

Terry Riley

Biography and Works



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Composer and performer Terry Riley is one of the founders of music's Minimalist movement. His early works, notably *In C* (1964), pioneered a form in Western music based on structured interlocking repetitive patterns. The influence of Riley's hypnotic, multi-layered, polymetric, brightly orchestrated Eastern-flavored improvisations and compositions is heard across the span of contemporary and popular music.

Performers who have commissioned and/or played his works include: Kronos Quartet, Rova Saxophone Quartet, ARTE Quartet, Array Music, Zeitgeist, Steven Scott Bowed Piano Ensemble, John Zorn, Sarah Cahill, California E.A.R. Unit, guitarist David Tanenbaum, electric violinist Tracy Silverman, drummer George Marsh, bassist Bill Douglass, the Assad brothers, cello octet Conjunto Ibérico, Crash Ensemble, Abel Steinberg-Winant Trio, pianists Werner Bartschi and Gloria Cheng, Calder Quartet, Arditti Quartet, Amati Quartet, Alter Ego, Sounds Bazaar, Paul Drescher, singer Amelia Cuni, Bang-on-a-Can All Stars, and guitarist Gyan Riley.

Born in Colfax, California, Riley studied at Shasta College, San Francisco State University, and the San Francisco Conservatory before earning an MA in composition at the University of California, Berkeley, studying with Seymour Shifrin and Robert Erickson. At UC Berkeley, he met La Monte Young; together they worked with the dancer Anna Halprin. During a sojourn to Europe 1962-64, he collaborated with members of the Fluxus group, playwright Ken Dewey, and trumpeter Chet Baker, and was involved in street theater and happenings. In 1965 he moved to New York and joined La Monte Young's "Theater of Eternal Music." 1967 was the year of his first all-night concert at the Philadelphia College of Art and he began a collaboration with visual artist Robert Benson. An influential teacher was Pandit Pran Nath, a master of Indian classical voice; Riley appeared in concert with him as *tampura*, *tabla* and vocal accompanist for over 25 years. Riley continues to perform in concerts of his music and of Indian classical music, as well as conducting *raga*-singing seminars. He also appears in concerts with Indian sitarist Krishna Bhatt, saxophonist George Brooks, guitarist Gyan Riley and with virtuoso Italian bassist, Stefano Scodanibbio.

Riley joined the Mills College faculty in 1971. There he met David Harrington of the Kronos Quartet. Their long association led to 13 string quartets, the concerto *The Sands* (1990), the multimedia choral work commissioned by NASA, *Sun Rings* (2003), and *The Cusp of Magic* (2004) with pipa. The Kronos record-

ing of his epic five-quartet cycle, *Salome Dances for Peace* was selected as the Classical album of the year by "USA Today" and was nominated for a Grammy.

The Palmian Chord Ryddle, a concerto, was premiered in May 2012 by electric violinist Tracy Silverman and The Nashville Symphony led by conductor Giancarlo Guerrero. A subsequent performance occurred at Carnegie Hall. Recent works include *Transylvanian Horn Courtship* (2008) for string quartet doubling on Stroh instruments, *Universal Bridge* (2008) for pipe organ, and the violin concerto *Zephyr* (2009).

Past commissions include: the orchestral *Jade Palace* (1991) for Carnegie Hall's centennial celebration, premiered there by the Saint Louis Symphony and Leonard Slatkin; *June Buddhas* (1991) for chorus and orchestra, based on Jack Kerouac's "Mexico City Blues," commissioned by the Koussevitsky Foundation; the chamber vocal work *What the River Said* (1997) by the Norwich Festival; the piano piece in just intonation *The Dream* (1999) by the Kanagawa Foundation; the concerto for piano and electro-acoustic band *Banana Humberto 2000* (2000) commissioned by Musical Traditions, Inc., the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and Emory University, and premiered and toured by Riley with the Paul Drescher Ensemble; *Bruce's Traveling Machine* (2005) for cello and tape, commissioned by the artist Bruce Connor; *The Heaven Ladder, Book 6* (Night Music) (2006) for piano 4-hands, commissioned by Sarah Cahill and premiered by Sarah Cahill and Joseph Kubera; *Loops for Ancient-Giant-Nude-Hairy Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle* (2006) for the Crash Ensemble; the triple concerto *SolTierraLuna* (2007), co-commissioned by the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and the New Century Chamber Orchestra of San Francisco.

His music is published by Associated Music Publishers, Inc.

— September 2012

Dance

Deep Chandi (1998) 15'
Solo: Dancer
str; tape
Performance materials on rental

Soloist(s) and Orchestra

The Palmian Chord Ryddle (201) 35'
Solo: Electric Violin
2+pic.1+ca.0+bcl.asx.1+cbn/0.2+flg.2.1/
timp.3perc.dmktpf/pf.hp/USB keyboard.bjo/str
Performance materials on rental

The Sands (1991) 30' 30"
Solo: String Quartet
1+af.1+ca.1+bcl.2/2.2.0.0/timp.perc/pf/str
Performance materials on rental

Zephyr (2009) 19'
Solo: Violin
2(pic)+2af.0.0.0/0.2.2.1/3perc(timp)/gtr.hp.cel/
str (6.6.5.4.3)
Performance materials on rental

Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

Archangels (2003) 19'
8vc
Performance materials on rental

Autumn Leaves (1965) 30'
any instruments
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

In C (1964) 1h 10'
any instruments
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Olson III (1966) 25'
Text: (English)
any vocal and instrumental combination
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

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

Four Woelfli Portraits (1992) 40'
Solo: Narrator
fl, cl, sx, 2perc, pf, vn, vc
Performance materials on rental

Works for 2-6 Players

Anthem of the Great Spirit (1985) 41'
Part 1 of "Salome Dances for Peace"
2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Ascending the Heaven Ladder (1997) 13' 47"
Part 1 of "Requiem for Adam"
2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Assassin Reverie (2001) 19'
4sx, tape
Performance materials on rental

Cadenza on the Night Plain (1983) 37'
2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Cantos Desiertos (flute and guitar) (1993) 24'
fl, gtr
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Cantos Desiertos (violin and guitar) (1993) 24'
from "The Book of Abbeyozud"
vn, gtr
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Chanting the Light of Foresight (1987) 52'
ssx, asx, tsx, barsx
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Conquest of the War Demons (1986) 35'
Part 2 of "Salome Dances for Peace"
2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Cortejo Fúnebre en el Monte Diablo (1997) 7'
Part 2 of "Requiem for Adam"
2vn, va, vc; audio CD
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

The Cusp of Magic (2004) 2vn, va, vc, pipa, tape <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	41'
Dias de los Muertos (1998) from 'The Book of Abbeyozud' gtr, perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13' 30"
The Ecstasy (1986) Part 4 of "Salome Dances for Peace" 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	18'
G Song (1980) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11' 3"
The Gift Part 3 of "Salome Dances for Peace" 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	15' 30"
Good Medicine (String Quartet No. 10) (1986) Part 5 of "Salome Dances for Peace" 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13' 30"
Hombre (1993) 2vn, va, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11' 30"
Mandala Miniatures (1998) ssx, asx, tsx, barsx <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	26'
Ritmos and Melos (1993) vn, pf, perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	22'
Requiem for Adam (1997) Part 3 of 'Three Requiem Quartets' 2vn, va, vc; audio CD <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	41'
Salome Dances for Peace (1985-1986) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	1h 55'
String Quartet (1960) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	17' 30"
String Trio (1961) vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	12'

Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector (1980) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'
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SwarAmant (2012) vn, gtr, tabla <i>This work is currently unavailable</i>	15'
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The Wheel and Mythic Birds Waltz (1983) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	16'
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Zamorra (1993) 2gtr <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'
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Solo Works (excluding keyboard)

Ascencion (1993) From 'The Book of Abbeyozud' gtr <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13' 30"
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Barabas (1995) from 'The Book of Abbeyozud' gtr <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
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Piedad (1993) from 'The Book of Abbeyozud' gtr <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'
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Solo Keyboard(s)

Be Kind to One Another (Rag) (2008) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
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Cinco de Mayo, from The Heaven Ladder, Book 5 (1994) pf 4-hands <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13' 30"
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Etude from the Old Country, from The Heaven Ladder, Book 5 (1994) pf 4-hands <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11' 30"
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The Heaven Ladder, Book 7 (1994) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	25'
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Jaztine,
from The Heaven Ladder, Book 5 (1994) 9'
 pf 4-hands
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Keyboard Studies Nos. 1 and 2 (1965) 15'
 pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

A Rainbow in Curved Air (1968)
 pf
 Alt: multiple pf or kbd
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Tango Doble Ladeado,
from The Heaven Ladder, Book 5 (1994) 4'
 pf 4-hands
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Two Pieces for Piano (1959) 12'
 pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

The Walrus in Memoriam (1993) 7' 30"
 pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Waltz for Charismas,
from The Heaven Ladder, Book 5 (1994) 6'
 pf 4-hands
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument

Mexico City Blues (Chorus 193) (1993) 9'
 Text: (English)
 Chorus: SMzATBarB a cappella
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

Another Secret eQuation (2010) 17'
 Text: (English)
 Chorus: SAT chor
 2vn, va, vc
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Fairytale —
A Big Hand for Dr. Seuss, Please! (2006) 10'
 Text: (English) the composer
 Solo: Narrator
 Chorus: SATB-Bar
 bn, flg, btb, tba, 2perc
Performance materials on rental

June Buddhas (1991) 24'
 Text: (English) Jack Kerouac; Mexico City Blues
 Chorus: SATB
 3(pic:afl).0+ca.1(bcl).asx.2+cbn/1.2.2.1/3perc/hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Sun Rings (2002) 1h 20'
 Chorus: Choir
 2vn, va, vc; backing track of sounds recorded by NASA

Other

Tread on the Trail (1965) 12'
 any number of instruments
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

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UNAVAILABLE

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For more information on the music of Terry Riley, please visit www.musicsalesclassical.com or contact:

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