

Hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as "a composer born to write operas," the *New York Times* notes, "Hagen has a gift for the big, sweeping tune," and the *Times of London* continues, "Hagen's inspired, soaring melodies send the characters looping off in arias of self-revelation." The *Huffington Post* declares his latest opera *Amelia* (2010) to be "in many ways, a work of genius." Ned Rorem, in *Opera News*, wrote, "To say that Daron Hagen is a remarkable musician is to underrate him. Daron *is* music."

Daron Hagen (b. Milwaukee, WI, November 4, 1961) taught himself to read music at the age of 11, began piano lessons at the age of 12, completed his first symphony at 14, conducted his first orchestral première at 16, and at 19 became the youngest composer since Samuel Barber to have a work premièred by the Philadelphia Orchestra. Commissions during his early twenties from the New York Philharmonic and the Kings Singers launched his career before the first of his seven major operas, *Shining Brow* (1992), garnered international critical and audience acclaim and established him as one of America's most successful and respected opera composers.

Hagen's list of commissioners is extensive and includes The Philadelphia Orchestra, The New York Philharmonic, The National Symphony, The Milwaukee Symphony, The Albany Symphony, The Seattle Symphony, and The Buffalo Philharmonic. Most recently, Hagen has written concertos for Gary Graffman, Jeffrey Khaner, Sara Sant'Ambrogio, the Amelia Piano Trio, Jaime Laredo, and Sharon Robinson.

He has received awards from the Rockefeller Foundation (twice), the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet-the-Composer, the Columbia University Bears Prize, the Barlow Endowment Prize, Opera America, the ASCAP-Nissim Prize, and the Kennedy Center Friedheim Prize.

Hagen has been a Featured Composer at festivals including Tanglewood, Wintergreen, and Aspen and currently serves as Artistic Director for the Seasons Music Festival. He has served as Composer-in-residence with the Long Beach Symphony and the Denver Chamber Orchestra. As Artistic and Executive Director of the Perpetuum Mobile Concerts in New York and Philadelphia during the eighties, he presented premieres of over one hundred American composers' works.

Hagen's music enjoys more than a hundred performances a year. All of his operas, *Amelia*, *Shining Brow*, *Bandanna*, *Vera of Las Vegas*, *New York Stories*, and *The Antient Concert* receive regular staged and concert revivals internationally—some under Hagen's stage direction or under his baton. His songs and song cycles are too frequently performed to enumerate.

Hagen's works have been recorded on over two dozen CDs. In 2009, Naxos released *Shining Brow* (Buffalo Philharmonic / Falletta) and the complete Hagen Piano Trios (Finisterra Trio). *Bandanna* was released on Albany under his baton in 2007; *Vera of Las Vegas* on the CRI label. Nearly all of Hagen's vocal music is recorded and available commercially. Hagen's music is published by E.C. Schirmer, Carl Fischer, and Burning Sled.

Hagen is a trustee of the Douglas Moore Fund for American Opera, former president of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, and a Lifetime Member of the Corporation of Yaddo. He serves frequently as an admissions and grants panelist for numerous national organizations including Opera America, the Copland House, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, among others.

Hagen is a graduate of Curtis and of Juilliard. He served two years on the musical studies faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music; nine years on the composition faculty of Bard College; as a Visiting Professor at the City College of New York; and as a Lecturer in Music at New York University. He has served twice as Composer-in-Residence for the Princeton University Atelier; as Composer-in-Residence at the Chicago Conservatory of Music of the Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, as Franz Lehar Composer-in-Residence at the University of Pittsburgh; as Artist-in-Residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Sigma-Chi-William P. Huffman Composer-in-Residence at Miami University; and for a year as Artist-in-Residence at Baylor University.

He lives in New York City with his wife Gilda and his son Atticus.

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Composer Daron Aric Hagen (Photo credit Ric Kallaher)

For high-resolution photos, reviews, video interviews, music, and blog entries, visit www.daronhagen.com.