



Leanna Kirchoff, composer

www.leannakirchoff.com

The impulse to communicate with words and music has been a part of Kirchoff's life since childhood days. Making up songs to sing to the barn cats and accompanying herself on the guitar was a major past time. Her earliest musical influences were piano lessons, her sister's pop albums from the 70s, and church hymns.

Vocal chamber music, choral anthems, musicals, opera and songs of various kinds has become a prominent part of Kirchoff's catalog. Her music has been included in concerts at Carnegie Hall; the 9th New London Wind Festival, UK; the Ernest Bloch Festival, OR; the Chamber Music Conference, VT; Stages Theatre Company, MN; the American Choral Directors Association conference, MO; the Colorado Music Educators Association conference, CO; as well as in frequent performances in the Denver area.

Kirchoff was awarded the 2007 Sorel Medallion, an international choral composition award, culminating in a performance of her SATB choral piece, *Meciendo*, at Zankel Hall by New-York based Voices of Ascension. She has held an American Composers Forum Faith Partners Residency, composing several choral pieces for Boston area Temple Emanuel Synagogue and Twelfth Baptist Church. Also, she has won the Denver Women's Chorus National Composition Competition.

Collaborative projects highlight Kirchoff's catalog. She attended the 2012 John Duffy Composers Institute where a scene from her new chamber opera, *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret*, was workshopped and performed. Kirchoff has also co-written the libretto and music with Cherise Leiter for the 2007 one-act opera, *The Lady or the Tiger*, premiered at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She has collaborated on numerous musical theatre projects, composing music and lyrics for seven musicals produced in Minnesota. Her musical theatre experience also includes work as a conductor, musical director and performance keyboardist for productions in Boston, Minnesota, and Colorado. She served as assistant musical director and keyboardist for the first national tour of *Schoolhouse Rock Live*.

Most recently, Kirchoff's *Trio Sonata* was published by TrevCo, and reviewed in the November 2011 edition of *Flute Talk*. She was named the 2010 Colorado State Music Teacher's Association Commissioned Composer, with a new piece premiered at the 2010 CSMTA conference in the Denver area.

The Playground Ensemble's 2011 recording, *Dreams Go Through Me*, features Kirchoff's piece as the title cut. Two of her chamber works appear on the 2006 recording, *Cross Currents and Other New Music for Row Twelve*, by Massachusetts chamber ensemble, Row Twelve. Her solo flute piece, *Cantus Rosarum*, was included on the 2004 release *Airs to Charm a Lizard*, music for solo flute recorded by flutist, Katherine Kleitz.

Kirchoff pursues a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition at the University of Colorado, studying under Daniel Kellogg, Carter Pann, Michael Theodore and Richard Toensing (Professor Emeritus). She holds a Master of Arts in Composition from the University of Minnesota where she studied with Dominick Argento and Judith Lang Zaimont. Her undergraduate degree in Commercial Music is from the University of Denver where she studied composition with Donald Keats and piano with Alice Rybak. She has been a composition fellow at the Ernest Bloch Festival, as well as the Chamber Music Conference and Composers Forum of the East.

A faculty member at the University of Denver, Kirchoff works with undergraduate and graduate student composers, teaching composition seminar as well as directing the Lamont Composers Concert Series. Since 2001, she has also been on the faculty of Metropolitan State College of Denver, teaching composition, theory and class piano.

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Select Performances

(see composer website for complete catalog of compositions and performances)

2012

- *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret* – two sopranos, two mezzo-sopranos and piano; John Duffy Institute, Virginia Arts Festival, Norfolk, VA.

2011

- *No Stars Tonight, but Echoes* - soprano, baritone-tenor, viola, piano and metronome; University of Colorado, Pendulum New Music Series
- *The House Explodes* – solo piano; Piano Celebration Metropolitan State College of Denver

2010

- *Hallowed Be Thy Name* - SATB choir and piano, premiered at Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO
- *Do This in Remembrance* - SATB choir and piano, premiered at Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO
- *Dreams Go Through Me* - soprano, clarinet/bass clarinet, cello, piano, The Playground Ensemble, University of Colorado, Pendulum New Music Series
- *No Stars Tonight, but Echoes* - soprano, baritone-tenor, viola, piano and metronome; Colorado State Music Teachers Association conference
- *Trio Sonata* - two treble instruments, one bass instrument, piano; Chamber Music Conference, Bennington, VT
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2009

- *Five Soliloquies* - soprano, cello, piano; Nan Shannon, Megan Bunes, Richard von Foerster, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO
- *Midsummer in the Cottonwoods* - wind quintet; Chinook Quintet, University of Colorado
- *As Sparks Fly Upward* - clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion; Friends of Rain Chamber Music, Lewis and Clark University, Portland, OR
- *Prayers of Saints* - soprano and guitar; Jenice Riebe, Radford University, Radford, VA

2008

- *Meciendo* - a cappella SATB; Metro State Chorale, Colorado Music Educators Association conference, Colorado Spring, CO
- *Meciendo* - a cappella SATB; Metro State Chorale, American Choral Directors Association conference, Kansas City, MO
- *Litany of Joy* - alto flute, piano version; Row Twelve, Sharon, MA

2007

- *Aviary* - SSAA, alto flute, clarinet, piano; Metro State Women's Choir, Denver, CO
- *The Lady or the Tiger* - one-act opera; premiered by Metro State Opera Ensemble, Denver, CO (co-composed with Cherise Leiter)
- *Meciendo* - a cappella SATB; Voices of Ascension, Carnegie Hall, New York
- *Derivations from Handel's "Ombra Mai Fu"* - piano duet; Tamara Goldstein and Mutsumi Moteki, Kobe and Takayama, Japan (co-composed with Cherise Leiter)

2006

- *Derivations from Handel's "Ombra Mai Fu"* - piano duet; Leanna Kirchoff and Cherise Leiter, College Music Society conference, Ft. Collins, CO
- *As Sparks Fly Upward* - clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion; Ernest Bloch Composers' Symposium, Newport, OR
- *Midsummer in the Cottonwoods* - wind quintet; Chamber Music Conference and Composers Forum of the East, Bennington, VT
- *Midsummer in the Cottonwoods* - wind quintet; New Wind Chamber Group, 9th London New Wind Festival