

ANDREW THOMAS

Director of the Pre-College Division

Andrew Thomas was born October 8, 1939 in Ithaca, New York. A student of Karel Husa at Cornell University, and Nadia Boulanger in Paris, he earned his master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees in composition from The Juilliard School where he studied with Luciano Berio, Elliot Carter, and Otto Luening. He has taught composition at the Pre-College Division at Juilliard for thirty-six years and in 1994, The Juilliard School appointed him the Director of the Pre-College Division. In addition to composing, Dr. Thomas performs as a pianist and conductor. He has won many awards including a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars has cited Dr. Thomas as a Distinguished Teacher. On Saturday, October 9, 2004, Dr. Thomas celebrates his 10th Anniversary as Director of the Juilliard Pre-College Division and his 35th as a faculty member of the Division with a special solo piano recital in Paul Hall.

In January 1997, Vladimir Ashkenazy led The Deutsches Symphonie Orchester/Berlin in a performance of Thomas's Marimba Concerto, *Loving Mad Tom* with soloist Evelyn Glennie. His work for solo Marimba, *Merlin*, has become a standard among percussionists and two recordings of this work currently are available with William Moersch on Newport Classics, and Nancy Zeltsman on GM Records. Recent works include *Wind* for solo Marimba, premiered by Makoto Nakura, and *The Heroic Triad*, a commission from Twentieth Century Unlimited for Guitar, Percussion, and String Orchestra. In January 2001, Renée Fleming sang Dr. Thomas's song *I Just Found Another New Voice Teacher* with the Orpheus Strings on 'Live From Lincoln Center' and last spring, he composed *On the Beginning*, specifically for Ms. Fleming, which she performed at Juilliard's 98th Commencement.

As guest of the Chinese Government in 2000, Dr. Thomas performed his piano composition, *Music at Twilight*, in Hong Kong and Guangzhou, and was a member of a panel of pianists from all over the world judging the 2000 Chinese Works Piano Competition. In December 2001, he returned to China to conduct his *Three Scenes from the Summer Palace*, perform, and to teach master classes in composition. Dr. Thomas is an Advisor of Guangxi Arts College and a guest conductor of the Guangxi Arts College Youth Orchestra. He returned to China in 2002 for further conducting and as the main Western speaker at a conference of middle school administrators and government officials from all parts of China. Dr. Thomas is co-director of the Seoul Arts Festival and Academy. In August 2005 he directed two concerts of the Prime Philharmonic Orchestra in Seoul, featuring five concertos performed by faculty members from Juilliard, Korea, and the San Francisco Conservatory. In November 2005, he will conduct the Korean Symphony Orchestra in Seoul. Dr. Thomas is composing a full-length ballet for the Guangxi Arts College in Nanning, PRC, employing Western symphony orchestra and traditional Chinese orchestra.

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