

John Duffy

Composers

INSTITUTE

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The John Duffy Composers Institute, founded by the Virginia Arts Festival, is dedicated to the inspiration, creation, performance and recording of new music by living composers. Professional Master Composers and developing Composer Fellows will collaborate through workshops, lecture-demonstrations, concerts, recordings, and interactions with resident dance and theater companies.

John Duffy

Institute Director/2005 Composer-in-Residence



John Duffy, considered "one of the great heroes of American music," has composed more than 300 works for symphony orchestra, opera, theater, television and film. Following his legendary collaborations with John Houseman at the American Shakespeare Festival, Duffy composed music for New York City productions of Macbeth, The Ginger Man, and the Yeats musical Horseman Pass By. He is a two-time Emmy-winner and the recipient of the American Music Center's Founders' Award for Lifetime Achievement. Critics call his work, "haunting, memorable, and brilliant."

Duffy grew up in the Bronx, one of fourteen children of Irish immigrant parents. As a young man, he studied composition with noted composers Aaron Copland, Henry Cowell, Luigi Dallapiccola, Solomon Rosowsky, and Herbert Zipper concurrently with his career and early successes in the theater. He credits Rosowsky for insisting uncompromisingly on learning the craft of music and developing the discipline and patience necessary to the art.

As founder and president of Meet the Composer, an organization dedicated to the creation, performance, and recording of music by American composers, he initiated countless landmark programs to advance American music and to aid American composers.

John Duffy lives in Camden, Maine. His most recent composition premiered in March 2005 at Symphony Space in New York City. Based on writings of Mark Twain, the work was commissioned by the Howard Hanson Institute of American Music at the Eastman School of Music for the Ying Quartet, and was written for string quartet with narration.

Director's Note



Greetings,

It is with great pride that we welcome you to be a part of the inaugural John Duffy Composers Institute. This project is a result of the vision and inspiration of Institute Director, John Duffy, who last season, was one of our guest speakers at an Insider Insights lecture. At that time, he and I began discussions about how great it would be to host a composers symposium during the Festival. From there, the project has developed to include five Master Composers and nine Composer Fellows. The Composers Institute will create exciting new opportunities for the development of new American composers, furthering the Festival's goal to cultivate ties with young artists and audiences, and to expand our ongoing relationships with area arts and education organizations. To have a master like Duffy as our Composer-in-Residence is indeed, a great privilege. This is going to be the start of an incredible partnership.

Warmest regards,

Robert W. Cross
Festival Director



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