

LEON KIRCHNER
COMPOSER



Leon Kirchner

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Leon Kirchner was born on January 24, 1919 of Russian parents in Brooklyn, grew up in Los Angeles, and studied with Arnold Schoenberg, Roger Sessions, and Ernest Bloch. Stylistically, Kirchner remained remarkably individual; earlier influences of Hindemith, Bartók, and Stravinsky soon yielded to a wholehearted identification with the aesthetics, if not necessarily the specific procedures, of Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern.

Extraordinarily gifted as both a pianist and a conductor, Kirchner was first and foremost a composer. A member of the American Academies of Arts and Letters and of Arts and Sciences, he was honored twice by the New York Music Critics' Circle (*String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2*), and received the Naumburg Award (*Piano Concerto No. 1*), the Pulitzer Prize (*String Quartet No. 3*), the Friedheim Award (*Music for Cello and Orchestra*), and commissions from, among others, the Ford, Fromm, and Koussevitzky Foundations, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Spoleto and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festivals, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. He was composer-in-residence and a performer at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; the Tanglewood Music Center; Tokyo Music Today (Takemitsu Festival); and the Spoleto, Charleston; Aldeburgh; and Marlboro Music Festivals. He also conducted at a number of leading music festivals around the world, most recently at Ravinia. He taught for many years at Harvard University.

Kirchner's most recent works included *The Forbidden*, for James Levine and the Boston Symphony Orchestra; *Music for Cello and Orchestra*, for Yo-Yo Ma and the Philadelphia Orchestra (recorded on Sony

Classical); *Trio No. 2* for the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio; *Of Things Exactly as They Are*, a work for orchestra, chorus, and soloists for the Boston Symphony Orchestra; and *String Quartet No. 4* for the Orion Quartet. Following their premiere of *String Quartet No. 4*, the Orion Quartet recorded Kirchner's complete quartets — works which span a 57-year period — for Albany Records. Other recent works included piano pieces for Russell Sherman and Jonathan Biss, and a violin-piano duo premiered by Ida Levin and Jeremy Denk.

Performers who have championed Kirchner's work include Yo-Yo Ma, who has toured and recorded both *Music for Cello and Orchestra* and *Triptych* for Sony; the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Continuum; pianists Peter Serkin, who commissioned and recorded *Interlude* (BMG), and Leon Fleisher; cellist Carter Brey; flutist Paula Robinson; conductors Oliver Knussen, Hugh Wolff, and John Adams; and the trios of Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson and Buswell-Parnas-Luvisi.

Other recordings include Kirchner's first three string quartets (Boston Composers String Quartet, Albany) and Nonesuch's all-Kirchner recording which includes the *Concerto for Violoncello, Ten Winds, and Percussion*; the *Piano Trio*; *Five Piano Pieces*; and *Music for Twelve*, featuring the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. Of *Music for Twelve*, Allan Kozinn of *The New York Times* wrote: "There is magic in the interplay between the 12 soloistic lines, and in the way instrumental colors seem to grow from each other to form lengthy melodies."

Kirchner's music is published by Associated Music Publishers.

Orchestra and ensemble instrumentation appear in score order:

flute.oboe.clarinet.saxophone.bassoon/
horn.trumpet.trombone.tuba/
percussion/
harp.keyboard/
other plucked strings/
violin1.violin2.viola.cello.doublebass;
continuo;
electronic tape;
voice(s) treated as an instrument

The numbers between the slashes indicate the number of instruments in each group. Sometimes within each group, instruments are separated by dots for clarity.

The letters "str" without indication of number indicates that a string group, without any specific demands as to the number of strings, is involved.

Primary instruments within the woodwind and brass groups are indicated by numbers unless an abbreviation is clearer. Saxophones are not indicated by a number unless present. For example: 2232/4331/str indicates 2 flutes, 3 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 tuba, string section.

For example: fl.cl/hn/str indicates 1 flute, 1 clarinet, 1 horn, string section

Instruments in parentheses indicate doubling
1(pic)111 signifies that the flute player also plays the piccolo.

Doublings separated by a comma may indicate one player
2(afl,pic)111 signifies that one of the flutes doubles both alto flute and piccolo.

Doublings separated by a colon may indicate different players
2(afl:pic)111 signifies that one flute doubles alto flute and the other doubles piccolo.

Instruments preceded by an equals sign in square brackets indicate alternatives
11[=ca]11 signifies that the oboe can be replaced by an English horn.

Instruments in square brackets indicates that the instrument is optional
111[bcl]1 signifies that the bass clarinet part is optional

A plus in front of the instrument indicates an additional player

1+pic.111 signifies that there is a piccolo player as well as a flute player.

A plus in brackets indicates that additional instruments can be used, if desired

213[+]-2 signifies that three or more clarinets can be used.

Example 1

Solo: 2 violins, oboe
2(pic:afl)2.2(Ebcl,bcl).2/4331/2perc/hp.2pf/
str(14.12.10.8.6)

2 solo violins
1 solo oboe
2 flutes (1 player doubling piccolo, the other doubling alto)
2 oboes
2 clarinets (one player doubling both E-flat clarinet and bass clarinet)
2 bassoons
4 horns
3 trumpets
3 trombones
1 tuba
2 percussionists
harp
2 pianos
a string group consisting of 14 first violins, 12 second violins, 10 violas, 8 cellos, and 6 bass

Example 2

afl.1[=ca].1.1/1000/timp.perc/str

1 alto flute
1 oboe or English horn
1 clarinet
1 bassoon
1 horn
1 timpanist
1 percussionist
strings

Concerto for Piano No. 1	4
Concerto for Piano No. 2	4
Concerto for Violin, Violoncello, 10 Winds, and Percussion	4
Duo	5
Duo No. 2	5
Fanfare	5
Fanfare II	4
Five Pieces	6
Flutings for Paula	
original for flute and optional percussion	5
revised for flute and percussion	5
For Cello Solo	5
For Violin Solo	5
For Violin Solo II	5
The Forbidden	4
Happy Birthday David	6
Illuminations	4
Interlude	6
Interlude II	6
L. H.	6
Lily	
opera	4
for soprano and chamber ensemble	5
Little Suite	6
Music for Cello and Orchestra	4
Music for Flute and Orchestra	4
Music for Orchestra	4
Music for Twelve	4
Of Things Exactly As They Are	6
Orchestra Piece (Music for Orchestra II)	4
Piano Sonata No. 3 (The Forbidden)	6
Sinfonia	4
Sonata Concertante	5
Sonata No. 1	6
Sonata No. 2	6
String Quartet No. 1	5
String Quartet No. 2	5
String Quartet No. 3	5
String Quartet No. 4	5
Toccata	4
Trio	5
Trio II	5
Triptych	5
The Twilight Stood	6
Words from Wordsworth	6

Opera and Music Theatre

Lily (1977) 1h 30'
Text: English; Libretto by the composer after Saul Bellow's novel 'Henderson the Rain King'
Solo: 3 male, 4 female roles; chorus
3(pic).3(ca).3(bcl).2(cbn)/4.3.3.1/timp.4perc/str/tp
First performance: April 14 1977
New York City Opera; Tom O'Horgan, director;
Leon Kirchner, conductor; New York, NY
Unavailable

Orchestra

The Forbidden (2008) 15'
2.2+ca.2.2/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/pf(=cel)/str
First performance: October 16 2008
Boston Symphony Orchestra; James Levine, conductor; Boston, MA

Music for Orchestra (1969) 14'
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.4=[5]perc/pf(=cel)/str
First performance: October 16 1969
New York Philharmonic; Leon Kirchner, conductor;
New York, NY
Score 50481438 for sale

Orchestra Piece (Music for Orchestra II) (1990) 10'
3(pic).2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.2perc/pf(=cel)/str
First performance: January 30 1990
New England Conservatory Orchestra; Leon Kirchner, conductor; Jordan Hall, Boston, MA

Sinfonia (1951) 22'
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.perc/cel.hp.pt/str
First performance: January 1952
New York Philharmonic; Dimitri Mitropoulos, conductor; New York, NY
Score 50488723 for sale

Toccata (1955) 14'
0.1.1.1/1.1.1.0/perc/cel/str
First performance: February 16 1956
San Francisco Symphony Orchestra; Enrique Jorda, conductor; San Francisco, CA
Score 50237600 for sale

Soloist(s) and Orchestra

Concerto for Piano No. 1 (1953) 32'
Solo: Piano
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.perc/cel/str
First performance: February 23 1956
Leon Kirchner, piano; New York Philharmonic;
Dimitri Mitropoulos, conductor; New York, NY
Score 50239030 for sale

Concerto for Piano No. 2 (1963) 30'
Solo: Piano
2+pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.5perc/cel/str
First performance: October 28 1963
Leon Fleisher, piano; Seattle Symphony Orchestra;
Leon Kirchner, conductor; Seattle, WA

Concerto for Violin, Violoncello, 10 Winds, and Percussion (1960) 19'
Solo: Violin, Cello
1.1.1.1+cbn/1.2.2.0/timp.3perc/cel
First performance: October 16 1960
Robert Gerle, violin; Aldo Parisot, cello; members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Leon Kirchner, conductor; Baltimore, MD
Score 50237750 for sale

Music for Cello and Orchestra (1992) 18'
Solo: Cello
3(pic).3+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/pf(=cel)/str
First performance: October 16 1992
Yo-Yo Ma, cello; Philadelphia Orchestra; David Zinman, conductor; Philadelphia, PA

Music for Flute and Orchestra (1978) 13'
Solo: Flute
3.3.3.3/4.3.3.1/timp.5[+]perc/pf(cel,[epf]).hp/str
First performance: October 20 1978
Paula Robison, flute; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra; John Nelson, conductor; Indianapolis, IN

Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

Fanfare II (1977) 1' 30"
2hn, 2tpt, 2tbn, tba
First performance: 1985
Tanglewood Music Festival; Lenox, MA

Illuminations (1986) 1' 15"
2hn, 3tpt, 3tbn, btbn
First performance: September 4 1986
350th Anniversary of Harvard University; University Brass; Tercentenary Theatre, Cambridge, MA

Music for Twelve (1985) 10'
fl, ob, cl, bn, hn, tpt, tbn, pf, vn, va, vc, db
First performance: February 17 1985
Boston Symphony Chamber Players; Leon Kirchner, conductor; Boston, MA
Score 50481503 for sale

Soloist(s) and
Large Ensemble
(7 or more players)**Lily (for soprano and chamber ensemble)
(1973)** 22'

Text: English; Saul Bellow

Solo: Soprano

fl, ob, cl, bn, hn, perc, pf, cel, vn, va, vc, tape

*First performance: March 11 1973**Diana Hoagland, soprano; The Ensemble; Dennis**Russell Davies, conductor; New York, NY*

Unavailable

Works for 2-6 Players

Duo (1947)

vn, pf

*First performance: 1947**Berkeley, CA*

Score 50488507 for sale

Duo No. 2 (2001) 14'

vn, pf

*First performance: July 27 2002**Ida Levin, violin; Jeremy Denk, piano; Marlboro**Music Festival; Marlboro, VT*

Score and Part(s) 50485827 for sale

Fanfare (1965) 2'

hn, 2tpt

*First performance: 1965**Marlboro Music Festival; Marlboro, VT*

Score and Part(s) 50225970 for sale

Flutings for Paula (1973, rev. 2006) 5' 30"

fl, perc

*First performance: September 21 2006**Paula Robison, flute; Ayano Kataoka, percussion;**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center;**Alice Tully Hall, New York, NY*

Score 50486462 for sale

Sonata Concertante (1952) 20'

vn, pf

*First performance: November 30 1952**Tossy Spivakovsky, violin; Leon Kirchner, piano;**Carnegie Hall, New York, NY*

Score and Part(s) 50488722 for sale

String Quartet No. 1 (1949) 20'

2vn, va, vc

*First performance: March 1950**Juilliard String Quartet; New York, NY*

Score 50481193, Set of Parts 50488737 for sale

String Quartet No. 2 (1958) 19'

2vn, va, vc

*First performance: 1958**Lenox Quartet; New York, NY*

Score 50237710, Set of Parts 50225080 for sale

String Quartet No. 3 (1966) 16'

2vn, va, vc, tape

*First performance: January 27 1967**Beaux Arts Quartet; New York, NY***String Quartet No. 4 (2006)** 13'

2vn, va, vc

*First performance: August 6 2006**La Jolla Music Society Summerfest 2006; Orion**String Quartet; La Jolla, CA***Trio (1954)** 15'

vn, vc, pf

*First performance: November 30 1954**Henri Temianka, violin; Lucien Laporte, cello;**Leon Kirchner, piano; Pasadena, CA*

Score and Part(s) 50225180 for sale

Trio II (1993) 15'

vn, vc, pf

*First performance: December 14 1993**Jaime Laredo, violin; Sharon Robinson, cello;**Joseph Kalichstein, piano; New York, NY*

Score and Part(s) 50482307 for sale

Triptych (1988) 20'

vn, vc

*First performance: August 17 1988**Tanglewood Music Festival; Lynn Chang, violin;**Yo-Yo Ma, cello; Lenox, MA*

Score and Part(s) 50481216 for sale

Solo Works
(excluding keyboard)**Flutings for Paula (1973)** 5' 30"

fl, [opt perc]

*First performance: July 23 1971**Paula Robison, flute;**Harvard University, Cambridge, MA*

Score 50228000 for sale

For Cello Solo (1986) 11'

vc

*First performance: May 28 1988**Spoleto Festival USA; Carter Brey, cello;**Charleston, SC*

Solo Part 50480494 for sale

For Violin Solo (1986) 11'

vn

*First performance: September 1986**International Violin Competition of Indianapolis;**Indianapolis, IN*

Solo Part 50480299 for sale

For Violin Solo II (1988) 8'

vn

*First performance: January 22 1989**Maria Bachman, violin; Washington, DC*

Solo Keyboard(s)

Five Pieces (1987)

pf

First performance: March 7 1987
Jeffrey Kahane, piano; Boston, MA
Score 50480353 for sale

Interlude (1989)

pf

First performance: November 11 1989
Peter Serkin, piano; 92nd St. Y, New York, NY
Score 50481215 for sale

Interlude II (2003)

pf

First performance: July 1 2003
Jonathan Biss, piano; City of London Festival;
London, England
Score 50485965 for sale

L.H. (1995)

pf

First performance: December 6 1995
Leon Fleisher, piano; Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
Score 50485964 for sale

Little Suite (1949)

pf

Score 50488721 for sale

Piano Sonata No. 3 (The Forbidden) (2006)

pf

First performance: November 11 2006
Joel Fan, piano; Longy School of Music,
Cambridge, MA

Sonata No. 1 (1948)

pf

First performance: March 1949
New York, NY
Published by Mobart Music Publications

Sonata No. 2 (2003)

pf

First performance: November 2 2003
Russell Sherman, piano; Boston, MA

Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument

Words from Wordsworth (1966)

Text: English; William Wordsworth
Mixed chorus a cappella

Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

Of Things Exactly As They Are (1997)

Text: English; Robinson Jeffers, Emily Dickinson,
Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wallace Stevens,
Robert Lowell

Solo: Soprano, Baritone
SATB chorus;
2+pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/4perc/
hp.pf(cel)/str

First performance: September 26 1997
Roberta Alexander, soprano; William Stone,
baritone; Boston Symphony Orchestra;
Seiji Ozawa, conductor; Boston, MA

Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

Happy Birthday David

High voice, pf

First performance: July 10 1996
Minnesota Orchestra Sommerfest;
Minneapolis, MN

The Twilight Stood (1982)

Text: English; Emily Dickinson
Soprano, pf

First performance: June 1982
Spoletto Festival USA; Beverly Hoch, soprano;
Leon Kirchner, piano; Charleston, SC
Score 50507910 for sale

14'

5'

7'

6'

7'

10'

12' 30"

14'

14'

5'

35'

1' 30"

12'

Concerto for Piano No. 1

Leon Kirchner, piano
New York Philharmonic
Dmitri Mitropoulos, conductor
Music & Arts 1045

Concerto for Violin, Violoncello, 10 Winds, and Percussion

Jules Eskin, cello
Malcolm Lowe, violin
Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Nonesuch 79188

Duo

Continuum
Naxos 8559195

Ida Levin, violin
Jeremy Denk, piano
Bridge 9203

Five Pieces

Leon Kirchner, piano
Nonesuch 79188

Max Levinson, piano
Albany TROY 906

Flutings for Paula

Continuum
Naxos 8.559195

Paula Robison, flute
Ayano Kataoka, percussion
Pergola 1038

Interlude

Peter Serkin, piano
Albany TROY 906

Interlude II

Jonathan Biss, piano
Albany TROY 906

Lily (for soprano and chamber ensemble)

Diana Hoagland, soprano
Columbia Chamber Soloists
Leon Kirchner, conductor
Music & Arts 1045

Music for Cello and Orchestra

Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Philadelphia Orchestra
David Zinman, conductor
Sony Classical SK 66299

Music for Twelve

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Leon Kirchner, conductor
Nonesuch 79188

Piano Sonata No. 3 (The Forbidden)

Jonathan Biss, piano
Albany TROY 906

Sonata Concertante

Eudice Shapiro, violin
Leon Kirchner, piano
Music & Arts 1045

Jaime Laredo, violin
Ruth Laredo, piano
Phoenix USA 136

Sonata No. 1

Leon Fleisher, piano
Albany TROY 906
Sony SK 57338

Continuum
Naxos 8.559195

Sara Laimon, piano
Albany TROY 685

William Race, piano
Elan Recordings 82292

Sonata No. 2

Jeremy Denk, piano
Albany TROY 906

String Quartet No. 1

Boston Composers String Quartet
Albany TROY 137

American Art Quartet
Music & Arts 1045

Orion String Quartet
Albany TROY 1030

String Quartet No. 2

Boston Composers String Quartet
Albany TROY 137

Orion String Quartet
Albany TROY 1030

Lenox String Quartet
Music & Arts 1045

Mendelssohn String Quartet
BIS 1264

Sonata No. 3 ("The Forbidden")

Jonathan Biss, piano
Albany TROY 906

String Quartet No. 3

Boston Composers String Quartet
Albany TROY 137

Beaux Arts Quartet
Music & Arts 1045

Orion String Quartet
Albany TROY 1030

Concord String Quartet
Vox Box 5143

String Quartet No. 4

Orion String Quartet
Albany TROY 1030

Trio

Continuum
Naxos 8559195

Samaris Piano Trio
Newport Classic 85642

Oberlin Trio
SNE 2028

Nathan Rubin, violin
George Neikrug, cello
Leon Kirchner, piano
Music and Arts 1045

Malcolm Lowe, violin
Jules Eskin, cello
Leon Kirchner, piano
Nonesuch 79188

Trio II

Kalichstein, Laredo, Robinson Trio
Arabesque 6676

Triptych

Continuum
Naxos 8.559195

Lynn Chang, violin
Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Sony Classical SK 53126



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