

John Adams



John Adams is one of America's most admired and respected composers. A musician of enormous range and technical command, he has produced works, both operatic and symphonic, that stand out for the depth of their expression and the profoundly humanist nature of their themes.

Born and raised in New England, educated at Harvard, Adams moved in 1971 to California, where he taught for ten years at the San Francisco Conservatory and was composer in residence at the San Francisco Symphony.

Adams's operatic works are among the most successful of our time. *Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer* and *Doctor Atomic*, all created in collaboration with stage director Peter Sellars, draw their subjects from archetypal themes in contemporary history. *On the Transmigration of Souls*, written

for the New York Philharmonic in commemoration of the first anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, received the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Music, and won a rare 'triple crown' at the Grammys. In 2003 a film version of *The Death of Klinghoffer*, Adams's second opera (directed by Penny Woolcock with the composer conducting the London Symphony) was released in theatres, on television and on DVD.

Adams has been awarded with honorary degrees and proclamations by, among others, Cambridge University, Harvard University, the Yale School of Music, Phi Beta Kappa, the governor of California, the French Legion of Honor and Northwestern University, where he was awarded the first ever Nemmers Prize in music.. Festivals devoted to his music have taken place in recent years in London, Rotterdam, New York and Stockholm. He is currently Composer of the Year with the Pittsburgh Symphony.

John Adams maintains an active life as a conductor, appearing with the world's greatest orchestras with programs ranging from Haydn and Beethoven to Stravinsky, Ives, Zappa and Reich. From 2003 to 2007 he was Composer-in-Residence at Carnegie Hall and in 2006 he curated the immensely successful Minimalist Jukebox for the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The Metropolitan Opera in New York in the autumn of 2008 presented an entirely new production of *Doctor Atomic*, conducted by Alan Gilbert with stage direction by Penny Woolcock. At the same time Opus Arte released a DVD of Peter Sellars' original staging of the same opera.

Adams begins a new appointment as Creative Chair with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in the fall of 2009. Newly appointed music director Gustavo Dudamel will premiere and tour with Adams's newest work, *Symphony: City Noir*" and Adams will curate and conduct a festival, "West Coast/Left Coast," focusing on Californian music of all genres.

This season sees the English National Opera's UK premiere of *Doctor Atomic* and Adams himself conducts performances of his most recent opera, *A Flowering Tree*, in New York and Los Angeles as well as two other stage works, *The Death of Klinghoffer* (Juilliard School of Music) and *El Niño* (Carnegie Hall). He appears as conductor with the Montreal Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony and next season works with the London Symphony at the Barbican in London and Salle Pleyel in Paris, where he will give the UK and European premieres of *City Noir*.

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HarrisonParrott

Artist and Project Management

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Adams' recently-published *Hallelujah Junction*, a book of his memoirs and commentary, received a widely enthusiastic response in both the American and British press. It was excerpted in *The New Yorker Magazine*, and was listed among the *New York Times*'s most notable books of 2008. *The John Adams Reader: Essential Writings on an American Composer* (Amadeus Press, 2006) is the first full-length in-depth collection of texts dealing with over thirty years of his creative life.

His ten-CD box set *The John Adams Earbox* (Nonesuch) is a compilation of all his music written between 1978 and 1999.

The music of John Adams is published by Boosey & Hawkes and Associated Music Publishers. John Adams's official website is www.earbox.com

2008/09 season. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.