

# David Lang

## Biography and Works



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Passionate, prolific, and complicated, composer David Lang embodies the restless spirit of invention. Lang is at the same time deeply versed in the classical tradition and committed to music that resists categorization, constantly creating new forms.

In the words of *The New Yorker*, "With his winning of the Pulitzer Prize for *the little match girl passion* (one of the most original and moving scores of recent years), Lang, once a postminimalist enfant terrible, has solidified his standing as an American master."

Many of Lang's pieces resemble each other only in the fierce intelligence and clarity of vision that inform their structures. His catalogue is extensive, and his opera, orchestra, chamber, and solo works are by turns ominous, ethereal, urgent, hypnotic, unsettling, and very emotionally direct. Much of his work seeks to expand the definition of virtuosity in music — even the deceptively simple pieces can be fiendishly difficult to play and require incredible concentration by musicians and audiences alike.

Commissioned by Carnegie Hall for Paul Hillier's vocal ensemble Theater of Voices, *the little match girl passion* was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for music. Of the piece, *The Washington Post's* Tim Page said, "I don't think I've ever been so moved by a new, and largely unheralded, composition as I was by David Lang's *little match girl passion*, which is unlike any music I know."

Other recent projects include: *reason to believe*, for Trio Medieval and the Norwegian Radio Orchestra; *world to come (cello and orchestra)*, premiered by cellist Maya Beiser and the Norrlands Operans Symfoniorkester; *darker*, premiered by Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles; *plainspoken*, a new work for the New York City Ballet; *writing on water*, for the London Sinfonietta, with libretto and visuals by English filmmaker Peter Greenaway; *the difficulty of crossing a field*, a fully-staged opera for the Kronos Quartet; *loud love songs*, a concerto for the percussionist Evelyn Glennie; and the oratorio *Shelter*, written with co-composers Michael Gordon and Julia Wolfe and staged by Ridge Theater at the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Lang is one of America's most performed composers. "There is no name yet for this kind of music," wrote *Los Angeles Times* music critic Mark Swed of Lang's work, but audiences around the globe are hearing more and more of it, in performances by such organizations as Santa Fe Opera, the New York Philharmonic,

the Netherlands Chamber Choir, the Boston Symphony, the Munich Chamber Orchestra, and the Kronos Quartet; at Tanglewood, the BBC Proms, The Munich Biennale, the Settembre Musica Festival, the Sidney 2000 Olympic Arts Festival, and the Almeida, Holland, Berlin, and Strasbourg Festivals; in theater productions in New York, San Francisco, and London; alongside the choreography of Twyla Tharp, La La La Human Steps, The Netherlands Dance Theater, and the Paris Opera Ballet; and at Lincoln Center, the Southbank Centre, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Barbican Centre, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Lang is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Pulitzer, Rome, and BMW Music-Theater Prizes (Munich); and grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1999, he received a Bessie Award for his music in choreographer Susan Marshall's *The Most Dangerous Room in the House*, performed by the Bang on a Can All-Stars at the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. *The Carbon Copy Building* won the 2000 *Village Voice* OBIE Award for Best New American Work. The recording of *The Passing Measures*, on Cantaloupe, was named one of the best CDs of 2001 by *The New Yorker*. His recent CD, "Pierced," on Naxos, was praised both on the rock music site *Pitchfork* and in the classical magazine *Gramophone*, and was called his "most exciting new work in years" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Paul Hillier led the Theatre of Voices & Ars Nova Copenhagen on the CD of *the little match girl passion* released by Harmonia Mundi. The recording won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance.

Lang is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music festival Bang on a Can. His work has been recorded on the Sony Classical, Harmonia Mundi, Teldec, BMG, Point, Chandos, Argo/Decca, and Cantaloupe labels, among others.

David Lang's music is published by Red Poppy (ASCAP) and is distributed worldwide by G. Schirmer, Inc.

— November 2011

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# Opera and Music Theatre

## Anatomy Theater (2006) 1h 15'

Text: (English) Mark Dion; 18th-century medical notes and journals  
Solo: Mezzo soprano, Tenor, Baritone, Bass  
fl, cl(bcl), tpt, perc, pf, vn, va, vc, db  
*Performance materials on rental*

## The Difficulty of Crossing a Field (1999) 1h 15'

Text: (English) Libretto by Mac Wellman  
Solo: Soprano, Mezzo soprano, Tenor, Baritone, Bass  
Chorus: small choir  
2vn, va, vc  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Hunger 1h 10'

Text: Deborah Artman; after the novel by Knut Hamsun  
Solo: Actor/percussionist  
percussion quartet  
*This work is currently unavailable*

## Judith and Holofernes (1989) 25'

Text: Scenario by the composer  
bcl, tpt, tbn, perc, egtr, pf, vn, db  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Modern Painters (1994) 1h 50'

Text: (English) Libretto by Manuela Hoelterhoff  
Solo: 3 Baritones, 2 Basses, Mezzo Soprano, 4 Tenors;  
Lyric Soprano, Dramatic tenor, Character soprano,  
2 silent roles  
chorus  
2(pic)2(ca)2(bcl)2/4220/2perc/pf(syn).hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

# Dance

## Amelia (2002) 1h 20'

Voice, vn, vc, pf  
*This work is currently unavailable*

## The Most Dangerous Room in the House (1997) 1h 10'

bcl, pf, perc, egtr, ebgr, vc, db  
*Performance materials on rental*

## plainspoken (2010) 22'

2vn, va, vc, pf  
*This work is currently unavailable*

**Salt** (1999)  
performance tape  
*Performance materials on rental*

# Orchestra

## Eating Living Monkeys (1985/87) 8'

3+pic.3+ca.3+bcl.3/4331/4perc/hp.pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Grind to a Halt (1996) 11'

2+pic.32+bcl.2+cbn/4331/timp.4perc/hp.pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## How to Pray (2002) 10'

3.2.2+bcl.3/4331/pf/timp/3perc/str  
Alt: vc, pf, egtr, dm  
*Performance materials on rental*

## International Business Machine (1990) 5'

2+pic.333/4331/4perc/cel.hp/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

# Soloist(s) and Orchestra

## Fur (2004) 23'

Solo: Piano  
3.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4331/timp.4perc/cel/str  
*This work is currently unavailable*

## Loud Love Songs (2004) 15'

Solo: Percussion  
1222/2111/timp.3perc/pf/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Pierced (2007) 15'

Solo: Cello, Percussion, Piano  
str  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Reason to Believe (2011) 15'

Solo: 3 Female Voices (SSA)  
2+pic.2.2.2/4.3.2+btbn.1/timp.2perc/hp/str  
*Available for performances after October 2014*

## World to Come (cello and orchestra) (2003) 24'

Solo: Cello  
1.1.1+bcl.1/2.0.0.0/perc/str  
*Performance materials on rental*

# Work List

# David Lang

# Works for Band/Wind/Brass Ensemble

**Cheating, Lying, Stealing  
(band version)** (1993) 11'  
2+pic.2.3+ebcl+bcl.2asx+tsx+barsx.3/  
4.3.2+btbn.1+euph/4perc/pf/db  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

**Before Roll, Ocean** (2008) 7' 20"  
*Part IV of 'Water'*  
0+pic.0.0.0/0000/glock(perc)+vib(perc)/pf/egtr/  
str(1.1.1.1.1)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Child** (2001) 42'  
*Movements sold separately.*  
*All five are needed to perform 'Child.'*  
fl(pic), cl(bcl), perc, vn, va, vc, pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**Darker** (2010) 60'  
12 solo strings  
*This work is currently unavailable*

**Forced March** (2008) 10'  
fl, bcl, tbn, pf, perc, egtr, vn, va, vc, db; amplified  
*Performance materials on rental*

**I Fought the Law** (1998) 6'  
pic, ob, ebcl, tpt, vn, va, vc, db,  
two pieces of junk metal (1 or 2 players)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**increase** (2002) 11'  
1111/1110/2perc/pf.syn/str(1.1.1.1.1 all amplified)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**My Evil Twin** (1992) 11'  
003(bcl).0/2000/perc/hp.eorg.ebgtr/str(0.0.2.2.0)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**O Isis and Osiris** (2005) 4'  
2hn, 2tpt, 3tbn, timp  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Open** (2008) 3'  
2222/4000/str(0.0.0.1.1)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Slow Movement** (1993) 25'  
2fl, asx, tsx, barsx, 2egtr, ebgtr, 2syn, acn, perc,  
evn, evc; all amplified  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Spud** (1986) 10'  
111(bcl)0/1000/timp/str(1.0.1.1.1)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Street** (1993) 8'  
fl, 3sx, hn, 3tpt, 3tbn, pf, ebgtr  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Sweet Air (version for small orchestra)** (1999) 8'  
1110/0000/perc/pf/str(11111)  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Soloist(s) and Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

**Are You Experienced?** (1987-88) 23'  
Solo: Narrator, Electric Tuba  
1111/1110/perc/pf[syn].egtr/va.vc.db  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Hammer Amour** (1979, rev. 1989) 10'  
Solo: Piano  
2fl, 2cl, 2hn, tpt, tbn, perc  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Men** (2001) 45'  
Solo: Trombone  
ca, bcl, barsx, 2pf, 2perc, va, vc, db (all amplified)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**The Passing Measures** (1998) 45'  
Solo: 8 Alto voices, Bass Clarinet  
0000/4331/4perc/2pf.eb/8vc.2db (all amplified)  
*Performance materials on rental*

**Writing on Water** (2005) 32'  
Solo: 2 Baritones, Bass  
tpt, hn, tbn, 2 perc, pf, egtr, ebass, va, vc; amp  
*Performance materials on rental*

## Works for 2-6 Players

**Birds of Minnesota** (2000) 3'  
4perc, hp, pf  
*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

# Work List

# David Lang

<b>Bitter Herb</b> (1992) vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	14'	<b>Little Eye</b> (1999) vc, 4 non-percussionists <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'
<b>Breathless</b> (2003) fl, ob, cl, bn, hn <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	12'	<b>My Very Empty Mouth</b> (1999) fl, bcl, vn, va, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	13'
<b>Burn Notice</b> (1988) fl, vc, pf Alt: vn, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i> <i>Full Score 14007999 for sale.</i> <i>Set of Parts 14018551 for sale.</i>	7'	<b>Revolutionary Etudes</b> (2006) saxophone quartet <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	22'
<b>Cheating, Lying, Stealing</b> (1993) bcl, vc, pf, perc, and two antiphonal brake drums <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	11'	<b>Short Fall</b> (2000) pic, pf, vn, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	4'
<b>Dance/Drop (alternate version)</b> (1987) arr./ed./orch. (arr. 1997) fl(pic), bcl, perc, pf, vn, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11'	<b>The So-Called Laws of Nature</b> (2002) 4 perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	32'
<b>Dance/Drop (original version)</b> (1987) bn, barsx, pf, syn, perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11'	<b>Stick Figure</b> (2001) cl, pf, perc, vc, and 1 or 2 non-percussionists <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'
<b>Frag</b> (1984) fl, ob, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'	<b>Stuttered Chant</b> (2011) perc, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	4'
<b>Hilda</b> glock, vib Licensing rights only, no materials available. Audio CD available from cantaloupemusic.com <i>Performance materials on rental</i>		<b>Sunray</b> (2006) cl, vc, db, egtr, pf, perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11'
<b>How to Pray</b> (2002) vc, pno, org, egtr, dmkit <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	9'	<b>Sweet Air</b> (1999) fl, cl, vn, vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'
<b>Illumination Rounds</b> (1981) vn and pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'	<b>Table of Contents</b> (2008) 2 perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'
<b>involuntary</b> (2011) 2pic, 2tpt, perc <i>Available for performances after September 2012</i>	3' 30"	<b>these broken wings</b> (2008) fl (pic), cl (bcl), vn, vc, perc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	16'
<b>Justice</b> fl, cl, vib, pf, vn, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>		<b>undanceable</b> (2010) vc, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	3'
<b>Lend/Lease</b> (2008) pic, perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	3'	<b>Vent</b> (1990) fl, pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'
		<b>Warmth</b> (2006) 2egtr <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'
		<b>Wed</b> (1995) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	4'

<b>Work</b> (2006) perc, pf, vc <i>This work is currently unavailable</i>	1h 0'	<b>Boy</b> (2001) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	3'
<b>wreck/wed</b> (1995) 2vn, va, vc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	11'	<b>Broken Door</b> (1997) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
<b>Solo Works (excluding keyboard)</b>		<b>Cage</b> (1992) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	4'
<b>The Anvil Chorus</b> (1991) perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'	<b>Cut</b> (2002) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'
<b>I Feel Pretty</b> (2001) db <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'	<b>Face so Pale</b> (1992) 6 pianos <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	9'
<b>Press Release</b> (1991) bcl Alt: bn <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'	<b>Gravity</b> (2005) pf 4-hands <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
<b>Press Release (version for baritone saxophone)</b> (2001) bar sax <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'	<b>Memory Pieces</b> (1992-97) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	30'
<b>Scraping Song</b> (1997, rev. 2001) perc <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	9'	<b>Miracle Ear</b> (1996) Toy piano <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	4'
<b>String of Pearls</b> (2006) mba <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	9'	<b>Orpheus Over and Under</b> (1989) 2pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	18'
<b>Thorn</b> (1993) fl <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'	<b>The Point</b> (2003) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	3'
<b>Unchained Melody</b> (2004) percussion solo: 7 glockenspiel notes, 7 noises, 1 brake drum or other nasty metal <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	7'	<b>Spartan Arcs</b> (1992) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	3'
<b>World to Come (cello solo)</b> (2003) vc + audio playback <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	24'	<b>this was written by hand</b> (2003) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	9'
<b>Solo Keyboard(s)</b>		<b>Wed</b> pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	5'
<b>after gravity</b> (20076) pf 4-hands <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	8'	<b>While Nailing at Random</b> (1983) pf <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	10'

# Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument

<b>after stephen foster</b>	20'
Text: Stephen Foster Chorus: SATB perc <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	
<b>Again (After Ecclesiastes)</b> (2005)	5'
Chorus: SSAATB chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>battle hymns</b> (2009)	50'
Text: (English) David Lang, after Sullivan Ballou, Stephen Foster and Abraham Lincoln SATB and snare drum <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	
<b>By Fire</b> (1984)	5'
Text: "Attacking with Fire" from Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" Chorus: a cappella SATB chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>evening morning day</b> (2007)	6'
Chorus: SSA <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>For Love Is Strong</b> (2008)	11'
Chorus: SATB chor <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Give Me</b> (2008)	5'
Text: (English) David Lang <i>Part V of 'Water'</i> Chorus: TTTBBB <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Have Mercy My God (from "The Little Match Girl Passion")</b> (2007)	5'
Chorus: SATB chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Hecuba</b> (2001)	18'
Text: (Greek and English) Euripides, trans. by Timberlake Wertenbaker Chorus: SSAA chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>I Lie</b> (2001)	5'
Chorus: SAA chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	

<b>I Live in Pain</b> (2010)	4'
Text: the composer (after contessa de dia) Chorus: SSA a cappella <i>Available for performances after January 2012</i>	
<b>i never</b> (2010)	9'
Text: (English) the composer Chorus: 40 voices a cappella <i>Available for performances after March 2012</i>	
<b>I Want to Live</b> (2005)	4'
Text: Deborah Artman Chorus: women's voices <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>The Little Match Girl Passion (for chorus)</b> (2007)	35'
SATB chorus; percussion (played by members of the chorus) <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Mary Stuart Choruses</b> (1998)	40'
Chorus: SATB <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Oh Graveyard (lay this body down)</b> (2010)	3'
Text: (English) Traditional and the composer Chorus: SATB a cappella <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>this condition</b> (2000)	5'
Text: Lydia Davis Chorus: SAA chorus <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble</b>	
<b>Depart</b> (2002)	18'
Chorus: SA voices 3 cellos <i>Performance materials sold by Rental Library</i>	
<b>Roll, Ocean</b> (2008)	5' 30"
Text: (English) David Lang (after Lord Byron) <i>Part VII of 'Water'</i> Chorus: SATB 1000/0000/2perc/pf/egtr/str(1.1.1.1.1) <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	
<b>Statement to the Court</b> (2010)	15'
Text: Eugene Debs Chorus: SATB str <i>Performance materials on rental</i>	

## Work List

# David Lang

# Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

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**Music for Gracious Living** (1992/96) 22'

Text: Deborah Artman

Solo: Actor

2vn, va, vc

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**My Soul** (2008) 6' 35"

Text: (English) David Lang (after Schubert, after Goethe)

*Part I of 'Water'*

Solo: 4 Voices

pic, bcl, pf, glock, perc, vc

*Performance materials on rental*

**pay me now** (2000) 2'

Solo: Soprano

va, vc, db

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**The Little Match Girl Passion  
(for solo voices)** (2007) 35'

Solo: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (all playing percussion)

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library*

**The Wood and the Vine** (2011)

Solo: 4 Women's Vocies

*This work is currently unavailable*

# Electroacoustic Works

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**killer** (2009) 4' 44"

electric violin, kick drum, and prerecorded media

*Available for performances after May 2014*

Work List

David Lang

## AVAILABILITY

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### UNAVAILABLE

Due to composer revisions, performer exclusivity, or other reasons, a work may not be available.

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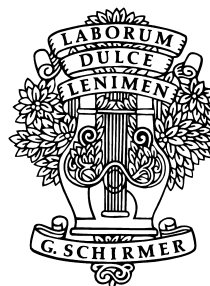
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