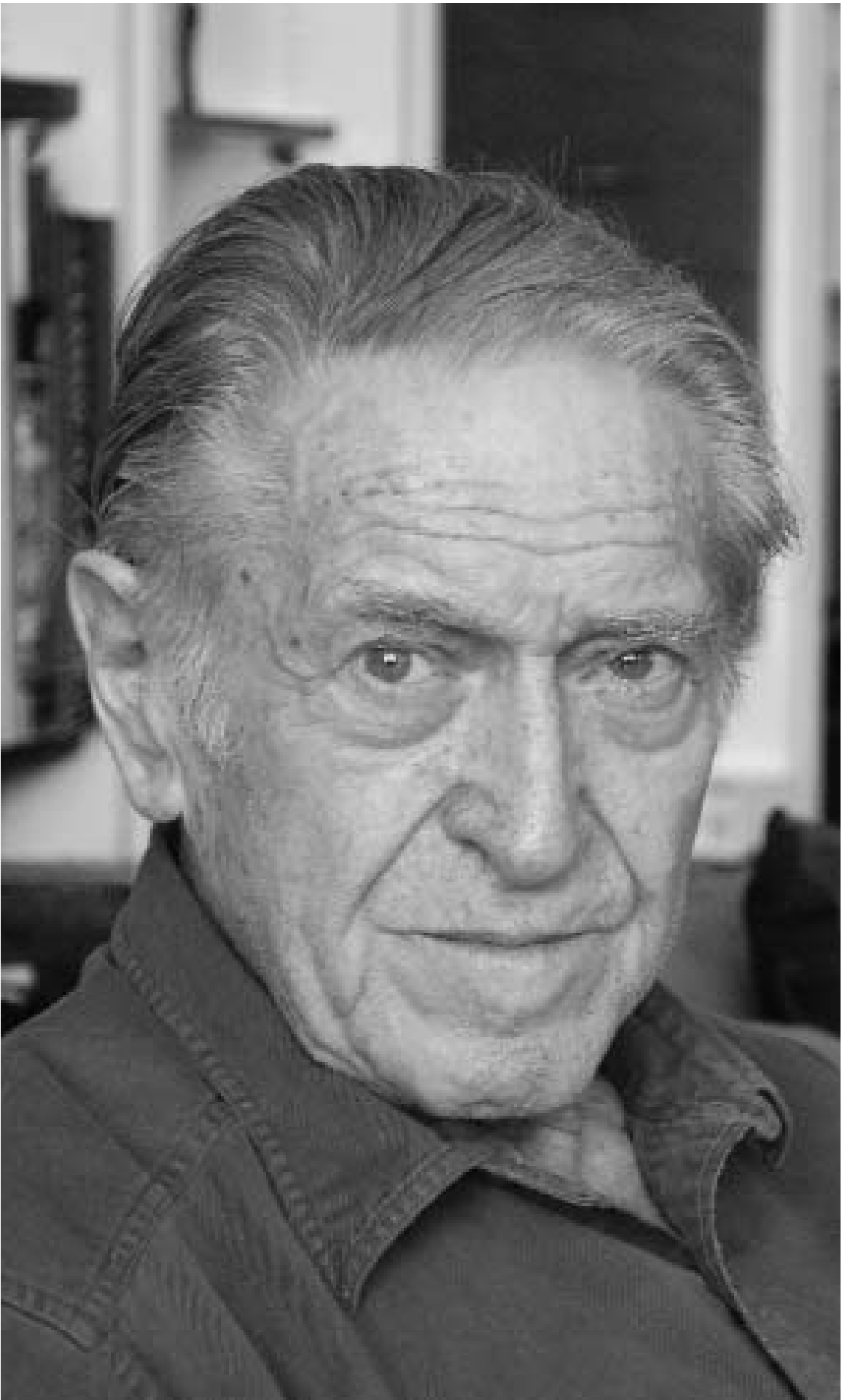


Leon Kirchner

Biography and Works



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Leon Kirchner was born on January 24, 1919 of Russian parents in Brooklyn; grew up in Los Angeles; and studied with Arnold Schoenberg, Roger Sessions, and Ernest Bloch. Stylistically, Kirchner remained remarkably individual; earlier influences of Hindemith, Bartók, and Stravinsky soon yielded to a wholehearted identification with the aesthetics, if not necessarily the specific procedures, of Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern.

Extraordinarily gifted as both a pianist and a conductor, Kirchner was first and foremost a composer. A member of the American Academies of Arts and Letters and of Arts and Sciences, he was honored twice by the New York Music Critics' Circle (*String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2*), and received the Naumburg Award (*Piano Concerto No. 1*), the Pulitzer Prize (*String Quartet No. 3*), the Friedheim Award (*Music for Cello and Orchestra*); and commissions from, among others, the Ford, Fromm, and Koussevitzky Foundations; the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Spoleto and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festivals, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. He was composer-in-residence and a performer at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; the Tanglewood Music Center; Tokyo Music Today (Takemitsu Festival); and the Spoleto (Charleston), Aldeburgh, and Marlboro Music Festivals. He also conducted at a number of leading music festivals around the world.

Kirchner's last works include *The Forbidden*, for James Levine and the Boston Symphony Orchestra; *Music for Cello and Orchestra*, for Yo-Yo Ma and the Philadelphia Orchestra (recorded on Sony Classical); *Trio No. 2* for the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio; *Of Things Exactly as They Are*, a work for orchestra, chorus, and soloists for the Boston Symphony Orchestra; and *String Quartet No. 4* for the Orion Quartet. Following their premiere of *String Quartet No. 4*, the Orion Quartet recorded Kirchner's complete quartets — works which span a 57-year period — for Albany Records.

Performers who championed Kirchner's work include Yo-Yo Ma, who toured and recorded both *Music for Cello and Orchestra* and *Triptych* for Sony; The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Continuum; pianists Peter Serkin, who commissioned and recorded *Interlude* (BMG), and Leon Fleisher; cellist Carter Brey; flutist Paula Robinson; conductors Oliver Knussen, Hugh Wolff, and John Adams; and the trios of Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson and Buswell-Parnas-Luvisi.

In June 2011, Albany's CD "Leon Kirchner: *Orchestral Works*" marked the first commercial release of *Music for Orchestra*. Other recordings include his first three string quartets (Boston Composers String Quartet, Albany) and Nonesuch's all-Kirchner recording which includes the *Concerto for Violoncello, Ten Winds, and Percussion*; the *Piano Trio*; *Five Piano Pieces*; and *Music for Twelve*, featuring the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. Of *Music for Twelve*, Allan Kozinn of *The New York Times* wrote: "There is magic in the interplay between the 12 soloistic lines, and in the way instrumental colors seem to grow from each other to form lengthy melodies."

Leon Kirchner's music is published by Associated Music Publishers.

— September 2012

Opera and Music Theatre

Lily (1977) 1h 30'
Text: (English) Libretto by the composer after Saul Bellow's novel "Henderson the Rain King."
Solo: 3 male, 4 female roles
Chorus
3(pic)3(ca)3(bcl)2(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/str/tp

Orchestra

The Forbidden (2008) 15'
2.2+ca.2.2/4.3.3.1/tmp.3perc/pf(=cel)/str
Performance materials on rental

Music for Orchestra (1969) 14'
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.4[=5]perc/pf(=cel)/str
Performance materials on rental
Score 50481438 for sale

Orchestra Piece (Music for Orchestra II) (1990) 10'
3(pic)2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.2perc/pf(=cel)/str
Performance materials on rental

Sinfonia (1951) 22'
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.perc/cel.hp.pf/str
Performance materials on rental
Score 50488723 for sale

Toccata (1955) 14'
0.1.1.1/1.1.1.0/perc/cel/str
Performance materials on rental
Score 50237600 for sale

Soloist(s) and Orchestra

Concerto for Piano No. 1 (1953) 32'
Solo: Piano
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.perc/cel./str
Performance materials on rental
Score 50239030 for sale

Concerto for Piano No. 2 (1963) 30'
Solo: Piano
2+pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.5perc/cel/str
Performance materials on rental

Concerto for Violin, Violoncello, 10 Winds, and Percussion (1960) 19'
Solo: Violin, Cello
1.1.1.1+cbn/1220/timp.3perc/cel
Performance materials on rental
Study Score 50237750 for sale

Music for Cello and Orchestra (1992) 18'
Solo: Cello
3(pic).3+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/pf(=cel)/str
Performance materials on rental

Music for Flute and Orchestra (1978) 13'
Solo: Flute
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.5[+]perc/pf(=cel,[epf]).hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

Fanfare II (1977) 1' 30"
2hn, 2tpt, 2tbn, tba
Performance materials on rental

Illuminations (1986) 1' 15"
2hn, 3tpt, 3tbn, btb
Performance materials on rental

Music for Twelve (1985) 10'
fl, ob, cl, bn, hn, tpt, tbn, pf, vn, va, vc, db
Performance materials on rental
Score 50481503 for sale

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

Lily (for soprano and chamber ensemble) (1973) 22'
Text: Saul Bellow
Solo: soprano
fl, ob, cl, bn, hn, perc, pf, cel, vn, va, vc, tape

Works for 2-6 Players

Duo (1947)
vn, pf
Score 50488507 for sale

Work List

Leon Kirchner

Duo No. 2 (2001) vn, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50485827 for sale</i>	14'	For Violin Solo II (1988) violin <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'
Fanfare (1965) hn, 2tpt <i>Score and Part(s) 50225970 for sale</i>	2'	Solo Keyboard(s)	
Flutings for Paula (1973) arr./ed./orch. (rev. 2006) fl, perc <i>Score 50486462 for sale</i>	5' 30"	Five Pieces (1987) pf <i>Score HL50480353 for sale</i>	14'
Sonata Concertante (1952) vn, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50488722 for sale</i>	20'	Interlude (1989) pf <i>Score 50481215 for sale</i>	7'
String Quartet No. 1 (1949) 2vn, va, vc <i>Score 50481193 for sale</i> <i>Set of Parts 50488737 for sale</i>	20'	Interlude II (2003) pf <i>Score 50485965 for sale</i>	6'
String Quartet No. 2 (1958) 2vn, va, vc <i>Score 50237710 for sale</i> <i>Set of Parts 50225080 for sale</i>	19'	L.H. (1995) pf <i>Score 50485964 for sale</i>	7'
String Quartet No. 3 (1966) 2vn, va, vc, tape <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	16'	Little Suite (1949) pf <i>Score 50488721 for sale</i>	10'
String Quartet No. 4 (2006) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13'	Piano Sonata No. 3 (The Forbidden) (2006) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	12' 30"
Trio (1954) vn, vc, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50225180 for sale</i>	15'	Sonata No. 2 (2003) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	14'
Trio II (1993) vn, vc, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50482307 for sale</i>	15'	Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument	
Triptych (1988) vn, vc <i>Score and Part(s) 50481216 for sale</i>	20'	Words from Wordsworth (1966) Text: (English) William Wordsworth Chorus: mixed voices <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
Solo Works (excluding keyboard)			
For Cello Solo (1986) vc <i>Solo Part 50480494 for sale</i>	11'		
For Violin Solo (1986) vn <i>Solo Part 50480299 for sale</i>	11'		

Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

Of Things Exactly As They Are (1997) 35'

Text: (English) Robinson Jeffers, Emily Dickinson,
Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wallace Stevens, Robert Lowell
Solo: Soprano, Baritone
Chorus: SATB Chorus
2+pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/4perc/hp.pf(cel)/str
Performance materials on rental

Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

Happy Birthday David 1' 30"

Solo: high voice
pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

The Twilight Stood (1982) 12'

Text: (English) Emily Dickinson
Solo: Soprano
pf
Score 50507910 for sale

Work List

Leon Kirchner

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