

Piccola rapsodia per tre musicisti (2005)

Justin Rubin

Justin Rubin (born 1971, New York, New York) is a composer, pianist, and organist. Although he was drawn to music as a child, he did not seek formal study as a composer until his mid-teens when he began composition and piano studies at the Manhattan School of Music. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the State University of New York at Purchase where he also became a proficient organist and theorist. During his studies, he developed a passion for both the invigorating world of the avant-garde and the music of the master composers. Although he towed this aesthetically ambivalent line both as a composer and as a performer (being an active pianist of the music of Xenakis and simultaneously being a church organist), his early work relied more on the former while neglecting the traditional forms of the latter. During doctoral studies at the University of Arizona (1995–1998), he further developed his broad-based musical vocabulary, and he continues to forge new techniques for merging seemingly incompatible styles into a cohesive single language.

As a composer, Rubin has established himself as an emerging voice, receiving over one hundred performances of his works across the country, as well as in Europe, South America, and Japan. As both a pianist and an organist, Rubin has concertized widely, specializing in works of less heralded composers and consistently performing new works. In the field of multimedia, he has created numerous experimental music videos. Rubin also has an interest in art, painting primarily in the abstract, and he has written several poems and short stories.

In 1998, Rubin was appointed Chair of Theory and Composition at the University of Minnesota Duluth where he holds the rank of Professor and is the Artistic Director of the annual New Music Festival, an event which he founded. In 2009, he was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers and honored with the Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, the university's highest recognition of its most distinguished scholar-teachers.

Additional information is available at www.d.umn.edu/~jrubin1.