

SUSAN BOTTI

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, and the Rome Prize; and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Fund, 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.

Recently premiered was *Bird Songs*, for solo soprano "in a nest of percussion" – commissioned and premiered by Lucy Shelton; and *Mangetsu* for soprano and violin – commissioned by violinist Airi Yoshioka (premiered by Botti and Yoshioka). *Gates of Silence*, (Albany Records) is a group of 3 works for violin & piano; piano trio; and piano trio plus soprano (Botti). Inspired by Virgil's *Aeneid*, it incorporates poetry by National Book Award finalist, Linda Gregerson. This poetry, *Dido Refuses to Speak*, was awarded a 2011 Pushcart Prize.

A recording of Botti's vocal chamber music, *listen, it's snowing*, (New World/CRI) features her operatic soliloquy, *Telaio: Desdemona* (for soprano, string quartet, harp, piano & percussion). Called "striking emotional music..." (Opera Magazine), this work was commissioned by The American Artists Series of Detroit, and has been performed in numerous venues including New York City, Taipei, Santa Fe, Atlanta, and Washington D.C.

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 faculties at the Manhattan School of Music, and at Vassar College.

www.susanbotti.com
www.youtube.com/SUBOmusic