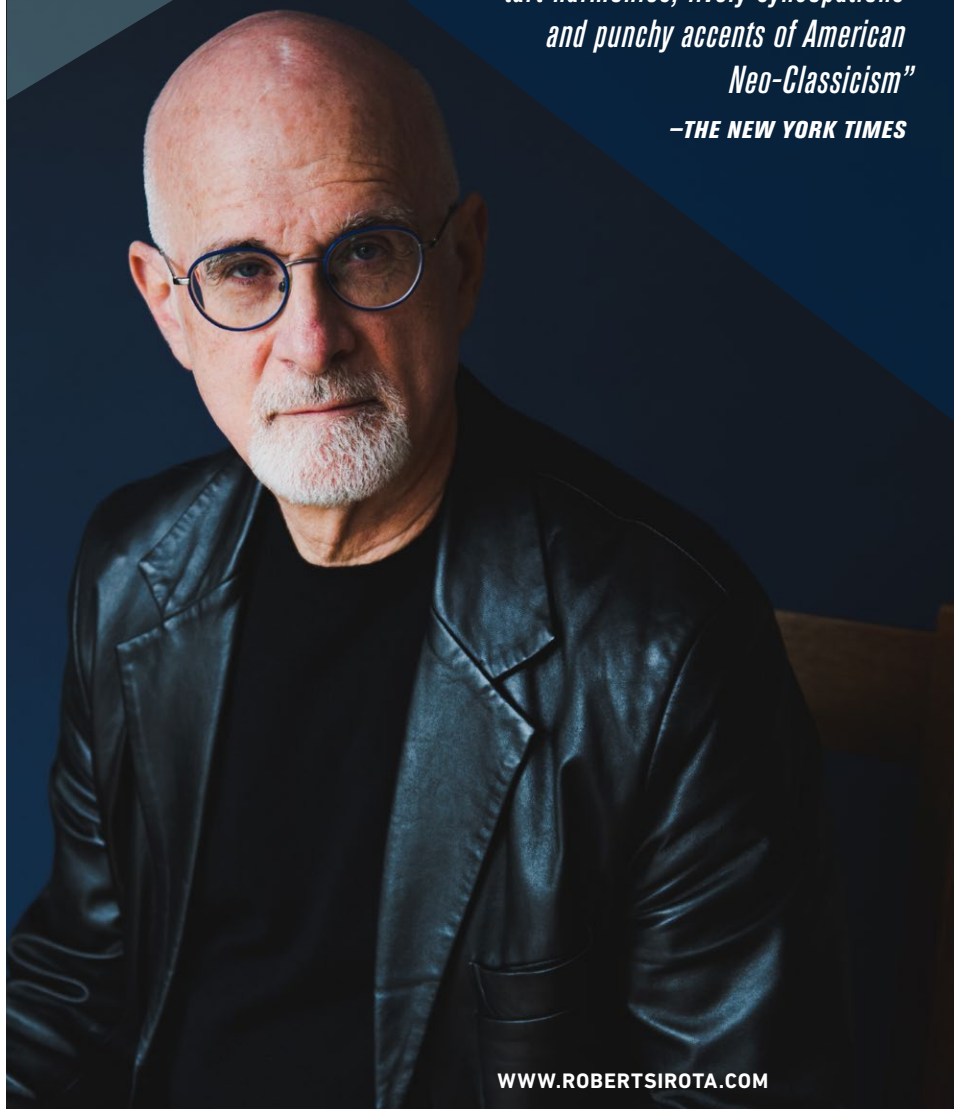


ROBERT SIROTA, COMPOSER

*“fashioned with the clean, angular melodies,
tart harmonies, lively syncopations
and punchy accents of American
Neo-Classicism”*

—THE NEW YORK TIMES



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ROBERT SIROTA

Over four decades, composer Robert Sirota has developed a distinctive voice, clearly discernible in all of his work – whether symphonic, choral, stage, or chamber music. Writing in the *Portland Press Herald*, Allan Kozinn asserts: “Sirota’s musical language is personal and undogmatic, in the sense that instead of aligning himself with any of the competing contemporary styles, he follows his own internal musical compass.”

Robert Sirota’s chamber works have been performed by Alarm Will Sound; Washington Square Contemporary Music Society; Sequitur; Sandbox Percussion; Yale Camerata; yMusic; pianist Jeffrey Kahane; TACTUS Ensemble; Chameleon Arts Ensemble; New Hudson Saxophone Quartet; Left Bank Concert Society; Dinosaur Annex; the Chiara, American, Telegraph, Ethel, Elmyr, and Blair String Quartets; the Peabody, Concord, and Webster Trios; and the Fischer Duo, and at festivals including the Tanglewood, Aspen, Yellow Barn, and Cooperstown music festivals; Bowdoin Gamper and Bowdoin International Music Festival; and Mizzou International Composers Festival. Orchestral performances include the Seattle, Vermont, Virginia, East Texas, Lincoln (NE), Meridian (MS), New Haven, Greater Bridgeport, Oradea (Romania) and Saint Petersburg (Russia) symphonies, as well as conservatory orchestras of Oberlin, Peabody, Manhattan School of Music, Toronto, and Singapore.

Sirota@70 features residencies, performances, and premieres throughout 2019–2020 in honor of his 70th birthday. Commissions include *Job Fragments* for baritone Thomas Pellaton, cello, and piano with text adapted from the Book of Job; *O Blessed Holy Trinity* for choir and organ by Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis; *Dancing With the Angels* for flute, viola, and harp, by Carol Wincenc; and *Contrapassos* with libretto by Stevan Cavalier for string quartet and soprano, by the Sierra Chamber Society. Residencies and composer forums include Singapore’s Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, among others.

Recent commissions include Sirota’s third string quartet, *Wave Upon Wave* by the Naumburg Foundation; *Immigrant Songs* by the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine; *Luminous Bodies* performed by Jeffrey Kahane and yMusic at

the Sarasota Music Festival; *Hafez Songs* by Palladium Musicum; and his Cello Sonata No. 2, by Benjamin Larsen and Hyungjin Choi. Sirota has also been commissioned by the American String Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, and yMusic, as well as arrangements for Paul Simon.

Sirota has held seminars and residencies at University of Missouri-Kansas City, Samford University, Carnegie Mellon University, Peabody Institute, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and New World School of the Arts at Miami Dade College. He also created and curated Bridging the Gap, a series of concerts at National Sawdust that explore the relationships between generations of composers.

Sirota is recorded on the Capstone, Albany, New Voice and Gasparo labels and his discography grows with an arrangement on Paul Simon’s *In The Blue Light* (Legacy Recordings, 2018); *Elegy for a Lost World* on violist Jonah Sirota’s *Strong Sad* (National Sawdust Tracks, 2018); and his second string quartet, *American Pilgrimage*, on American String Quartet’s *American Romantics* (independently released, 2018).

Recipient of grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the United States Information Agency, National Endowment for the Arts, Meet The Composer, and the American Music Center, Sirota’s music is published by Muzzy Ridge Music, Schott, Music Associates of New York, MorningStar, Theodore Presser, and To the Fore.

Before becoming Director of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in 1995, Sirota served as Chairman of the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions at New York University and Director of Boston University’s School of Music. From 2005–2012, he was the President of Manhattan School of Music, where he was also a member of the School’s composition faculty.

A native New Yorker, Sirota studied at Juilliard, Oberlin, and Harvard and divides his time between New York and Searsport, Maine with his wife, Episcopal priest and organist Victoria Sirota. They frequently collaborate on new works, with Victoria as librettist and performer, at times also working with their children, Jonah and Nadia, both world-class violists.

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Seminars and Artist Residencies

Having served as the director of The Peabody Institute and the Boston University School of Music, as well as President of Manhattan School of Music, Robert Sirota brings a wealth of experience, both as a celebrated composer and a proven administrator, to his seminars and residencies in universities and conservatories. During Sirota's tenure at Manhattan School of Music, he launched the highly successful Center for Music Entrepreneurship. Through artist residencies, Sirota provides students with practical knowledge, clear strategies, and achievable goals in both artistic and entrepreneurial aspects of a music career. According to Sirota, "young musicians graduating from music programs in the second decade of the 21st century are encountering a musical and cultural landscape radically different from that of just 20 years ago." His seminars, lectures, and composer forums offer useful insights on the rapidly evolving world of performing, recording, and publishing concert music, along with strategies for pursuing successful and fulfilling careers. Students also have the opportunity to participate in composition masterclasses, presenting their own work to Sirota for feedback and constructive criticism. Sirota's passion as an educator is reflected in his schedule of university seminars and residencies, most recently at schools such as Peabody Institute, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, New World School of the Arts at Miami Dade College, and Samford University.

COMPLETE WORKS LIST

ORCHESTRA

ECSTATIC SUNRISE for string orchestra (2011) 6'
A RUSH OF WINGS (2008) 6'
212: SYMPHONY NO. 1 (2007) 25'
MERIDIANS (2006) 11'
EPIPHANIES for string quartet and orchestra (2006) 16'
IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME for organ and orchestra (1999) 14'
CUMMINGTON JUNCTION for chamber orchestra (1998) 8'
DARK DANCES for viola and chamber orchestra (1995) 14'
CONCERTO FOR ORGAN, STRINGS AND PERCUSSION (1985) 14'
CONCERTO FOR CELLO AND ORCHESTRA (1984) 31'
CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA (1981) 20'

CHORAL

A CALL FOR THE BATTLE TO CEASE for solo piano, chorus, and orchestra (2017) 15'
PRELUDE AND SPIRITUAL FOR MOTHER EMANUEL for chorus, soprano soloist, string orchestra, and piano (2015) 9'
HOLY WOMEN : LIVES OF THE WOMEN SAINTS IN THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF ST. BEDE'S CHAPEL (2010) 40'
I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE for mixed chorus and organ (2000) 3'
THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST A Visual Oratorio for soli (STB), mixed chorus, organ, piano, and two percussionists (1998) 30'
HOW SHALL I REPAY THE LORD? for mixed chorus and organ (1996) 4'
KYRIE AND SANCTUS (Holy Nativity Mass) for congregation and organ (1996) 3'
PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT for mixed chorus, oboe, and organ (1995) 4'
GOD IS LOVE for solo soprano, mixed chorus, and organ (1994) 4'
SANCTUS AND AGNUS DEI for congregation and organ (1994) 4'
IN QUIETNESS AND TRUST for mixed chorus a cappella (1992) 3'
MASS for soloists (SATB), chorus (SATB), organ, and percussion (1990) 35'
SONGS AND SPELLS: A Midsummer Nightscape for chorus and chamber ensemble (1981) 19'

FOUR INSTRUMENTS

SPINDRIFT for two marimbas and two vibraphones (2015) 12'
ETHEL FANFARE for string quartet (2013) 3'
ASSIMILATIONS for violin, clarinet, cello, and piano (2010) 9'
DINERS for saxophone quartet (2009) 16'
TRIPTYCH for string quartet (2002) 25'

THREE INSTRUMENTS

BIRDS OF PARADISE for flute, clarinet,
and piano (2008) 16'

TRIO for piano, violin, and cello (1998) 20'

TWO INSTRUMENTS

ELEGY FOR A LOST WORLD for viola and piano
(2017) 6'

BROKEN PLACES for flute and cello (2016) 12'

SONATA NO 2: FAREWELL for violin and piano
(2013) 24'

PANGE LINGUA SONATA for violin and piano (2012) 16'

MY YIDDISHE MOMME for violin and cello (2009) 6'

SUMMERMUSIC for violin and piano (2000) 15'

JERUSALEM PSALMS for two pianos and
optional narrator (1995) 16'

DARK DANCES for viola and piano (1994) 14'

EASTER CANTICLES for cello and organ (1993) 14'

SONATA for cello and piano (1988) 23'

LETTERS ABROAD for organ and piano (1982) 25'

FANTASY for cello and piano (1976) 9'

SOLO GUITAR

CANTICLE/CANTILENA/CANZONA (2014) 15'

SOLO VIOLA

COMPENDIUM DE LUMINE (2013) 14'

SOLO CELLO

PRAYERS AND LAMENTATIONS (1996) 20'

SOLO FLUTE

NINE EPIGRAMS (1972) 11'

SOLO ORGAN

HOLY GHOSTS (2012) 10'

PSALM 100 (1992) 2'

INCANTATIONS (1988) 6'

CELESTIAL WIND (1987) 7'

FESTIVAL PRELUDE on "Now Thank We All Our God"
(1985) 5'

TOCCATA for three-manual organ (1979) 9'

TWO LENTEN CHORAL PRELUDES (1978-79) 7'

FOUR PIECES (1975) 7'

JEUX for three-manual organ (1974) 6'

SOLO PIANO

MIXED EMOTIONS. Four Pieces for Piano (2003) 15'

SOLO TUBA

SYNOPSIS FOR TUBA (1990) 10'

VOICE

CABARET SONGS for soprano, piano, alto
saxophone, and contrabass (1991 and 2008) 12'

PADDY'S BRITCHES: Arrangement of a traditional
Irish folk song for baritone and chamber
ensemble (2003) 8'

FOUR SONGS for soprano and piano (1992) 9'

THREE CABARET SONGS for soprano and piano
(1991) 9'

REMEMBRANCE: Four songs on sonnets of William
Shakespeare for soprano, oboe, clarinet, piano,
viola, and cello (1988) 17'

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

THREE NOCTURNES for sixteen instruments
(2017) 15'

EPIMETHEUS for flute, clarinet, trumpet,
violin, viola, and cello (2015) 5' 30"

APPARITIONS for organ and string quartet
(2013) 15'

CONSTELLATIONS for two violas, celesta,
and piano (2012) 11'

MATRYOSHKA VARIATIONS for piano quintet
(2010) 15'

CAPRICCIO for piano and ten instruments
(2007) 16'

A SINNER'S DIARY (2005/06) 24'

FANFARE: MUSIC FOR THE WORLD for brass octet
(2004) 2' 30"

FANFARE FOR THE WALTERS for brass octet
(2000) 5'

A BALTIMORE FANFARE for brass ensemble
(1997) 2'

FANFARE: BERKSHIRE REVERBERATIONS
for brass quintet (1988) 2'

FANFARE (EXPLOSION) for brass quintet (1987) 2'

SEVEN PICASSOS for chamber ensemble (1987) 15'

SCHERZINO for wind quintet (1986) 4'

CONCERTO GROSSO for 14 instruments (1981) 12'

STAGE WORKS

ISCARIOT (1994) 90'

THE CLEVER MISTRESS (1988) 26'

THE TAILOR OF GLOUCESTER (1987) 23'

BONTSHE THE SILENT (1978) 46'