

CURRICULUM VITAE

SUSAN BOTTI

COMPOSER·PERFORMER·EDUCATOR

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As a composer and performer, Susan Botti's eclectic background and experiences are reflected in her music. Theatre and the visual arts play a formative role in the aesthetic of her work. Her musical explorations have encompassed traditional, improvisational and non-classical composition and singing styles.

Botti is the recipient of numerous grants and awards. She was the third Daniel R. Lewis Young Composer Fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra. Additional orchestral commissions include works for the New York Philharmonic, and The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Her chamber music includes *Gates of Silence*, commissioned by the Blakemore Trio (Vanderbilt University) which consists of 3 connected works for violin & piano; piano trio; and piano trio plus soprano (Botti). Inspired by Virgil's *Aeneid*, this work incorporates poetry by National Book Award finalist, Linda Gregerson. This poetry, *Dido Refuses to Speak*, was awarded a 2011 Pushcart Prize. A recording of *Gates of Silence* with Botti and the Blakemore Trio has been released by Albany Records, with support from the Copland Fund.

Botti's newest work, *sull'ala (Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Ensemble)*, was recently premiered by the Hartt Wind Ensemble with Glen Adsit conducting, Carrie Koffman (saxophone).

In addition to performing her own vocal works, Botti specializes in the performance of contemporary music by contemporary composers of diverse styles, including: Gubaidulina, Kurtág, Chihara, Pintscher, and Matheson - in most cases, working directly with the composer. Composer/conductor Tan Dun created several major works highlighting her vocal and theatrical talents, including the role of "Water" in his internationally renowned opera, *Marco Polo* (Sony Classical), and his *Orchestral Theater III: Red Forecast*, premiered by the Scottish BBC Orchestra, and in the US, by the American Composers' Orchestra.

COMPOSITIONS/PUBLICATIONS:

In progress	<i>upon the water</i> (SATB) <i>Make-Falcon</i> - (30') – chamber choir & percussion ensemble
2013	<i>sull'ala</i> – (28') - (concerto for saxophone and wind ensemble) (commissioned by a consortium of universities, schools of music, and individuals) Premiere: Millard Auditorium, West Hartford, CT (Oct, '13) Hartt Wind Ensemble Glen Adsit- conductor; Carrie Koffman-saxophone solo
2012	<i>cristalli</i> – (17') - (solo piano) (commissioned by Alice F. Weston) Premiere: <i>Crystal Clues to the Sublime</i> - Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Ctr Phillip Bush - piano
2011	<i>Sylvia Songs</i> – (12') - (soprano and string quartet) (poems by Denise Levertov) Chamber Music Conference & Composers' Forum of the East
2011	<i>Terra Cruda</i> (15') - wind ensemble Commission from NWECG (National Wind Ensemble Consortium Group) Premiere: Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI (Oct, '11) University of Michigan Symphony Band/Michael Haithcock, conductor
2008-2010	<i>Gates of Silence</i> – (60') – violin & piano; piano trio; piano trio & soprano (commissioned poems by Linda Gregerson) Commission from Carolyn Huebl/Blakemore Trio (Blair School of Music/Vanderbilt University) Premiere: Blair School of Music, Nashville, TN (Feb '10)

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COMPOSITIONS/PUBLICATIONS (CONT):

- 2007 *un bacio* - (10') – soprano, baritone, 2 flutes, bass clarinet, cello & steel drums
Commission from Manhattan School of Music (for Zero Gravity)
Premiere: Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall, NYC (Feb '07)
- 2006 *Tagore Madrigals* - (8') - 6 acapella voices; *Stelle* - (9') - 6 voices, harp and piano
2 Gregerson Songs - (8') – soprano & piano
Premiere: Villa Aurelia, American Academy in Rome (May '06)
- 2005 *Translucence* - (12')
symphony orchestra
Commissioned by The Cleveland Orchestra
Premiere: Severance Hall, Cleveland (May '05)
The Cleveland Orchestra/Franz Welser-Möst, conductor (May '05)
- 2004 *Cosmosis* (20') (poems by May Swenson)
wind ensemble, soprano & women's voices
Commissioned by The University of Michigan/consortium
Premiere: Carnegie Hall, NYC (Feb '05)
University of Michigan Symphony Band & Chamber Choir
Michael Haithcock, Conductor; Susan Botti, soloist
- 2003 *Impetuosity* - (10')
symphony orchestra
Premiere: Severance Hall, Cleveland (March '04)
The Cleveland Orchestra/Roberto Abbado, conductor
- 2001 *EchoTempo* (35') (Native American translations)
soprano, percussion & orchestra
Commissioned by The New York Philharmonic
Premiere: Avery Fisher Hall, NYC (Nov '01)
New York Philharmonic/Kurt Masur, conductor
Susan Botti, soprano soloist; Christopher Lamb, percussion soloist
European Premiere:
"Music im 21. Jahrhundert" Festival/Saarbrücken, Germany (May '02)
Gunther Herbig, conductor; Botti & Lamb, soloists
- Silent Movie* (6') (poem by David Kirby)
tenor & piano
The New York Festival of Song
for *Songbook for a New Century* (published by Boosey & Hawkes)
Premiere: Kaye Playhouse, NYC (March '01)
Ted Schmitz, tenor; Michael Barrett, piano
- 1999 *Within Darkness* (15')
violin solo & chamber orchestra
Commissioned by The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
with funds provided by Meet The Composer/Commissioning Music USA
Premiere: Carnegie Hall, NYC (Jan, '00)
The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; Martha Caplin, violin soloist
- 1996 *Prelude for 7 Instruments* (10')
harp, piano, percussion, string quartet
Premiere: Society for Ethical Culture, NYC (1997)
- 1996 *Pig Dreams: Scenes from the Life of Sylvia* (25') (poems by Denise Levertov)
soprano, flute, harp
Commissioned by The Jubal Trio
with funds provided by The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust
Premiere: The Jubal Trio, The New School, NYC (1996)

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COMPOSITIONS/PUBLICATIONS (CONT):

- 1995 *Telaio: Desdemona* - operatic soliloquy (40')
(poems by Gaspara Stampa, texts from Shakespeare)
soprano, harp, piano, percussion, string quartet
Commissioned by the American Artists Series
funded (in part) by the National Endowment for the Arts
Concert Premiere: American Artists Series, Detroit (1995)
Full Production: Society for Ethical Culture, NYC (1997)
Kimberly Grigsby, conductor
- 1994 *Wonderglass* - chamber opera based on works by Lewis Carroll (80')
sop, mezzo, 2 ten, bass-bari, fl, cl, sax, tbn, hp, pno, perc, bass
funded (in part) by the National Endowment for the Arts
Concert Premiere: American Artists Series, Detroit (1993)
Full Production: St. Clement's Church, NYC (1994)
Pablo Zinger, conductor; Dorothy Danner, stage director
- MISC SONGS

*all of the above works published by SUBO Music (ASCAP) (with the exception of *Silent Movie*)

HONORS/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS:

- Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Recording Grant (Albany Records – *Gates of Silence*) (2013)
NY Foundation for the Arts – Fellowship (2013, 1998)
New Music, USA (Meet the Composer) Creative Connections (2011-2012)
The Rome Prize (2005-2006)
Guggenheim Fellowship (2005)
The Cleveland Orchestra
Daniel R. Lewis Young Composer Fellow (2003-2005)
Goddard Lieberson Fellowship
American Academy of Arts & Letters (2004)
ASCAP Special Award (1996-2013)
Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Recording Grant (CRI – *listen, it's snowing*) (1997)
Meet The Composer/Commissioning Music USA (1996)
The Greenwall Foundation (1996, 1994)
The Jerome Foundation (1996)
The Victor Herbert Foundation (1996)
New York Foundation for the Arts
Artists' New Works (1996, 1994)
National Endowment for the Arts
Opera-Music Theater, New American Works (1993-95)
Meet The Composer (1991-96)
Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc. (1990)

COMMISSIONS:

upon the water (SATB) (in progress)
Vassar College commission (madrigal choir)
sull'ala (concerto for saxophone and wind ensemble)
(consortium of universities, schools of music, and individuals)
cristalli (solo piano)
commissioned by Alice F. Weston
for her *Crystal Clues to the Sublime* (film with live performance)
Sylvia Songs (soprano and string quartet)
Chamber Music Conference & Composers' Forum of the East
Terra Cruda (wind ensemble)
NWECG (National Wind Ensemble Consortium Group)
Gates of Silence (3 chamber works) Blair Commissioning Project/Vanderbilt U.
Lament: The Fallen City - violin & piano (Carolyn Huebl-vln);
The Journey without Her - piano trio (Blakemore Trio);
Dido Refuses to Speak - piano trio & soprano (Blakemore Trio w/ Susan Botti)
un bacio (sop, bari, 2 fl, bass cl, cello, steel drums)
Manhattan School of Music commission (Zero Gravity)
Translucence (symphony orchestra) The Cleveland Orchestra
Cosmosis (wind ensemble, soprano and women's voices)
consortium led by Michael Haithcock, The University of Michigan
(incl. Baylor U., Florida State U., Michigan State U., U. of Tx-Austin)
Silent Movie (tenor & piano) The New York Festival of Song
in association with Meet the Composer
for *Songbook for a New Century* (published by Boosey & Hawkes)
EchoTempo (soprano, percussion & orchestra) The New York Philharmonic
Within Darkness (violin solo & chamber orchestra) Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
Meet The Composer/ Arts Endowment Commissioning Music/USA
Pig Dreams: Scenes from the Life of Sylvia (soprano, flute & harp) The Jubal Trio
Mary Flagler Cary Commissioning Trust
Telaio: Desdemona - operatic soliloquy (soprano, harp, piano, percussion, string quartet)
The American Artists Series - 25th anniversary commission
funded (in part) by the National Endowment for the Arts

TEACHING:

Manhattan School of Music, NYC
Music Composition Faculty (2007-present)
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Adjunct Associate Professor (2012-present)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Associate Professor (with tenure) of Music Composition (2000-2006)
Residencies/Master Classes:
Chamber Music Conference & Composers' Forum of the East, Bennington, VT
Universities, Schools of Music... ex) Taipei National Univ. of the Arts, Taiwan
Univ. of Texas, Austin; Emory University, Atlanta
Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Hartt School of Music, Hartford, CT
"Contemporary Singing for Classical Singers"
/Queen of Puddings Music Theatre, Toronto

CURRICULUM TAUGHT:

Individual Composition Lessons, graduate and undergraduate
Advanced Instrumentation/Orchestration, graduate
Freshman Orchestration
Composition Seminar, graduate and undergraduate
Creative Composition (composition for music majors/non-composition majors)
Private voice lessons/coaching

EDUCATION:

Manhattan School of Music, NYC - Master of Music (Music Composition), 1990
Composition: Ludmila Ulehla, Giampaolo Bracali
Jon Woolley Merit Award – “outstanding accomplishment in composition”
Berklee College of Music, Boston - Bachelor of Music, 1984
Composition: Robert Freedman

ADDITIONAL STUDIES:

Vocal studies: Hilda Harris, Drew Minter, Nancy Armstrong, Myron McPherson
Jazz/Improvisation: Dominique Eade (voice), Orville Wright (piano)
Matt Glaser, Allan Chase (improvisation)
Acting: Morris Carnovsky, Tim McDonough, Kenneth Albers
Cleveland Institute of Music
Piano: Rosemary Christopherson
Voice: Reuben Caplin

SERVICE:

Board Member, American Music Center (2007-2010)
Adjudicator/Panelist:
The Rome Prize (American Academy in Rome), The Greenwall Foundation
Meet the Composer, ASCAP/Lotte Lehman, Maryland Arts Foundation
University of Michigan:
Scholarship Committee, Council of Departmental Representatives
Concerto Composition adjudicator
Composers' Forum – faculty advisor
Advisor – private students

PERFORMANCE VENUES OF COMPOSITIONS (SAMPLE):

Avery Fisher Hall, New York City
Bury St. Edmunds Festival, England
Carnegie Hall, New York City
Congresshalle Saarbrücken, Germany
DiMenna Center, NYC
Disney Hall (Green Umbrella), Los Angeles, CA
Festival of New American Music, Sacramento, CA
Festival of the Future, Ernen, Switzerland
Galapagos Art Space, Brooklyn, NY
Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI
Kaye Playhouse, New York City
Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.
Merkin Recital Hall, New York City
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City
Muziekcentrum Vredenburg, Utrecht, The Netherlands
National Recital Hall, Taipei (National Symphony Orchestra)
Severance Hall, Cleveland
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.
Society for Ethical Culture, New York City
St. Clement's Church, New York City
Symphony Space, NYC
Villa Aurelia, The American Academy, Rome, Italy
Voices of Change, Dallas, TX
Zankel Hall, New York City
Zellerbach Hall (Berkeley Symphony), CA

REVIEWS OF PERFORMANCES OF COMPOSITIONS:

American Record Guide
Andante
Ann Arbor News
Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Cleveland Plain Dealer
Dallas Morning News
Detroit Free Press
Fanfare
New York Times
Newsday
Philadelphia Inquirer
Saarbrücken Zeitung (Germany)
Seattle Weekly
Washington Post

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES/INTERVIEWS/PODCASTS:

Ann Arbor News
Berklee Today
Detroit Free Press
Fast Company
Nashville Public Radio (NPR)
New York Times
Pasatiempo (Santa Fe)
Playbill
Pytheus
Stagebill
The Composer Next Door (Rob Deemer)
The 21st Century Voice by Michael Edward Edgerton
Scarecrow Press, (feature)
WCLV
Women of Influence in Contemporary Music: Nine American Composers
ed. Michael Slayton, chapter author: Carson Cooman; Scarecrow Press

DISCOGRAPHY:

Gates of Silence (Botti), Albany Records
composer/soprano
Blakemore Trio
Terra Cruda (Botti), 2014 / Naxos
composer
Hartt Wind Ensemble; Glen Adsit, conductor
Cosmosis (Botti), on the CD "Brooklyn Bridge"/Equilibrium
composer/soprano
U of Michigan Symphony Band; Michael Haithcock, conductor
listen, it's snowing (Botti) / CRI
composer/soprano
vocal chamber works
Mistletoe Bride (Paul Chihara) / Albany Records
soprano soloist
2000 Today (Tan Dun) / Sony Classical
soprano soloist
Marco Polo (Tan Dun) / Sony Classical
Role of "Water" (soprano)
Snow in June (Tan Dun) on the CD "Silk Road" / CRI
soprano soloist
Wes York (Wes York) / New World Records
soprano soloist

SELECTED VOCAL PERFORMANCES OF MUSIC BY COMPOSER COLLEAGUES:

Songs of Desire, Love and Loss (Matheson) – soprano soloist
Steven Stucky, conductor
Green Umbrella, Disney Hall, Los Angeles

with lilies white (Pintscher) – 1st & 3rd soprano parts
The Cleveland Orchestra
Christoph von Dohnányi, conductor (premiere)
Matthius Pintscher, conductor (2010)
Severance Hall, Cleveland

Marco Polo (Tan Dun/Paul Griffiths) – opera
role of “Water”
Tan Dun, conductor; Martha Clarke, director
NY City Opera; Münchener Biennale; Holland Festival;
Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Hong Kong Arts Fest.,
Settembre Musica (Torino), Barbican Centre (London)

Orchestral Theatre III: Red Forecast (Tan Dun) – soprano soloist
soprano and orchestra
Tan Dun, conductor
Carnegie Hall, Glasgow, Huddersfield, Lyon, Tanglewood

in Recital –
works by Botti, Berio, Kurtág, York, Tan Dun, Hosokawa,
Gubaidulina, Partch, Crumb, Boulez, Walton...
Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI
Festival of New American Music, Sacramento, CA
Seattle Spring Festival of Contemporary Music
Festival of Twentieth Century Music, NYC

RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Actor in theater productions
w/ directors Robert Wilson, Andre Serban,
David Wheeler, Robert Scanlon and James Carmody
Solo singer in national commercials incl. Pepperidge Farm, Kodak, Royal Caribbean, Miller Beer...
Soundtracks: *The Banquet* (Tan Dun – solo soprano); *Mission to Mars* (Morricone – chorus)
Acting and Vocal work – film and TV
member, SAG, AFTRA, AEA