

# SUSAN BOTTI

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As 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, including the Goddard Lieberman Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Rome Prize; and grants from Meet The Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Aaron Copland Fund, The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, The NY Foundation for the Arts, The Greenwall Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, ASCAP, and the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts. 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.

Recent premieres include Botti's *Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Ensemble*, with Carrie Koffman (saxophone) and Glen Adsit conducting the Hartt Wind Ensemble. *Gates of Silence*, which was commissioned from the Blakemore Trio (Vanderbilt University) – 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 recently been released on Albany Records, with support from the Copland Fund.

In addition to performing her own vocal works, Botti specializes in the performance of contemporary music by composers of diverse styles, including: Gubaidulina, Kurtág, Chihara, Pintscher, Matheson, and Cage, among others. 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).

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Botti's early training included studies in music, art, and theater. She received her Bachelor of Music from the Berklee School of Music; and her Masters in Music Composition from the Manhattan School of Music. She is a member of the Composition faculty at the Manhattan School of Music in NYC, and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Vassar College.

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