

## *Dash* (2001)

Jennifer Higdon

"*Dash* comes at the beginning of the twenty-first century, where speed often seems to be our goal. This image fits well the instruments in this ensemble—clarinet, violin, and piano—because these are some of the fastest moving instruments in terms of their technical prowess. Each individual plays an equal part in the ensemble, contributing to the intensity and forward momentum, as the music dashes from beginning to end."

—Jennifer Higdon

The world premiere of *Dash* was on September 13, 2002 at Museo de Arte Hispanoamericano, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jennifer Higdon (born 1962, Brooklyn, New York) did not begin formal music studies until the age of eighteen, but despite a late start, she has become a major figure in contemporary classical music. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance from Bowling Green State University, an Artist Diploma in music composition from the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. in music composition from the University of Pennsylvania. Higdon has become one of America's most acclaimed and frequently performed composers. Her orchestral work *blue cathedral* has had more than six hundred performances worldwide since its premiere in 2000.

Higdon's list of commissions and performing organizations is extensive, with works in a range of genres including orchestral, chamber, opera, choral, vocal, and wind ensemble. Orchestral performances have been given by the symphony orchestras of Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Pittsburgh, and Indianapolis as well as by the National Symphony, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Luzern *Sinfonieorchester*, The Hague Philharmonic, the Melbourne Symphony, and the New Zealand Symphony. Other genres have been performed by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra; the Lark, Ying and Tokyo String Quartets; eighth blackbird, and the President's Own Marine Band. Higdon has also worked with individual artists such as Nathan Gunn, Isabel Leonard, Hilary Hahn, Yuja Wang, Gary Graffman, and Carol Wincenc. Her works are recorded on over sixty CDs, and her music is published exclusively by Lawdon Press.

In 2010, Higdon received the Pulitzer Prize in Music for her *Violin Concerto* which was cited as "a deeply engaging piece that combines flowing lyricism with dazzling virtuosity." The same year, her *Percussion Concerto* won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. Her opera *Cold Mountain*, which was co-commissioned by the Santa Fe Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and Minnesota Opera in collaboration with the North Carolina Opera, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere. Her work *Secret and Glass Gardens* won the American Composers Invitational and was performed by semi-finalists of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition.

Among additional honors, Higdon has received a Pew Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (twice), the Koussevitzky Foundation, Meet-the-Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, and ASCAP. She was recognized by the Delaware Symphony with the A.I. DuPont Award for her contributions to symphonic literature and by the state of Pennsylvania with a Distinguished Arts Award.

Higdon has been a featured composer at music festivals in Aspen, Tanglewood, Vail, Norfolk, Grand Teton, and Cabrillo. She has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony, the Green Bay Symphony, the Wheeling Symphony, and the Arkansas Symphony. She served as one of the Creative Directors of the Boundless Series for the Cincinnati Symphony. Higdon holds the Milton L. Rock Chair in Composition at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Additional information is available at: [www.jenniferhigdon.com](http://www.jenniferhigdon.com).