

Faust Flying (1995)

Glenn Buhr

“This work takes its inspiration from the essay on lightness in Italo Calvino’s *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*. Calvino writes about the charm of the spirit of flight in literature, and I have attempted in this work to achieve that same spirit. The music in the first movement follows a free flow of imagination, moving through the ideas with quickness as well as lightness. The second movement is slow and quiet but the surface is constantly active with subtle ornaments, like calm air making its presence known. The third movement begins with a rush of wind and ends as a comedy.”

—Glenn Buhr

The world premiere of *Faust Flying* was on October 11, 1995 at Michelsen Concert Hall, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Glenn Buhr (b. 1954, Winnipeg, Canada) is a composer, pianist/guitarist, music curator, producer, songwriter, and band leader. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in 1979 from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Music in 1981 from the University of British Columbia, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1984 from the University of Michigan. His principal teachers included Casey Sokol, Lawrence Ritchey, William Benjamin, Stephen Chatman, Leslie Bassett, William Albright, and William Bolcom. Buhr became well known in Canada in the 1980s when the Toronto and Montreal Symphonies first championed his work, and when he co-founded the Winnipeg New Music Festival where he served as Composer-in-Residence, Curator, and later, as Artist Laureate.

Buhr has received several composition awards including first prize in the prestigious Italian Pro Loco Corciano Competition for *Epigrams*, a work for wind orchestra. He also won the Performing Rights Organization Canada Prize, a prize in the CBC Young Composer’s Competition, and first prize in the American Harp Society Composers Competition.

He has received a large number of commissions from important performers and ensembles including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Penderecki String Quartet, pianist Louis Lortie and the Detroit Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, pianist Janina Fialkowska, and the Toronto Children’s Chorus. Additionally, his music has been performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, Nexus Percussion Ensemble, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Three compact discs feature his music exclusively. *Glen Buhr: Songs* is a compilation of his vocal, choral, and chamber music; *Akasha (Sky)* is a collection of his orchestral music composed in 1987–1989; *Broken Songs* is a collaborative disc with poet Margaret Sweatman. A recording of his *Piano Concerto* was released on CBC records in 1995. Buhr’s recordings have earned three Juno nominations and the Prairie Music Award for Outstanding Classical Recording of the Year in 2000.

Buhr is active as a conductor and jazz pianist. He is Professor of Music Composition and Improvisation in the Contemporary Music Program at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. In 1998, he was named University Research Professor, the first creative artist to ever receive that honor. In addition to his academic position, Buhr has served as Music Director of the St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Centre, as the founding Artistic Director of the Music in the Ruins Festival in Manitoba, and as Artistic Director for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony’s New Orchestra Series.

Additional information is available at www.glennbuhr.com.