Oregon Bach Festival Commissions Grammy-winning Composer Richard Danielpour


EUGENE, OR – Grammy-winning composer Richard Danielpour has been commissioned by Oregon Bach Festival to compose a set of fifteen miniatures, titled “An American Mosaic”, for celebrated pianist Simone Dinnerstein to be premiered on December 6, 2020 at 2pm PST. Each miniature commemorates segments of the American population that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including parents, caretakers and those who have lost their lives to the virus.

Los Angeles-based Danielpour and New York-based Dinnerstein embarked on this collaborative project this summer; all communications have taken place through Zoom. Likewise, the December premiere will be virtual.

Music has the unique ability to connect artists from coast to coast and bring people together. “In these challenging and unparalleled times, I believe that music and our accessibility to it is even more important than it might have been in the past,” says Danielpour. “When certain artistic works speak to all of us, and unite us, rather than divide us, these works become a catalyst for hope, courage, and consolation.”

This commission follows Oregon Bach Festival’s 2018 commission of Danielpour’s 100 minute-work, The Passion of Yeshua, with the Buffalo Philharmonic, and the SDG Foundation. The work premiered at Oregon Bach Festival with JoAnn Faletta conducting and has since seen other performances in Los Angeles and Buffalo, New York. A recording was released on Naxos in March 2020.

Stay tuned for further details.

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Richard Danielpour is a Grammy-Award winning composer who has established himself as one of the most gifted and sought-after composers of his generation. His list of commissions include some of the most celebrated artists of our day including Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw, Emanuel Ax, Gil Shaham, Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Gary Graffman, Anthony McGill, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, the Guarneri and Emerson String Quartets, and institutions such as the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Maryinsky and Vienna Chamber Orchestras, and many more. With Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, Danielpour created Margaret Garner, his first opera, which premiered in 2005 and had a second production with New York City Opera. He has received two awards from the American Academy and Institute of Arts & Letters, a Guggenheim Award, the Bearn Prize from Columbia University, two Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, and The Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin. Danielpour recently relocated to Los Angeles where he has accepted the position of Professor of Music at the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He is also a member of the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music where he has taught since 1997.

Simone Dinnerstein has a distinctive musical voice. The Washington Post has called her “an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity.” She first came to wider public attention in 2007 through her recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations, reflecting an aesthetic that was both deeply rooted in the score and profoundly idiosyncratic. She is, wrote The New York Times, “a unique voice in the forest of Bach interpretation.”

Oregon Bach Festival has presented the masterworks of J.S. Bach, and composers inspired by his work, to audiences in Eugene and throughout the State of Oregon for five decades. The annual event began as a collaboration between German Conductor and Organist, Helmuth Rilling and former Associate Dean of the University of Oregon School of Music, Royce Saltzman. In addition to traditional choral-orchestral masterworks, the festival also presents internationally renowned guest artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Pink Martini and Joshua Bell, and offers educational opportunities, children and family programming, and community events.