* – Erin Keesy, soprano
- III. *Billy the Kid* – Elizabeth Orsborn, soprano
Kara Huber, piano

Sifting Through the Ruins

- I. *A Listing*
- II. *To The Towers Themselves*
- III. *Don't look for me anymore*
from the "Wailing Wall" at Grand Central Terminal
- IV. *Untitled*
- V. *Someone Passes*
Melisa Bonetti, mezzo-soprano
Joanne Wojtowicz, viola*
Robert Blake, piano

Try Me, Good King: Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII

- I. *Katherine of Aragon* – Molly Hanes, soprano
- II. *Anne Boleyn* – Meryl Gellman, soprano
- III. *Jane Seymour* – Nicole Spoltore, soprano
- IV. *Anne of Cleves* – Danielle Adams, soprano
- V. *Katherine Howard* – Alexandra Kassouf, soprano
Rosemary Hyler Ritter, piano

Stone Soup

Steven Goldstein, narrator[†]
Katie Papa, soprano
Stacy Sands, mezzo-soprano[°]
Kathryn Zajack, soprano[°]
Valerie Pool, piano

Stone Soup was commissioned by SongFest 2011 with generous funding from the Sorel Organization

* Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra member

† CCM Faculty member

° CCM Alumna

CCM has become an All-Steinway School through the kindness of its donors. A generous gift by Patricia A. Corbett in her estate plan has played a key role in making this a reality.

SongFest: American Composers Series of Cincinnati is supported by ArtsWave, Northern Kentucky University, SongFest, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.