

*Variations on an Original Theme* (2002)

Charles Rochester Young

*"Variations on an Original Theme* was commissioned by the Verdehr Trio and Michigan State University. As the title suggests, the work explores the expressive potential of a short tonal theme through a series of contrasting variations."

—Charles Rochester Young

The world premiere of *Variations on an Original Theme* was on September 22, 2005 in the Performing Art Series at Michelsen Concert Hall, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Charles Rochester Young (born 1965) is a composer, music educator, conductor, and saxophonist. He earned the Bachelor of Music degree at Baylor University and then completed the Master of Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at the University of Michigan. His teachers included Leslie Bassett, Donald Sinta, Keith Hill, and Marianne Ploger.

Young has received commissions from members of the Boston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic; from organizations such as the Green Bay Civic Symphony and the Big 12 Band Directors Association; and from luminaries such as Keiko Abe and Donald Sinta.

His works have been performed and broadcast in Europe, Japan, Central America, Canada, and in major halls in the United States including Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. They have been heard at well-known conferences and festivals such as the World Harp Congress, the World Saxophone Congress, the World Association of Symphonic Band and Ensembles, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music Educators National Convention, and the Montreux Jazz Festival.

Young has won high praises and honors for his work as a composer. Major awards include: First Prize in the National Flute Association New Publications Competition, First Prize in the National Band Association/Merrill Jones Composition Competition, Second Prize in the 1990 Fischhoff Competition, Second Prize in the National Association of Composers Young Composers Competition, and prize winner in the Vienna Modern Masters Competition. He has received financial awards from ASCAP, The National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, The Aaron Copland Foundation, The Minnesota Composers Forum, The Presser Foundation, and Arts Midwest.

As an educator, Young taught at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and he was Head of Composition and Music Theory at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. In 1999, he was named Wisconsin Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. The following year he received the University of Wisconsin Teaching Excellence award for outstanding career achievement. Young is currently the Associate Dean of the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music.