



# Richard Danielpour Biography and Works



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Richard Danielpour is one of the most sought-after composers of his generation — a composer whose distinctive American voice is part of a rich neo-Romantic heritage with influences from pivotal composers like Britten, Copland, Bernstein, and Barber. His works are "solidly rooted in the soil of tradition, yet [sing] with an optimistic voice for today ... [they] speak to the heart as well as the mind."

Danielpour commented that "music [must] have an immediate visceral impact and elicit a visceral response." This visceral element can indeed be heard throughout Danielpour's oeuvre: expansive, sweeping, romantic gestures; energetic rhythmic accentuations; contrasting stylistic characters; arresting, introspective, melodic beauty; rich, enticing orchestrations; and brilliantly juxtaposed, yet cohesive harmonic angles. His impact on the contemporary music scene stands firm, with an illustrious array of international champions and a reputation as a devoted mentor and educator.

Danielpour has been commissioned by some of the world's leading musical institutions: the New York Philharmonic (*Toward the Splendid City* and *Through the Ancient Valley*); the Philadelphia Orchestra (*Violin Concerto*); the San Francisco Symphony (*Symphony No. 2, Song of Remembrance*, and the *Cello Concerto*); Pittsburgh Symphony (*Concerto for Orchestra*, celebrating the orchestra's centennial, and *A Woman's Life*); Baltimore Symphony (*The Awakened Heart*); National Symphony (*Voices of Remembrance*); Pacific Symphony (*An American Requiem, Mirrors*, and the newly orchestrated version of *A Child's Reliquary*); the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (*Piano Quintet* and *Sonnets to Orpheus, Book 1*, for Dawn Upshaw); Absolute Vodka (*Piano Concerto No. 2*); the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival (*Sonnets to Orpheus, Book 2*); the Isaac and Linda Stern Foundation (*River of Light*, for violinist Sarah Chang); Concertante (*Kaddish*); and most recently, the Sejong Soloists (*Lacrimae Beati*).

Forays into the world of theater yielded two ballet commissions: *Urban Dances* for the New York City Ballet's "Diamond Project," and *Anima Mundi* for the Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Danielpour's first opera, *Margaret Garner* (written in collaboration with Nobel Laureate librettist Toni Morrison), achieved critical acclaim upon its premiere in May 2005 at the Michigan Opera Theatre. Directed by Kenny Leon and conducted by Stefan Lano, *Margaret Garner* featured celebrated mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves in the title role, and continued through the following season with subsequent performances mounted by co-commissioners Cincinnati Opera and Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Among Danielpour's awards are a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Charles Ives Fellowship and a Lifetime Achievement Award — both from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, five MacDowell Colony Fellowships, a Jerome Foundation Award, and a Rockefeller Foundation Grant. As an educator, Danielpour serves on the faculties of both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Manhattan School of Music, while also participating in master classes and residencies around the country.

Danielpour studied at the New England Conservatory and at The Juilliard School. His teachers include Vincent Persichetti, Peter Mennin, and John Heiss (composition); Benjamin Zander (conducting); and Lorin Hollander, Veronica Jochum, and Gabriel Chodos (piano).

— November 2011

# Opera and Music Theatre

**Margaret Garner** (2005) 2h 20'  
 Text: (English) Toni Morrison  
 Principal Roles: Mezzo soprano, Lyric Baritone, Dramatic Soprano, Lyric Baritone; Secondary Roles: Dramatic Tenor, Light Lyric Soprano, Tenor, Lyric tenor  
 Chorus: SATB Black Chorus, 32 voices suggested  
 SATB White Chorus, 40 voices suggested  
 3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3Ctpt.2+btbn.1/  
 timp.3perc/hp.pf(celel)/str (min 10.8.6.6.5 players)  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Dance

**Anima Mundi** (1995) 30'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/pf.hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Urban Dances: Dance Suite In Five Movements** (1996) 27'  
 3(pic)2+ca.3(bcl)3(cbn)/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/hp.pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Orchestra

**Adagietto for String Orchestra** (2005) 10'  
 str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Apparitions** (2003) 28'  
 0000/0000/timp.3perc/celel(pf).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**The Awakened Heart** (1990) 24'  
 3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/  
 hp.amp pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*  
 Score 50482727 for sale

**Celestial Night** (1997) 20'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3.2+cbn/4331/timp.4perc/hp.pf(celel)/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Concerto for Orchestra "Zoroastrian Riddles"** (1996) 30'  
 3(2pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/  
 pf(celel).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**First Light** (1988) 13'  
 1.1(ca).1.1/2110/timp.2perc/hp.pf/str  
 Alt: 2.2(ca).2.2/2[+2].2.2.0/timp.2perc/amp pf.hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*  
 Score 50481217 for sale

**Lacrimae Beati** (2009) 11'  
 str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**The Night Rainbow** (1999) 18'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3.3/4331/timp.perc/pf(celel).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Nocturne** (2000) 2' 30"  
 str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Rocking the Cradle** (2007) 20'  
 3(pic).3(ca).2+bcl.3(cbn)/4.3Ctpt.3.1/timp.4perc/  
 pf(celel).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Song of Remembrance** (1991) 18'  
 3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4431/timp.4perc/  
 hp.amp pf(celel)/str(16.14.12.10.8)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Souvenirs** (2008) 15'  
 2(pic).2(ca).2(bcl).2/2220/timp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Swan Song (from String Quartet No. 4)** (2003) 8'  
 str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Symphony No. 1, "Dona Nobis Pacem"** (1984-85) 37'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.2perc/hp.pf/  
 str(14.14.12.10.8)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Toward the Splendid City** (1992) 9'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/  
 hp.pf(celel)/str  
*Performance materials on rental*  
 Score 50485524 for sale.

**Vox Populi** (1998) 6'  
 3(pic).2+ca.3.3/4331/timp.5perc/pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Vox Terrae** (2008) 15'  
 3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/pf(celel).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

# Work List

# Richard Danielpour

# Soloist(s) and Orchestra

<b>A Child's Reliquary (for orchestra)</b> (2000) 29'	<b>Piano Concerto No. 2</b> (1993) 31'
arr./ed./orch. (2006)	Solo: Piano
Solo: Violin, Cello	2(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2(cbn)/4330/timp.3perc/hp/str(min.12.10.8.8.6)
3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2/3220/tmp.3prc/pf.hp/str	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<b>Piano Concerto No. 3 ("Zodiac Variations")</b> (2002) 24'
<b>Concerto for Cello and Orchestra</b> (1994) 31'	Solo: Piano
Solo: Cello	3(afl+2pic).2.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.3perc/pf(cel).hp/str (min:14.12.10.8.6)
3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/hp.pf(cel)/str(min. 14.12.10.8.6)	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<b>Songs of Solitude</b> (2004) 30'
<i>Reduced Score 50486874 for sale</i>	Text: (English) W. B. Yeats
<b>Concerto for Violin and Orchestra: "A Fool's Paradise"</b> (1999) 30'	Solo: Baritone
Solo: Violin	3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3.2+btbn.1/timp.3perc/pf.cel.hp/str(7.6.5.4.3 preferred)
3(pic).3(ca).3(bcl).3/4331/timp.4perc/pf.hp/str(min.12.10.8.8.6)	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<b>Symphony No. 2, "Visions"</b> (1986) 36'
<b>Elegies</b> (1997) 33'	Text: Dylan Thomas, 'Vision and Prayer'
Text: Kim Vaeth	Solo: Soprano, Tenor
Solo: Mezzo soprano, Baritone	2.2(ca).2+bcl.2/4.3.2+btbn.1/timp.2perc/hp.pf/str
3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).2(cbn)/4331/timp.4perc/hp(cel).pf/str	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<b>Three Prayers</b> (2007) 13'
<b>In the Arms of the Beloved (Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra)</b> (2001) 28'	Text: (English) Toni Morrison
Solo: Violin, Cello	Solo: Soprano
3(afl,pic).2.3(bcl).2/3220/timp.3perc/pf(cel).hp/str	3.2.2+bcl.3/4331/timp.3perc/pf.hp/str
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<b>Kaddish</b> (2011) 16'	<b>Through the Ancient Valley (Cello Concerto No. 2)</b> (2001) 29'
Solo: Violin	Solo: Cello
str	3(pic,afl :pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/4.3(Dtp).2+btbn.1/timp.4perc/pf(cel).hp/Kamancheh(or viola, in balcony)/str(min.16.14.12.10.8); concertino of 2fl, ob, 2santour, 2vn, va, vc
<i>This work is currently unavailable</i>	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
<b>Metamorphosis (Piano Concerto No. 1)</b> (1990) 28'	<b>Triptych</b> (2006) 15'
Solo: Piano	Text: (English) Toni Morrison
2(pic).2(ca).2(bcl).2/2220/timp.3perc/hp/str	Solo: Mezzo soprano
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	3.2.2+bcl.3(cbn)/4231/timp.3perc/pf.hp/str
<b>Mirrors (Piano Concerto No. 4)</b> (2009) 22'	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
Solo: Piano	<b>Voices of Remembrance: Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra</b> (1998) 24'
2(pic).2(ca).2(bcl).2/2.2.2.0/timp.2perc/hp/str (12.10.8.6.5 players minimum)	Solo: String Quartet
<i>This work is currently unavailable</i>	3(pic).2+ca.3(bcl).3(cbn)/6351/timp.6perc/pf.hp/str
<b>Pastime</b> (2006) 22'	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>
Text: (English) Michael S. Harper	<b>Washington Speaks</b> (2005) 7'
Solo: Baritone	Solo: Narrator
3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.3/4331/timp.3perc/hp.pf(cel)/str	2.2.2.2+cbn/4230/timp.2perc/str
<i>Performance materials on rental</i>	<i>Performance materials on rental</i>

## Work List

# Richard Danielpour

<b>A Woman's Life</b> (2007) Text: (English) Maya Angelou Solo: Soprano 3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.3/4.3Ctpt.3.1/timp.3perc/pf(cel).hp/str <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	28'	<b>The Book of Hours</b> (2006) vn, va, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	25'
<b>Works for Band/Wind/Brass Ensemble</b>		<b>A Child's Reliquary (for piano trio)</b> (2000) vn, vc, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50486184 for sale</i>	27'
<b>Benediction</b> (2007) 2hn, 2tpt, 3tn, chimes <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	2'	<b>Fantasy Variations</b> (1997) vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
<b>Voice of the City</b> (2005) 4(2pic)2(ca)3+Ebcl+bcl.2+cbn/6.4(pictpt).3+btbn.1+euph/ 6perc/pf(cel)/db <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	7'	<b>Feast of Fools - Concertino for Bassoon and String Quartet</b> (1998) Solo: Bassoon 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	16'
<b>Vox Populi (for concert band)</b> (1998) arr. Jack Stamp, (trans. 2004) 3(pic).2.4+Ebcl+bcl+Ebcbcl.2asx+tsx+barsx.2/ 4.3.2+btbn.1+euph/timp.6perc/pf/db <i>Performance materials on rental</i> <i>Score and Part(s) 50485525 for sale.</i> <i>Score 50485526 for sale.</i>	6'	<b>Kaddish</b> (2009) 2vn, 2va, 2vc <i>Available for performances after May 2012</i>	16'
<b>Soloist(s) and Large Ensemble (7 or more players)</b>		<b>Quintet for Piano and Strings</b> (1988) 2vn, va, vc, pf <i>Score and Part(s) 50482100 for sale</i> <i>Study Score 50482099 for sale</i>	28'
<b>Sonnets to Orpheus, Book 1</b> (1992) Text: Rainer Maria Rilke Solo: Soprano fl, cl, hn, pf(cel), 2vn, va, vc, db <i>Performance materials on rental</i> <i>Score 50482477 for sale.</i>	28'	<b>River of Light (In Memory of Isaac Stern)</b> (2007) vn, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	12'
<b>Sonnets to Orpheus, Book 2</b> (1994) Text: Rainer Maria Rilke Solo: Baritone fl, cl, hn, perc, pf, 2vn, va, vc, db <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	25'	<b>String Quartet No. 2, "Shadow Dances"</b> (1993) 2vn, va, vc <i>Score and Part(s) 50482583 for sale</i>	23'
<b>Works for 2-6 Players</b>		<b>String Quartet No. 4 (Apparitions)</b> (2000) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	28'
<b>As Night Falls on Barjeantane</b> (2000) vn, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'	<b>String Quartet No. 5 (In Search of "La Vita Nuova")</b> (2004) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	22'
		<b>Troubadours' Feast</b> (2005) fl, cl, vn, va, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	25'
		<b>Urban Dances</b> (1988) hn, 2tpt, tbn, tba <i>Score and Part(s) 50481391 for sale.</i>	17'
		<b>Urban Dances, Book II</b> (1993) hn, 2tpt, tbn, tba <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	22'

## Solo Keyboard(s)

**Elegy** (2003) 4'  
pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**The Enchanted Garden  
(Preludes for Piano, Book I)** (1992) 22'  
pf  
*Score 50482061 for sale.*

**Mardi Gras  
(from The Enchanted Garden)** (1992)  
pf

**Piano Fantasy  
(“Wenn Ich Einmal Soll Scheiden”)** (2008) 16'  
pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Three Preludes** (2003) 9'  
pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

## Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

**An American Requiem** (2001) 1h 2'  
Text: (English, Latin) Roman Catholic Requiem Mass,  
Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Michael Harper,  
H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)  
Solo: Mezzo soprano, Tenor, Baritone  
Chorus: SATB chorus  
3(pic:af).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/4(2Wtba).3.2+btbn.1/  
timp.5perc/pf(cel).hp/str; 6 offstage tbn  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Canticle of Peace** (1995) 19'  
Text: (Hebrew)  
Solo: Baritone  
Chorus: SATB Chorus  
0000/1[+1].2.1+btbn.0/3[+1]perc/pf/hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Oratio Pauli** (1982/1988) 18'  
Text: (English) Bible — St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians  
arr./ed./orch. (1988)  
Chorus: SATB chorus  
str  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Symphony No. 3,  
“Journey Without Distance”** (1990) 30'  
Text: Helen Schucman, “A Course in Miracles”  
Solo: Soprano  
Chorus  
3(pic).2(ca).3(bcl).2(cbn)/4331/timp.3perc/  
amp pf(cel).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

**Come Away Death** (2005) 3'  
voice, pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Four Baritone Arias  
from “Margaret Garner”** (2005) 14'  
Text: Toni Morrison  
Solo: Baritone  
pf  
*Folio 50486361 for sale*

**'He Is By'  
from “Margaret Garner”** (2005) 4' 30"  
Text: Toni Morrison  
Solo: Soprano  
pf  
*Vocal Score 50486359 for sale*

**I Am Not Prey** (1996) 6'  
Solo: Soprano  
pf 4-hands  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Portraits** (2001) 17'  
Text: Based on texts by Maya Angelou  
Solo: Mezzo soprano  
cl, vn, vc, pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Songs of the Night** (1993) 25'  
Text: Rainer Maria Rilke  
Solo: Tenor  
vn, vc, pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Spirits in the Well** (1998) 16'  
Text: (English) Toni Morrison  
Solo: Treble voice  
pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

## Work List

# Richard Danielpour

**String Quartet No. 3,  
"Psalms of Sorrow"** (1994) 21'

Text: Bible

Solo: Baritone

2vn, va, vc

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Sweet Talk** (1997) 23'

Text: (English) Toni Morrison

Solo: Mezzo soprano

vc, db, pf

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Three Mezzo-soprano Arias  
from "Margaret Garner"** (2005)

Text: Toni Morrison

Solo: Mezzo soprano

pf

*Vocal Score 50486360 for sale.*

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