

Composer Joel Feigin Press Questions

The following questions are intended for print and broadcast journalists in connection with interviews with composer Joel Feigin. These topics are designed to facilitate conversation with him and will make for a fascinating interview:

1. Tell me about your early training, especially your work with Nadia Boulanger and Roger Sessions.
2. Which composers have influenced your work?
3. How has your music evolved?
5. What attracts to literary sources for songs, or for a project like your operas ***Outcast at the Gate*** or ***Twelfth Night***, and what is your process in setting texts? What is your concept of narrative in your music?
6. Tell me about your travels in Russia with the Fulbright program.
7. How does your study of Zen Buddhism affect your music and your creative process?
8. What does the future hold for Joel Feigin?
9. What are your thoughts on teaching composition? Have they changed since you retired?
10. Do you have any thoughts on the directions music might take in the future?

Joel Feigin's website is at <http://www.joelfeigin.com>. All press inquiries should be directed to Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@att.net.

Press Review Quotes

On *Twelfth Night*

Twelfth Night brought audiences at both Santa Barbara performances spontaneously to their feet in salute. Feigin's magical score is key to that exuberant response...Everyone involved clearly revelled in the opportunity...Having seen both UCSB performances – I was not alone in wanting to experience this glittering masterpiece a second time – there is but one piece of advice to pass along to opera producers around the world: book this fresh and artistically satisfying opera at your earliest opportunity. It's a sleeper that deserves to be in the repertory of major opera houses.—Dan Kepl, ***Bravo California***

On *Outcast at the Gate*

This wonderful new opera... is especially timely given that displacement, refugees and the social upheaval that takes place around them is one of our major global concerns and tragedies of the moment, and for the foreseeable future....The music is as powerful as the story itself, and moves with

the slow, restless and inexorable pace inherent in the ancient Greek tragedies. It is contemporary, but with echoes of the distant past. --James Grant, *SoundWordSight.com*

On *Transcience--Music of Joel Feigin (North/South Recordings)*

The music of Joel Feigin... is deeply rooted in the history of European-American concert music yet rich with the yin-yang juxtapositions possible in post-war, postmodern America. A composer of atonal music, Feigin unabashedly and effectively laces his scores with tonality. A lover of intricately woven counterpoint, Feigin can pull out a soaring melody that rivals Schubert. All this adds up to a music that is never easy listening, yet always approachable music that confidently negotiated today's tricky aesthetic borders.--Carol Oja, **William Russell Mason Professor of Music at Harvard University**

On *Joel Feigin: Music for Chamber Orchestra (Toccata Classics)*

Aviv, a concerto for piano and Mozartian chamber orchestra, finds the composer in his most jocular and light-hearted mood, and indeed the work is written as a tribute to Mozart himself. Its title is the modern Hebrew word for "spring," representing his desire to write a happy work...All of the proceedings are cast in a tonal language, but the listener is never able to predict what will come next. The first movement transitions without pause into the second, a beautiful, serene, and solemn piece that often draws upon lush harmonies...the concerto coheres beautifully. I cannot but believe that other pianists, hearing this work, will also want to program it...This is music that demands to be heard. - David DeBoor Canfield, *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 45:2 (Nov/Dec 2021)

and

I found this recording an immensely gratifying experience. It's wonderful to hear a contemporary composer who embraces varying styles and mores of expression without a hint of pastiche, and in a totally convincing and communicative fashion. I'm delighted to recommend this disc for your consideration and exploration – Ken Meltzer, *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 45:2 (Nov/Dec 2021)

On *Lament Amid Silence*

The profoundly expressive work by composer Joel Feigin "Lament Amid Silence" is one of the most beautiful and dramatic pieces in the literature for the viola. The wonderful addition of the 6 viola ensemble to accompany the solo violist makes this a unique and much needed addition to our under represented literature. I believe that any important work such as this deserves the attention of all viola lovers alike and I know will share with us the rewards of working and hearing such an inspiring piece.-- Helen Callus, **violist and recording artist**