

Rob Kapilow

Biography and Works



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Publishers

With his diverse array of talents and his infectious enthusiasm for all things musical, Rob Kapilow brings the pleasures of classical music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. As reported in the *Boston Globe*, "It's a cheering thought that this kind of missionary enterprise did not pass from this earth with Leonard Bernstein. Robert Kapilow is awfully good at what he does. We need him."

What characterizes all of Kapilow's work is his ability to create an "aha" moment for his audiences and collaborators, and his dedication to bringing music to the public. Opening new ears to musical experiences, Kapilow is helping people to understand how music can enrich, reflect, and enhance their daily lives – whether it's through his "What Makes It Great?" presentations (including a "Live From Lincoln Center" PBS broadcast), his "Family Musik" shows, his "Citypieces," and his books, (*All You Have To Do Is Listen* and *What Makes It Great?*)

Kapilow was the first composer ever to be granted the rights to set Dr. Seuss's words to music, and his *Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham* was premiered by the New Jersey Chamber Music Society in 1995. It has since achieved great popularity in the children's theater world, prompting *Boston Globe* music critic Richard Dyer to declare it the most popular children's piece since *Peter and the Wolf*.

Kapilow's well-known "Citypieces" involve entire communities in the process of conceiving and creating a new piece of music. Among these are *Chrysopylae*, premiered by the Marin Symphony and Chorus in May 2012 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; *Union Station*, premiered by the Kansas City Symphony in 2000 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Kansas City; and *D.C. Monuments*, premiered by the National Symphony in 2000 with the composer conducting. For the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase in 2002, he composed *03 (This New, Immense, Unbounded World)*, which the Louisiana Philharmonic toured throughout the state.

Kapilow's most ambitious "Citypiece," commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, premiered in September 2004. Co-commissioned by the Carlsen Center, the Saint Louis Symphony, and the Louisiana Philharmonic, *Summer Sun, Winter Moon* has a text by Darrell Robes Kipp, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, and recalls the events from the perspective of those "on the banks of the river." *Summer Sun, Winter Moon* came full circle when it returned to Montana with the Helena Symphony in October 2005. A documentary film of the same name followed the composition's process from conception to premiere and was broadcast on public television.

Among his recent compositions are: *Crosstown M42*, a cappella youth chorus collaboration with sound-effect artist Fred Newman of "A Prairie Home Companion;" *Jabberwocky*, on Lewis Carroll's poem, for chorus and chamber ensemble; and *Paddywak: A Tap Dance Concerto*, premiered by Ayodele Casel in 2007 at Lincoln Center.

Other works include orchestral versions of both *Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham* and *Gertrude McFuzz* for the Minnesota Orchestra; a Christmas-Hannukah pair of pieces: *Chris Van Allsburg's Polar Express*, for the Fleet Bank Celebrity Series in Boston where he runs the "Family Musik" series, and *Elijah's Angel*, a setting of the celebrated children's book by Michael Rosen; and his first opera, *Many Moons*, based on the James Thurber story with a libretto by Hilary Blecher, which premiered in January 1997. Other family pieces include *And Furthermore They Bite* (2000), a companion piece to *Carnival of the Animals*, and *Play Ball!*, a setting of the famous Thayer poem "Casey at the Bat." Kapilow was a featured composer on Chicago Public Radio's prestigious "Composers in America" series and is a recipient of an Exxon "Meet-the-Composer" grant and numerous ASCAP awards.

Traveling the country and enlightening audiences about classical music, Kapilow is well known for his acclaimed program "What Makes It Great?" He initially gained recognition through regular installments on National Public Radio, which expanded into full-length concert evenings and series throughout North America, where Kapilow's interactive presentation has lured thousands of new listeners to the concert hall. The series has become a recurring event at New York's Lincoln Center (where Kapilow has the distinction of being the only artist to have his own series), and in Boston, Los Angeles, and Kansas City.

Mr. Kapilow has conducted many of North America's finest orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Toronto Symphony, National Art Center Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as orchestras in Europe and Asia. Additionally, he has performed at many of America's most prestigious music festivals including Ravinia, Saratoga, Caramoor, and the Aspen Music Festival.

Kapilow was music director of the Yale Symphony Orchestra and Opera New England, as well as assistant conductor of the Opera Company of Boston and the Bridgeport Symphony. Kapilow is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University, a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, and a student of Nadia Boulanger. He was an assistant professor of music for six years at Yale University and has lectured and taught at universities throughout America.

Rob Kapilow's music is published exclusively by G. Schirmer, Inc.

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Opera and Music Theatre

Many Moons (1997) 1h 10'
 Text: (English) Libretto by Hilary Blecher, additional lyrics by Jim Friedland.
 Solo: Mezzo soprano, Boy Soprano, 3 Sopranos, 2 Baritones, 2 Bass Baritones, Tenor
 1(pic).1.2.1/2100/perc/hp.pf/str (4.0.1.2.1)
Performance materials on rental

Orchestra

Bridgepiece (1997) 7'
 2(pic).222/2220/2perc/str
 Alt: 1111/1000/perc/pf
Performance materials on rental

New Year's Eve (from "Union Station") (2000) 2' 30"
 3(pic).3(ca).2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.2+btbn.1/3perc/pf/str (orchestra doubles on noisemakers)
Performance materials on rental

Sing God: In Memoriam Leonard Bernstein (1992) 18'
 2.2.2.asx.2/4330/timp.2perc/hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Soloist(s) and Orchestra

And Furthermore They Bite (2000) 15'
 Text: (English) John Ciardi, Anonymous, Edward Lucie-Smith, Rudyard Kipling, Colin West, Lillian Moore, Jack Preluts
 Solo: Soprano, Baritone
 2(pic).2+ca.2.2/4220/2perc/str
Performance materials on rental

Dr. Seuss's Gertrude McFuzz (1995) 16'
 Text: (English) Dr. Seuss
 Solo: Soprano, Girl Soprano
 2(pic).2.2.2/2220/2perc/pf/str
 Alt: 1(pic)0.2.1/1100/perc/pf/db
Performance materials on rental
Vocal Score 50483575 for sale

Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham (1992) 18'
 Text: (English) Dr. Seuss
 Solo: Soprano, Boy Soprano
 2(pic).2.2.2/2220/2perc/pf/str
 Alt: 1(pic)0.2.1/1100/perc/pf/db
Performance materials on rental
Score 50482454 for sale
Score 50482506 for sale
Reduced Score 50482453 for sale

Paddywak: A Tap Dance Concerto (2007) 15'
 Solo: Tap dancer
 2(pic).2.2.2./4.2.2.0./timp.perc/pf/str
 Alt: Tapdancer; fl(pic), 2cl, bn, hn, tpt, pf, 2vn, va, vc, db
Performance materials on rental

When The... (1992) 4'
 Solo: Brass quintet
 2222/2000/timp.perc/hp/str
Performance materials on rental

You and Hugh (1994) 22'
 Text: (English) Terrence McNally
 Solo: Soprano, Baritone, Boy soprano
 1(pic)1.2.1/0110/perc/pf/str
Performance materials on rental

Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

City Piece: Shuttlecocks (1996) 20'
 4vn, 2va, 2vc, tp
Performance materials on rental

Soloist(s) and Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

I Want to be a Superhero (1998) 12'
 Text: (English) Michael Rosen
 Solo: boy narrator, female narrator
 fl(pic), ob, 2cl, bn, 2hn, tpt, perc, pf, db
Performance materials on rental

Works for 2-6 Players

Diversions (1987) 2'
 2 fl
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Work List

Rob Kapilow

Flute Music (1985) 10'
fl, pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Hecate (1986) 5'
5 vc or multiples
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Light Thickens (1987) 5'
2 vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Movement (1986) 13'
2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Solo Keyboard(s)

Celestial Navigation (1991) 4'
cel
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Piano Music (1986) 6'
pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument

Crosstown M42 (2009) 5'
Mixed chorus with sound effects
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

In Excelsis Gloria (1985) 3'
Text: (Latin) Anonymous 15th century
Chorus: SATB chorus
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Maggie and Milly and Molly and May (1986) 7'
Text: E. E. Cummings
Chorus: SATB chorus
pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

**The Mississippi River
Empties into the Gulf** (2002) 4'
Text: (English) Dalt Wonk
from "03 (This New, Immense, Unbounded World)"
Chorus: SATB chor
pf
Octavo 50485592 for sale

Now is the Tyme of Christmas (1987) 2'
Text: Anonymous 15th-century
Chorus: TTBB chorus
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

The Pasture (1988) 2'
Text: (English) Robert Frost
chorus
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Proverb (2002) 4'
Text: (English) Lucille Clifton
from "03 (This New, Immense, Unbounded World)"
Chorus: SATB chor
pf
Octavo 50485591 for sale

**Translate, from "Summer Sun, Winter Moon"
(SAB version)** (2004) 3'
Text: Darrell Robes Kipp
Chorus: SAB
piano
Octavo 50486182 for sale

**Translate, from "Summer Sun, Winter Moon"
(SATB version)** (2004) 3'
Text: Darrell Robes Kipp
Chorus: SATB
piano
Octavo 50486100 for sale

**Translate, from "Summer Sun, Winter Moon"
(SSA version)** (2004) 3'
Text: Darrell Robes Kipp
Chorus: SSA
piano
Octavo 50486183 for sale

Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

**03 (This New, Immense,
Unbounded World)** (2002) 20'
Text: (English) Dalt Wonk and Lucille Clifton
Chorus: SATB chorus
3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.3perc/cel.hp.eb/str
Performance materials on rental
Octavo 50485592 for sale
Octavo 50485591 for sale

- Chris van Allsburg's Polar Express** (1997) 22'
Text: Chris van Allsburg
Solo: Baritone
Chorus: Children's Chorus
2(pic).2.2.2/2230/2[+]perc/hp.pf(cel)/str
Alt: 2(pic).0.2.1/2100/perc/pf/4vn.va.2vc.db
Performance materials on rental
Vocal Score 50483405 for sale
- Chrysopylae** (2012)
Chorus: SATB
3(pic).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3.2+btbn.1/
timp.3perc/cel(kbd).hp/str; electronics
Performance materials on rental
- D.C. Monuments** (2000) 29'
Text: (English) Stephen Spender, Donell Washington,
Marie Howe
Solo: Rapper
Chorus
3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3.2+btbn.1/
timp.3perc(8 "ocean drums")/pf(cel).hp/str
Performance materials on rental
- Elijah's Angel** (1998) 23'
Text: (English) Libretto by Jim Friedland; Based
on the Book "Elijah's Angel" by Michael Rosen
Solo: Baritone, Bass Baritone, Boy Soprano
Chorus: Children's Chorus
2(pic)2.2.2/2200/2perc/str
Alt: 1(pic).1.2.1/2100/perc/pf(cel)/db
Performance materials on rental
- In Just- (Seasons)** (2002) 6'
Text: (English) E. E. Cummings
Chorus
1010/0000/pf/str
Performance materials on rental
- Jabberwocky** (2008) 20'
Text: (English) Lewis Carroll
Chorus: SATB chous (1 singer plays glockenspiel or
pianist plays cues)
1(pic).0.2.1/1.1.0.0/2[=1]perc/pf/str(1.1.1.1.1)
Performance materials on rental
- Play Ball! (Casey at the Bat)** (2000) 20'
Text: (English) Ernest L. Thayer
Chorus: SATB Chorus
1121/2100/perc/pf/db
Performance materials on rental
- Summer Sun, Winter Moon** (2004) 29'
Text: (Blackfeet (Native-American), English, French,
Hidatsa (Native-American), Mandan (Native-American))
Darrell Robes Kipp; Blackfeet (Native-American), English,
French, Hidatsa (Native-American), Mandan (Native-
American)
Solo: Tenor, Child Soprano
Chorus: SATB chorus
2+pic(rec).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3.2+btbn.1/
timp.3perc/hp/str
Performance materials on rental
- Union Station** (2000) 30'
Text: (English)
Solo: Narrator
Chorus: SATB chorus
3(pic).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.3perc/
hp.pf(cel)/str
Performance materials on rental
- Solo Voice(s) and
up to 6 players**
- The Mystic Trumpeter** (1985) 8'
Text: (English) Walt Whitman
Solo: Soprano
tpt, pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

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USA

G. Schirmer, Inc.
schirmer@schirmer.com
phone 212 254 2100

UK

Chester Music Limited
promotion@musicsales.co.uk
phone 44 20 7612 7400

Denmark

Edition Wilhelm Hansen AS
ewh@ewh.dk
phone 45 33 117888

France

Chester Music France
chesterfrance@musicsales.co.uk
phone 33 1 53 24 68 52

Germany

Chester Schirmer Berlin
chester.schirmer.berlin@musicsales.co.uk
phone 49 30 223 220 19

Spain

Unión Musical Ediciones SL
unionmusicalediciones@musicsales.co.uk
phone 34 91 308 4040

Australia

Music Sales Pty. Ltd.
matt.bailey@musicsales.com.au
Tel: 61 2 9299 8877

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K K Music Sales
rights@shinko-music.jp
phone 81 3 3292 2861



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