

metropolis ensemble



RYAN FRANCIS / COMPOSER

American composer Ryan Francis has made a career out of an eclectic mix of musical projects. His music has been described as “shimmering”, “focused” and “warmly lyrical” (*New York Times*), “sweeping” and “exceptional” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*), as well as “compelling” (*Los Angeles Times*). Upcoming projects in 2017 include *Pocket Studies* for the P-series synthesizers and a new large-scale keyboard composition for pianist Conor Hanick.

Recent projects include the score to a 1947 silent film for Criterion's *Lone Wolf and Cub* collection, a violin and electronics work for Miranda Cuckson, and two new ballets with acclaimed Swedish choreographer Pontus Lidberg, *SNOW* (2015), for the Joyce Theater in New York, and *Stream* (2013), for the Oregon Ballet Theater. *SNOW* was also featured on the Guggenheim's 2015 “Work and Process” series, and *Stream* was revived by Ballet Austin for their 2015-2016 season.

In 2013, Francis was commissioned by the Egyptian ensemble El Sakia String Orchestra to compose *Akhet*, a concerto duo for soprano Neveen Alouba and pianist Kimball Gallagher for premieres at the Library of Alexandria and the El Sawy Culture Wheel in Cairo, Egypt. Other recent commissions include *Sequences-1* (2015) for Cadillac Moon Ensemble, *Album for Guitar* (2014) for

Mattias Jacobsson and Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and Sylvan (2012) for the Banff Centre of Canada.

Past projects of note include *High Line* (2010), Francis's orchestral response to Manhattan's new High Line park, premiered by the American Composers Orchestra in Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, *Wind- Up Bird Preludes* (2010) inspired by Haruki Murakami's novel *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* and premiered by pianist Akimi Fukuhara at Sumida Triphony Hall, Tokyo, and *The Rite Remixed* (2008), an electro-acoustic arrangement of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* that Francis co-created with composer Ricardo Romaneiro for the Wordless Music series and the Celebrate Brooklyn festival.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Francis trained at the Juilliard School, where he received his masters and doctoral degrees in composition as a student of Robert Beaser. At Juilliard Francis was twice the recipient of the Palmer Dixon Prize for outstanding composition, and he has received a Charles Ives scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. Francis also holds a bachelor of composition from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Bright Sheng, Evan Chambers, Susan Botti and Erik Santos. His music is available on Tzadik, New Focus Records, Albany, and New Dynamic Records.