

Leon Kirchner Biography and Works



ammp

G. Schirmer and
Associated Music
Publishers

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.

— November 2011

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

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

AVAILABILITY

HIRE (RENTAL)

The rental agent in your territory is the source for performance materials. Not every composition is available in every territory. Full scores, vocal scores, piano reductions, and libretti may be for sale by music dealers.

For instructions, order forms, and territories, go to these pages:

- the [Chester Novello Hire Library](#)
- the [G. Schirmer Rental and Performance Library](#)
- the [Wilhelm Hansen Hire Library](#)

Please allow sufficient time in ordering (generally one month) to avoid being assessed rush fees.

SALE

These performance materials are sold by music dealers and online stores, including:

- [HalLeonard.com](#)
(Customers for the world except the UK, Australia, and New Zealand)
- [MusicRoom.com](#)
(Customers within the UK, Australia, and New Zealand)

SALE FROM RENTAL LIBRARY

The *Solo and Chamber Music Special Sales Catalog: Print-on-Demand* lists works that are not available for sale through retail outlets, but that are available for sale from the G. Schirmer Rental Library.

- [Solo and Chamber Music Special Sales Catalog: Print-on-Demand 2011](#)

Use the following *Word DOC* or *Acrobat PDF* forms to submit Print-on-Demand orders. Complete the form, then send via e-mail, postal mail or fax. Instructions are provided on the form:

- [Print-on-Demand Form in Word DOC format](#) (fill out on computer)
- [Print-on-Demand Form in Acrobat PDF format](#) (print and fill out by hand)

UNAVAILABLE

Due to composer revisions, performer exclusivity, or other reasons, a work may not be available.

For more information on the music of Augusta Read Thomas, please visit www.schirmer.com or contact:

USA

G. Schirmer, Inc.
schirmer@schirmer.com
phone 212 254 2100

UK

Chester Music Limited
promotion@musicsales.co.uk
phone 44 20 7612 7400

Denmark

Edition Wilhelm Hansen AS
ewh@ewh.dk
phone 45 33 117888

France

Chester Music France
chesterfrance@musicsales.co.uk
phone 33 1 53 24 68 52

Germany

Chester Schirmer Berlin
chester.schirmer.berlin@musicsales.co.uk
phone 49 30 223 220 19

Spain

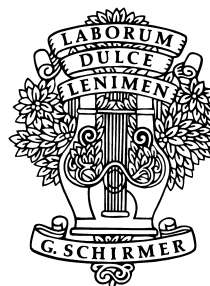
Unión Musical Ediciones SL
unionmusicalediciones@musicsales.co.uk
phone 34 91 308 4040

Australia

G Schirmer Pty Limited
jmakim@musicsales.com.au
Tel: 61 2 9299 8877

Japan

K K Music Sales
rights@shinko-music.jp
phone 81 3 3292 2861



G. Schirmer, Inc.
Part of the Music Sales Group
Publishing today's leading composers
and the classic names of the 20th century.

The Music Sales Group

