

Curriculum Vitae and List of Works: James Rolfe

Education

- Master of Fine Arts (Composition), Princeton University (1995-1999)
- Master of Music (Composition), University of Toronto (1983-84)
- Bachelor of Music (Composition), University of Toronto (1979-83)

Awards

- Association of Canadian Choral Communities, Outstanding Choral Work Award, 2014
- Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination, Best Original Opera, 2009
- Jules Léger Prize for Chamber Music, Canada Council, 2006
- Louis Applebaum Composition Award, Ontario Arts Foundation, 2005
- K. M. Hunter Music Award, Ontario Arts Council, 2003
- Selected work (*Fêtes de la Faim/Plainte*), ISCM World Music Days, Seoul, Korea, 1997
- 2nd Prize (Chamber Music), CBC Young Composers' Competition, 1990

Grants & Fellowships

- Chalmers Arts Fellowship, Ontario Arts Council (2013-15)
- Guggenheim Fellowship (2000)
- Opera.ca Canadian Opera Creation Program Professional Development Grant (2004)
- Toronto Arts Council grants (2014, 2012, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2002, 2001, 1998, 1994)
- Canada Council grants (long-term 2005, 1997, 1991; short-term 1997, 1995, 1991, 1990)
- Naumberg Fellowship, Princeton University (1995-99)

Commissions

- Ontario Arts Council (music commissions, 1991 to 2014)
- Canada Council (music commissions, 1992 to 2013)
- CBC Radio (2002, 1993, 1991)
- Laidlaw Foundation (2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1999)

Performances (selected)

Canada:

Ensembles: Amici Chamber Players (2003), Arraymusic (1987, 1998, 2001), Aventa Ensemble (2011, 2013), Continuum Contemporary Music (1988 - 2011), Gallery Players (2000 - 2007), Soundstreams (2001 - 2013), Toca Loca (2005), Vancouver New Music Society (1991, 2013)

Soloists: Piano: Stephen Clarke (2000), Marc Couroux (1995), Eve Egoyan (2000, 2001), Jamie Parker (2005), Laurent Philippe (1993), Barbara Pritchard (1990); Voice: Barbara Hannigan (1991, 1993, 1997, 2004), Curtis Sullivan (1995), Measha Brüggergosman (2001), Patricia O'Callaghan (2005), Lynne McMurtry (2006), Lawrence Wiliford (2012), Brett Polegato (2014); Accordion: Joseph Petric (2005); Violin: Mark Fewer (2001), Jacques Israelivitch (2006); Percussion: Beverley Johnston (2009)

Choirs: Elmer Iseler Singers (Toronto, 2002), University of Alberta Madrigal Singers (2001), Elora Festival Singers (2003, 2004), Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (2002), Netherlands Chamber Choir (2005), Tafelmusik Chamber Choir (2012), Choir 21, Toronto (2013)

Orchestras: Esprit Orchestra (1994), Hemispheres (1992-95), Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra (2005), Toronto Symphony Orchestra (2000)

Opera: Queen of Puddings Music Theatre Company (1994, 1998-2000, 2009), Tapestry New Opera (2004, 2006), Toronto Masque Theatre (2004, 2007, 2014), Canadian Opera Company (2006)

USA: Bang On A Can All-Stars (New York, NY; 1999); Cassatt Quartet (Princeton, NJ; 1998); Composers Guild of New Jersey (Princeton, NJ; 1995); Composers' Ensemble (Princeton, NJ; 1995-99); Michigan Opera Theatre (Opera America New Works Showcase, Detroit, MI; 2005); Nancy Zeltsman, marimba (New York, NY, Boston, MA; 2001, 2009); Kathy Supové, piano (Princeton, NJ; 1997)

Europe: Asko Ensemble (Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2008); Ensemble Contrechamps de Genève (Abbaye de Royaumont, France; 1991); Ensemble Avant Garde (Seoul, Korea; 1997); Ives Ensemble (Amsterdam, Netherlands; 1994, 1996, 1997); Ixion Ensemble (London, UK; 1992); Tasmin Little, violin (London, UK; 1988); Nash Ensemble (Princeton, NJ; 1997); Nieuw Ensemble (Amsterdam & Rotterdam, Netherlands; 1992, 1993); John Snijders, piano (Amsterdam, Netherlands; 1995)

Oceania: 175 East (Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand; 2000); Stroma (Wellington, NZ, 2012)

Broadcasts (selected)

CBC Radio Two, Canada (1990-present)
NOS Radio, Netherlands (1991-97)
CIUT-FM, Toronto (1988-98)
Radio New Zealand (2000)

CKLN-FM, Toronto (1988-95)
UBC Radio, Vancouver (1991)
Co-op Radio, Vancouver (1991)
CBC TV, Canada (2001)

Recordings

Drop, on “*Fancies and Interludes*”, Christina Petrowska Quilico and Jacques Israelivitch, Centrediscs CD-CMCCD 21315, 2015.

Raw: Chamber music by James Rolfe (raW and 7 other chamber works), Continuum Contemporary Music, Centrediscs, CD-CMCCD 16210, 2010.

Oboe Quartet, on “*Canadian Oboe Quartets*”, The Gallery Players of Niagara, GPN09001, 2009.

Idiot Sorrow, on “*The View From Here*”, Barbara Pritchard, piano; Centrediscs CD 6298, 1998.
Also on “*Transatlantic Swing*”, John Snijders, piano. Hat[now]ART CD149, 2008.

Worry, on “*String Theory*”, Mark Fewer, Violin; Rosemary Thomson, conductor. Eclectra CD ECCD-2074, 2006.

Come lovely and soothing death and Three Songs, on “*my soul, there is a country...*”, University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, Leonard Ratzlaff, conductor. Arktos CD200149, 2001.

Upcoming projects

- *À rebours*: new work for Coleman Lemieux Compagnie, with James Kudelka, choreographer, and Alex Poch-Goldin, writer; production scheduled for May 2016, Toronto, ON

- *The Overcoat*: new opera for Tapestry Opera and Vancouver Opera, (librettist: Morris Panych); production scheduled for November 2017, Vancouver, BC and Toronto, ON

Teaching and other

Composition instructor (sessional), University of Toronto Faculty of Music, 2007 – present
Composer mentor, Opera from Scratch Workshop, Vocalypse Productions, Halifax, NS, 2012 - 15
Composer mentor, Tapestry Opera LibLab, Toronto, 2014
President, Canadian League of Composers, 2007 – 2011; CLC National Council, 2005 – 2013
Peer assessor: Canada Council for the Arts (1997, 1999, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2013); Ontario Arts Council, 1995, 2011; Manitoba Arts Council, 2005, 2006

List of works: James Rolfe

Solo works

- Accordion Motel* (1993; accordion solo; 6 min.)
All the Rage (1997; piano; 7 min.)
Cello Motel (1993; cello solo; 5 min.)
Discontinuous Probability Fields #1-4 (1993; piano; 13 min.)
Discontinuous Probability Field #5 (1993; piano; 11 min.)
Idiot Sorrow (1990; piano; 12 min.)
Lilacs (1999; piano; 12 min.)
Sticky (2009; solo marimba; 4 min. Pub. Edition Peters)
The Connection (2001; words by Daniil Kharms; solo marimbist who also recites; 10 min.)
Thin Air (1996; piano; 1 min.)
Viola Motel (1993; viola solo; 5 min.)
Violin Motel (1993; violin solo; 5 min.)

Chamber music

- And Then Grace* (1999; string trio; 12 min.)
As If (2013); picc, ob, cl, bsn, hn, tpt, tbn, perc, hp, pno, 2 vlns, vla, vlc, CB; 15 min.)
Ask You Dance Me (2008; picc, ob, b. cl, bsn, hn, tpt, tbn, perc, pno, 2 vlns, vla, vlc, CB; 14 min.)
Before After (1992; piccolo, clarinet/bass clarinet, horn; 7 min.)
Bouquet (1998; clarinet, violin, cello, piano; 14 min.)
Brand New Music (2015; picc/fl, cl/bass cl, vibr/perc, pno, violin, cello; 16 min.)
Develled Swan (1995; perc., pno., vln., cb.; 7 min.)
Dissolution (1994; cl., tpt., trbn., perc., pno., vln., vla., vlc., cb.; 14 min.)
Drop (1999; violin and piano; 9 min.)
Freddy's Dead (2005; piano, violin, cello; 3 min.)
Global Bifurcation & Chaos (1992; cbsn., acc., pno., vln., vlc.; 17 min.)
James' Theorem (1992; mixed 14-piece improvising ensemble; 15 min.)
Juggle (2005; 2 oboes, cl., bass cl., bsn., contrabsn., 2 hrs.; 11 min.)
The Mayor's Fanfare (2009; 4 trumpets.; 1 min. 15 sec.)
Oboe Quartet (2006; oboe, vln., vla., vlc.; 12 min.)
Railway Street (1991; solo bass cl., perc., pno., vln., vlc., cb; 14 min.)
raW (2003; piccolo, bass clarinet, piano, drum set, violin, cello; 12 min.)
Revenge! Revenge!! Revenge!!! (1995; cl., perc., pno., vlc.; 10 min.)
Scroll (1996; flute, English horn, harpsichord; 13 min.)
Squeeze (1997; alto flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, piano; 8 min.)
Tombeau (1996; fl., ob., cl., bsn., horn, tpt., trbn., bass, pno., vlc.; 7 min.)
Tunnel (1998; 2 vlns., vla., vlc.; 14 min.)
Why You (2013, 4 perc.; 12 min.)
Worry (2001; violin and eight violoncelli; 10 min.)

Chamber music with voice

- Beloved* (2005; words by Dennis Lee; soprano, mezzo, & piano; 8 min.)
Bird (2005; composed with John Oswald; sopr. & ensemble 1111 1111 perc pno 11111; 5 min.)
Breathe (2010; words by Hildegard von Bingen, Anna Chatterton, Antonio Scandello; 2 sopr., mezzo, recorder, violin, perc., chamber organ, lute; 19 min.)
Dust (2003; words from Wilhelm Müller and Ecclesiastes; soprano and cello; 9 min.)
Fêtes de la Faim & Plainte (1991; words by Arthur Rimbaud and Sappho; sopr., cl., fl., perc., pno., vln., vlc.; 7 & 5 min.)
Five and a Half Bridges (2012, words by André Alexis; sop., choir, oud, setar, perc, gamba; 14 min.)
Four Songs on Poems by Walt Whitman (1990; bass voice, pno.; 16 min.)
Fresh Face (2013; soprano, harp; 3 min.)

Joyce Songs (2009; sopr., mezzo, ten, bar.: 8 songs: 2 T, 2B, 2 TB, 2 SMTB; all with piano; 15 min.)
Moths (2013; words by André Alexis; baritone, piano; 12 min.)
Phrases (1991; words by Arthur Rimbaud; soprano, clarinet, piano; 14 min.)
Simon & Garfunkel & The Prophets Of Rage (1993; voice, perc., pno.; 13 min.)
Six Illuminations (2003; words by Arthur Rimbaud; soprano & piano; 10 - 18 min.)
Six Songs (2001; words by Walt Whitman; soprano and string quartet; also arranged for mezzo soprano, and for mezzo or soprano with piano; 15 min.)
Swipe (2005; words by Anna Chatterton; soprano & piano; 6 min.)
Tango: Del Amor Imprevisto (2011; words by Federico Garcia Lorca; contralto, vln., bandoneon, pno., bass; 4 min.)
Winter (2012; words by Archibald Lampman; tenor and 8 vlc.; 4 songs; 13 min.)

Orchestral music

Ears, Nose, & Throat (1994; orchestra: 2222/22/2, pno/66442; 12 min.)
Flourish (2005; solo accordion and orchestra (2222 4231 timp 2 perc str); 27 min.)
Hope (2011; orchestra (2222 2221 timp 2 perc str) and choir; 8 min.)
Mechanical Danny (2000; words by Dennis Lee; for children; narrator with orch. 2222, 2221, timp., 1 perc., strings; also arranged with orch. 1111 1110 timp. perc. str.; 22 min.)
Open Road (2013; soprano, baritone, choir SATB, string orchestra; 15 min.)
Songs and Rounds (2001; recorders (1 part, beginners) and orch. 2222, 2221, 1 perc., str.; 5 min.)

Choral music

Blind (2006; words by Dennis Lee; choir SSAATTBB; 8 min.)
Come lovely and soothing death (2000; words by Walt Whitman; choir SSAATTBB; 5 min.)
Four Anthems for Four Seasons (2003; words from the Bible; choir SSSSAATTBB; 11 min.)
Garden (2011; words from the Song of Songs; choir SSAATTBB; 6 min.)
Lullaby (2010; words by Amanda Jernigan; choir SSAA, marimba; 4 min.)
O that you would kiss me (2001; words: Song of Solomon; double choir, each SSAATTBB; 16 min.)
O you whom I often (2000; words by Walt Whitman; choir SSAA; 2 min.)
Open Road (2013; soprano, baritone, choir SATB, string orchestra; 15 min.)
Three Songs (1998; words by E. Pauline Johnson; four women's voices SSAA; 8 min.)
Three William Blake Songs for Women's Choir (choir SSAA; 5 min.)
Two Hopeful Songs for Children's Choir (2010; words: Dennis Lee; choir SSAA; 4 min. 30 sec.)
Under the Sun (2002; words from Ecclesiastes; eight choirs, each SATB; 8 min.)
When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd (2006; words by W. Whitman; choir SSAATTBB; 13 min.)

Operas and stage works

Aeneas and Dido (2007; chamber opera, words by André Alexis; 3 sopr., mezzo, bar.; recorder, oboe, violin, viola, cello, harpsichord, lute; 34 min.)
Beatrice Chancy (1998; libretto by George Elliott Clarke; opera for 6 voices (2 sopr., mezzo, 2 bari., bass), 2 vln., vla., vlc., bass, pno., perc.; 100 min.)
Elijah's Kite (2005; opera for young audiences; words by Camyar Chai; 2 sop., mezzo, ten., bar., chorus of children, perc., elec. bass, keyboard; 35 min.)
Europa (2014; chamber opera, words by Steven Heighton; sopr., bar.; baroque flute, 2 violins, viola da gamba, portative organ, lute; 21 min.)
Fire (1999; words by André Alexis; four women's voices SSAA; 12 min.)
Inês (2008; libretto by Paul Bentley; opera for 5 voices (sopr., mezzo, Fadista, 2 bass baritones), clarinet, violin, bass, piano, guitar; 100 min.)
Orpheus and Eurydice (2004; words by André Alexis; opera for 3 sopr., alto, 2 tenors, baritone, bass, 2 recorders, 2 violins, 2 viola da gambas, cello, harpsichord, theorbo; 36 min.)
Rosa (2004; words by Camyar Chai; opera for sopr., tenor, cl., vln., vlc., pno., & perc.; 14 min.)
Swoon (2006; chamber opera, words by Anna Chatterton; 2 sopr., ten., bar.; orch. 1111 1110 2 perc hp 11111; 50 min.)