

Vincent Ho – Biography

Vincent Ho is widely recognized as one of the most exciting composers of his generation. His works have been hailed for their profound expressiveness and textural beauty, leaving audiences talking about them with great enthusiasm. His many awards have included Harvard University's Fromm Music Commission, The Canada Council for the Arts' "Robert Fleming Prize," ASCAP's "Morton Gould Young Composer Award," four SOCAN Young Composers Awards, and CBC Radio's Audience Choice Award (2009 Young Composers' Competition).

Born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1975, Vincent Ho began his musical training through the Royal Conservatory of Music. He received his Associate Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto) in 1993, his Bachelor of Music from the University of Calgary in 1998, his Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto in 2000, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California in 2005. His mentors have included Allan Bell, David Eagle, Christos Hatzis, Walter Buczynski, and Stephen Hartke. In 1997, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Schola Cantorum Summer Composition Program in Paris, where he received further training in analysis, composition, counterpoint, and harmony, supervised by David Diamond, Philip Lasser, and Narcis Bonet.

During his period with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as composer-in-residence (2007-2014), Ho has presented a number of large-scale works that have generated much excitement and critical praise. His *Arctic Symphony* has been described as "a beautiful work that evokes the Far North in a very special way" (John Corigliano), and "a mature and atmospheric work that firmly establishes Ho among North American composers of note" (Winnipeg Free Press). His percussion concerto, titled *The Shaman*, composed for Dame Evelyn Glennie was hailed as a triumph, receiving unanimous acclaim, and was featured at Carnegie Hall's "Spring for Music Festival" in May of 2014. The success of this work led to a second collaboration with Dame Glennie, a tone poem for percussion and orchestra titled *From Darkness to Light*. His cello concerto, *City Suite*, composed for Canadian cellist Shauna Rolston, received similar praise.

In his free time, he enjoys running, reading, traveling, dancing, hiking, playing chess, and learning the keyboard works of Bach, Beethoven, Ravel, and Ligeti (among many others). He is also an enthusiast of old-time radio shows, photography, crime noir, Zen art, jazz, Jimi Hendrix, graphic novels, and Stanley Kubrick films.