

Warhol Appassionata (2011)

David Winkler

Warhol Appassionata is a three-movement work running about sixteen minutes. It was composed for the Verdehr Trio and named for its premiere performance at the Andy Warhol Exhibit, National Gallery, Washington D.C.

When the opportunity arose to compose this new work, I sought out and poured over as many Warhol works as I could find—museums, catalogs, books, films, etc.—works I had already known and works that were new to me. My aim was to determine where the strongest musical connection was, and which works or portraits ‘spoke’ the best to me. I found myself returning to the Beethoven portraits, I think, for several reasons—and not just the obvious composer reference. The Beethoven portraits are not only some of the only classical music themed portraits by Warhol, but they also have a texture and density that appeal to me. It’s the texture in these works, the multi-level activity where I could see the connection between Warhol and Beethoven. The vertical dimension in these portraits is the critical link to classical music and the world of counterpoint and harmony that I believe makes musical development possible. So in my new work, I have tried to capture some of that ‘structured passion’ as a way of celebrating the exhibit and the artist.

As for the title, I have tried to give equal weight to both the artist and his composer subject while at the same time implying something about my new work.”

—David Winkler

The world premiere of *Warhol Appassionata* was on November 23, 2011 in the Cromwell and Beland Concerts in the West Building, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

David Winkler (born 1948) earned the master’s and doctorate degrees in composition from Columbia University in New York City. Previous studies took place at the Conservatorio Cherubini in Florence, Italy and the University of California at Los Angeles where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Winkler has composed over two hundred works for orchestras and ensembles worldwide, including four symphonies, six operatic works, two violin concertos, a piano concerto, various chamber concerti with string orchestra (violin; violin and piano; harpsichord; flute, etc.), many song cycles, choral works, three string quartets, and numerous chamber music works. His works have been recorded on Naxos International and Crystal Records.

He has received commissions and premieres from orchestras and ensembles in Europe, South America, and Asia. These include a composer fellowship grant by the New York Foundation for the Arts to support the creation of a variety of new symphonic works and a commission grant by the New York State Council on the Arts to create new choral works. Other commissions have come from Orquesta Sinfónica Un Cuvo (Argentina); National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia; Alabama Symphony; Korean Broadcasting System; Chamber Orchestras of Kremlin, Paris, and Brussels; Queen’s Chamber Band; Houston Grand Opera; Kharkov Philharmonic (Ukraine); Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and Europa Philharmonie. His music has been written and performed at the Aspen Music Festival, the Martha Argerich Project/Lugano Festival, International Music Festival, Long Island; and the International Beethoven Festival.

Winkler has been awarded a Leonard Bernstein Composer Fellowship, a Fromm Foundation Commission, the BMI Young Composer Award, and eight special awards from ASCAP. He has been Composer-in-Residence with the Aspen Music Festival, the Banff Centre, Opera/Omaha, the Chautauqua Opera, the Lincoln Center Institute, and the Paris Chamber Orchestra.

Winkler has served on the faculties of Columbia University and the Lincoln Center Institute. He has been the Executive and Artistic Director of Chamber Players International

Additional information may be found at www.davidwinklermusic.com.