

FRED LERDAHL



**Composer
Brochure**

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This catalogue was created in March 2024. All durations are approximate.

Stage Works

Chamber Opera

Aftermath

a dramatic cantata for soprano, mezzo-soprano, baritone and chamber ensemble (1973)

text by the composer

(English)

2 parts

afl.1.1.1.bcl.1-2perc(mar, cym, tam-t, 4bng, 4concert tom-t, 2tom-t, 2cong, b.d, clav)-hp-vn.va.2vc

25' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1973 · Cambridge, MA (USA)

Christine Whittlesey, soprano; D'Anna Fortunato, alto; Allen Shearer, baritone · Conductor: Fred Lerdahl · Boston Symphony Chamber Players

(scenic)

Scenic Oratorio

Aftermath

a dramatic cantata for soprano, mezzo-soprano, baritone and chamber ensemble (1973)

text by the composer

(English)

2 parts

afl.1.1.1.bcl.1-2perc(mar, cym, tam-t, 4bng, 4concert tom-t, 2tom-t, 2cong, b.d, clav)-hp-vn.va.2vc

25' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1973 · Cambridge, MA (USA)

Christine Whittlesey, soprano; D'Anna Fortunato, alto; Allen Shearer, baritone · Conductor: Fred Lerdahl · Boston Symphony Chamber Players

(scenic)

Orchestra

Orchestra

Chords

for orchestra (1974 (1983))

2(2.pic).afl.2.ca.2.bcl.3-3.3.3.0-4perc(glsp, vib, xyl, mar, 2cym, 2tam-t)-hp.pno-str(0.0.9.9.6)

15' 0"

Material on hire

Chords

version for 13 musicians (1974 - 1983 (2018))

Commissioned by the Berkshire Music Center and the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard

1(pic).1.1.1-1.1.1.0-1perc(sus cym, tam-t, glsp, vib)-1vn.1va.1vc.1db

15' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 5, 2018 · New York City, NY (USA)

Saint Peter's Church

Conductor: Michel Galante · Argento New Music Project

Cross-Currents

for orchestra (1987)

3(3.pic).3.3.3-4.2.2.btb.1-timp.4perc(glsp, vib, xyl, mar, tub bells, 3cym, tam-t, 6tom-t, piccolo tymphanum)-hp.pno-str

12' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1987 (USA)

Conductor: Gerard Schwarz · Seattle Symphony Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra - Ensemble

Arches

for cello and large chamber ensemble (2010)

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation for Anssi Karttunen

1(pic, afl).1.1(bcl).1-1.1.1.0-2perc(glsp, vib, tam-t, b.d, ten d, tub chime)-hp.pno-str(1.1.1.0.1)

19' 0"

Material on hire

Quiet Music

for orchestra (1994)

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation for the American Composers Orchestra

3(3.pic).3.3.3-4.3.3.1-4perc(glsp, xyl, vib, mar, cym, tam-t, log drum, tom-t, wdbl)-hp.pno-str

14' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1994 · New York, NY (USA)

Carnegie Hall

Conductor: Dennis Russell Davies · American Composers Orchestra

Spirals

for chamber orchestra (2006)

commissioned by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra with generous funding from "Music Alive"

I ♩ = ca. 69 - II half note = 46

2.2.2.2-2.2.0.0-2perc(glsp, mar, 2cym [high/low], 2tam-t [high/low], chimes [tub bells])-pno-str(6.6.4.4.2)

18' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 23, 2007 · St. Paul, MN (USA)

Conductor: Cliff Colnot · The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Time After Time

for chamber ensemble (2000)

Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

I ♩ = ca. 90 - II ♩ = ca. 70

fl.cl-perc(glsp, vib, mar, tub bells, temple bowl, cym, tam-t, wdbl, dr, log dr)-pno-vn.vc

19' 0"

Ordernumber: BOE 12445 (Score)

Time after Time

for chamber ensemble (2000)

Commissioned by the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

I ♩ = ca. 90 - II ♩ = ca. 70

fl.cl-perc(glsp, vib, mar, tub bells, temple bowl, cym, tam-t, wdbl, dr, log dr)-pno-vn.vc

19' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 2000 · New York, NY (USA)

Conductor: Paul Hostetter · Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

Time and Again

for chamber orchestra (2014)

Commissioned by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

2(2.pic).2.2.2-2.2.0.0-perc(4timp, pic timp)-str(6.5.4.4.2)

15' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: April 23, 2015 · St. Paul, MN (USA)

Ordway Concert Hall

Conductor: Roberto Abbado · Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Waves

for chamber orchestra (1988)

Commissioned by the Orpheus, St. Paul, and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestras with the support of a National Endowment for the Arts consortium grant.

2(2.pic).2.2.2-2.0.0.0-str(5.4.3.3.1)

15' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: January 1, 1989 (USA)

Conductor: John Adams · Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Without Fanfare

for winds and percussion (1994)

commissioned by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for its centennial year

2.afl(pic.).2.ca.2.bcl.2.cbsn-4.3.2.btb.1-3perc(tam-t, 5tom-t, 2bng, 2cym)

4' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 17, 1995

Conductor: Jesús López-Cobos

Solo Instruments with Orchestra or Ensemble

Piano

Cyclic Descent

for piano and large chamber ensemble (2018)

Commissioned by the Roger Shapiro Fund for New Music for Steven Beck and the Talea Ensemble

1.1.1.1-1.1.1.0-1perc(sus cym, 2tam-t, glock)-vn.va.vc.db

18' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: October 10, 2018 · New York, NY (USA)

Carnegie Hall

Steven Beck, piano · Talea Ensemble

Violoncello

Arches

for cello and chamber orchestra (2010)

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation for Anssi Karttunen

1(pic, afl).1.1(bcl).1-1.1.1.0-2perc(glsp, vib, tam-t, b.d, ten d, tub chime)-hp.pno-str(4.4.3.0.1)

19' 0"

Material on hire

Chamber Music

Arches

for cello and large chamber ensemble (2010)

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation for Anssi Karttunen

1(pic, afl).1.1(bcl).1-1.1.1.0-2perc(glsp, vib, tam-t, b.d, ten d, tub chime)-hp.pno-str(1.1.1.0.1)

19' 0"

Material on hire

Duo

for cello and piano (2017)

Commissioned by Anssi Karttunen and Nicolas Hodges

16' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30176 (Score and part)

Premiere: April 22, 2017 · Paris (F)

Reid Hall

Anssi Karttunen, cello; Nicolas Hodges, piano

Episodes and Refrains

for woodwind quintet (1982)

Commissioned by the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation for the Emmanuel Wind Quintet

13' 0"

Material on hire

Give and Take

for violin and cello (2014)

Commissioned by the Musica Nova Helsinki 2015 Festival

14' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: February 9, 2015 · Helsinki (FIN)

Helsinki Music Centre, Camerata Hall

Ernst Kovacic, violin and Anssi Karttunen, cello

Imitations

formerly Six Etudes for flute, viola, and harp (1977)

15' 0"

Material on hire

Oboe Quartet

for oboe, violin, viola and cello (2002)

Commissioned by the Winsor Music Consortium

13' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31052 (Score and parts)

Premiere: 2003 · Schenectady, NY (USA)

La Fenice

Reflection

for flute, clarinet, and piano (2020)

Commissioned by Earplay in honor of Andrew Imbrie's 100th birthday

3' "

Ordernumber: ED 30406 (Score and parts)

String Quartet No. 1

for string quartet (1978)

Commissioned by the Juilliard Quartet and the Joslyn Art Museum of Omaha, Nebraska in honor of Sarah Joslyn

22' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31053 (Score and parts)

Premiere: 1979 · Omaha, NE (USA)

Joslyn Art Museum

Juilliard Quartet

String Quartet No. 2

for string quartet (1982)

Commissioned by the Pro Arte Quartet with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts

The Second String Quartet (1982) was commissioned by the Pro Arte Quartet with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. It is about 22 minutes long and is in one movement. The form falls into two parts, with Part II and elaboration of Part I. Each part in turn breaks down into: (1) a quiet introductory section; (2) two parallel developmental sections of great intensity and contrapuntal complexity; (3) a whirlwind section that gradually dissipates the energy; (4) a slower, more lyrical passage followed by a pulsating but subdued scherzando; (5) an intimation of a chorale-coda. From another perspective, the Second Quartet is a sequel to the First Quartet. That work takes the form of 15 geometrically expanding variations; the Second Quartet constitutes two more variations (nine and 13 minutes, respectively). In character, however, the two pieces are different. The First Quartet is inward, exploratory, given to unexpected changes and silences. The Second is outwardly passionate, developmental, full of energy and sweep. In 2008 I revised the Second Quartet to make room for its own sequel, the Third String Quartet (2008), which completes the first two quartets in a single further expansion of the variation process. Thus the Second Quartet is both a piece in itself and the second installment of a three-part work that lasts over an hour.- Fred Lerdaahl

23' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31054 (Score and parts)

String Quartet No. 3

for string quartet

Commissioned by Chamber Music America for the Daedalus Quartet

The Third String Quartet (2008) was commissioned by Chamber Music America for the Daedalus Quartet, and was premiered at Cleveland in December 2009. The work is in one movement approximately 21 minutes long. The string quartet is for me the most personal and psychological of musical media. The Third Quartet inhabits a world of abrupt mood changes, passionate urgings, quiet reveries, fantastical gestures, and sudden reminiscences. This turbulent world nonetheless has a discernible overall shape. After a fragmented introduction, the music settles into two long polyphonic cycles, each containing an agitated section followed by a lyrical sostenuto passage. A whirlwind presto interrupts the close of the second cycle and subsides into a passage of lyrical stasis, followed by a playful scherzando and finally a homophonic coda of soft, short chords. From another perspective, the Third Quartet is the finale of a large-scale work that begins with the First Quartet and continues with the Second. The First Quartet takes the form of 15 geometrically expanding variations, starting with a simple chord and elaborating gradually into a variation six minutes long. Its sequel, the Second Quartet, continues the expansion with two more variations of nine and 13 minutes. The Third Quartet constitutes in its entirety a last expanded variation. At the same time, it periodically interposes reminiscences from the two earlier quartets, progressing through the Second back to the First. The coda of Third Quartet comes full circle by stating in reverse order the brief opening variations of the First Quartet. - Fred Lerdahl

22' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31055 (Score and parts)

Premiere: Dec 2009 · Cleveland, OH (USA)

Plymouth Church

Daedalus Quartet

String Quartet No. 4

"Chaconne" (2016)

for string quartet

Commissioned by the Daedalus Quartet in honor of its 15th anniversary. The commission was supported by New Music USA, made possible by annual program support and/or endowment gifts from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Helen F. Whitaker Fund, and Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

19' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30174 (Score and parts)

Premiere: March 13, 2017 · Philadelphia, PA (USA)

Arthur Ross Gallery at the University of Pennsylvania

Daedalus Quartet

String Trio

for violin, viola, cello (1966)

14' 0"

Material on hire

Three Bagatelles

for violin and guitar (2016)

Commissioned by Becky and David Starobin

9' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31305 (Score)

Premiere: April 12, 2017 · Los Angeles, CA (USA)

Jan Popper Theater at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

Schoenberg Festival 2017

Movses Pogossian, violin; David Starobin, guitar

Time After Time

for chamber ensemble (2000)

Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

I ♭ = ca. 90 - II ♭ = ca. 70

fl.cl-perc(glsp, vib, mar, tub bells, temple bowl, cym, tam-t, wdbl, dr, log dr)-pno-vn.vc

19' 0"

Ordernumber: BOE 12445 (Score)

Time after Time

for chamber ensemble (2000)

Commissioned by the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

I ♭ = ca. 90 - II ♭ = ca. 70

fl.cl-perc(glsp, vib, mar, tub bells, temple bowl, cym, tam-t, wdbl, dr, log dr)-pno-vn.vc

19' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 2000 · New York, NY (USA)

Conductor: Paul Hostetter · Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and Collage

Times 3

for piano trio (2012)

Commissioned by Charles and Jessie Price for the Peabody Trio

I Ratios - II Cycles - III Phases

20' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31156 (Score and parts)

Premiere: April 9, 2013 · New York, NY (USA)

Merkin Concert Hall

Peabody Trio

Waltzes

for violin, viola, cello and double bass (1981)

Grazioso - Con brio - Cantabile - Leggiero - Valse triste - Misterioso - Amoroso - Humoresque - Vivace

- Lento - Delicato - Waltz-fugue

21' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30157 (Score and parts)

Premiere: June 1, 1981 · Charleston

Keyboard Instruments

Piano

Piano solo

Inner Life

for two pianos (2021)

part 2 of "Inner Life", a cycle of works for two pianos

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation

Ordernumber: ED 30405 (Performing score)

Premiere: November 9, 2022 · Amherst, Massachusetts (USA)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Quattro Mani

Two and more pianos

Embedded Loops

for two pianos (2020)

part 1 of "Inner Life", a cycle of works for two pianos

Commissioned by Quattro Mani

20' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30342 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: November 9, 2022 · Amherst, Massachusetts (USA)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Quattro Mani

Inner Life

for two pianos (2021)

part 2 of "Inner Life", a cycle of works for two pianos

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation

Ordernumber: ED 30405 (Performing score)

Premiere: November 9, 2022 · Amherst, Massachusetts (USA)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Quattro Mani

Solitude

for two pianos (2022)

part 3 of "Inner Life", a cycle of works for two pianos

Written for Quattro Mani (Susan Grace and Steven Beck)

5' "

Ordernumber: ED 30436 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: November 9, 2022 · Amherst, Massachusetts (USA)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Quattro Mani

Vocal Music

Symphonic vocal works

Solo Voice with Orchestra or Instruments

Beyond the Realm of Bird

for solo soprano and chamber orchestra (1981 - 1984)

Text by Emily Dickinson

(English)

"A Wind That Rose" was commissioned by the Department of Music of the University of Chicago in honor of Paul Fromm's 75th birthday

I "A Wind that Rose" - II "He parts Himself--Like Leaves" - III "I Saw No Way"

2(2.pic).2.2.2-1.1.1.0-2perc(glsp, vib, mar, tub bells, cym, tam-t, cong, tom-t)-hp.pno-str

12' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: August 4, 1985 · Lenox, MA (USA)

Tanglewood Concert Hall

Jayne West, soprano; Yehudi Wyner, piano · Tanglewood Music Center Fellows

Eros

Variations for mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble (1975)

Text by Ezra Pound ("Coitus" from "Lustra", 1915)

(English)

commissioned by the Koussevitzky Music Foundation with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship

afl-2perc(tam-t, bng, cong, low drums)-egtr.ebgr.hp.epno-va

23' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1977 · New York, NY (USA)

Beverly Morgan, mezzo-soprano · Conductor: Gerard Schwarz · Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Several Solo Voices with Orchestra or Instruments

Aftermath

a dramatic cantata for soprano, mezzo-soprano, baritone and chamber ensemble (1973)

text by the composer

(English)

2 parts

afl.1.1.1.bcl.1-2perc(mar, cym, tam-t, 4bng, 4concert tom-t, 2tom-t, 2cong, b.d, clav)-hp-vn.va.2vc

25' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: 1973 · Cambridge, MA (USA)

Christine Whittlesey, soprano; D'Anna Fortunato, alto; Allen Shearer, baritone · Conductor: Fred Lerdahl · Boston Symphony Chamber Players

(scenic)

Voice(s) and one other Instrument

Fire and Ice

for high soprano and contrabass (2015)

text by Robert Frost

(English)

Commissioned by the Tanglewood Music Center for its 75th anniversary

6' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: August 11, 2015 · Lenox, MA (USA)

Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood

Tanglewood Festival