

Patrick Soluri - Composer

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"If you are talking about up and coming, you are talking about Patrick Soluri..." says the Bergen Record. Having written in many idioms including orchestral, chamber, vocal and electronic music, but with a specialization in dramatic music for ballet, opera and film, Mr. Soluri is bringing his own unique touch to contemporary music today.

Mr. Soluri's achievements as a composer have occurred rapidly. Though he studied and performed several different styles of music, including jazz and rock, as a percussionist since the age of four, Mr. Soluri was only introduced to classical composition and piano at the age of eighteen while attending *Bennington College*. Since then, Mr. Soluri has received numerous grants, awards and recognitions as well as commissions and world premieres from numerous organizations.

A primary focus of Mr. Soluri's work has been orchestral music for ballet. His first ballet, *Ngoni*, was performed to critical and popular acclaim in 1997 at the *NuMillenniumMusicaDance* AIDS Benefit, produced by Mr. Soluri and choreographed by the renowned New York choreographer Francis Patrelle. The New York Times praised the "*compressed sophistication*" of this score. Following the success of this collaboration, Mr. Patrelle's NY based ballet company, *Dances Patrelle*, commissioned Mr. Soluri in 1998 to write a ballet inspired by John Singer Sargent's famous portrait, *Madame X*. Premiered in New York in April of 1999 and choreographed by Mr. Patrelle, "*Madame X*" also received both public success and critical recognition. The New York Times commented, "*The choreographic drama was enhanced by Patrick Soluri's restless score...*" The piece was performed again in 2004 featuring Sandra Brown (soloist) and Marcelo Gomes (principal) of American Ballet Theater. March 2007 saw the world premiere of Mr. Soluri's third orchestral ballet score, "*What Do We Do About Mother?*" Also commissioned by *Dances Patrelle* and choreographed by Mr. Patrelle, this ballet featured Jenifer Ringer and Stephen Hanna, principals with the New York City Ballet. In addition, "*Pas de Trois*," an orchestral suite excerpted from Mr. Soluri's ballet music, received its world premiere in 2007 by the *Astoria Symphony Orchestra*.

Mr. Soluri's first CD, "*Pas de Deux – Two Ballets by Patrick Soluri*," was recorded by the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra with conductor Richard Auldon Clark. This recording was produced by Mr. Soluri, released by Soluri Music in 2007, and is currently available on iTunes (US, Japan, Canada, UK/Europe & Australia/ New Zealand) as well as CD Baby, Rhapsody, Napster, Amazon MP3 and other online retailers.

Another focus for Mr. Soluri has been opera. In 1999, Mr. Soluri undertook his first opera, "*Inferno*," based on Dante's literary masterpiece. It was premiered in a fully staged production in New York with the *NuMillennium Orchestra* under the baton of Glen Barton Cortese. Following this, Mr. Soluri was commissioned by Gordon Ostrowski and the Manhattan School of Music Opera Studio to write the finale for their fall 1999 opera scenes program. The resulting work, "*A Dialogue on Time Upon the New Millennium*," was conducted by Gary Wedow of New York City Opera. Mr. Soluri's next operatic work and graduate thesis, "*Inferno of Dante: Canto V*," was selected to be performed with orchestra and soloists in the prestigious *VOX 2003: Showcasing American Composers* by New York City Opera. Most recently Mr. Soluri was accepted as a Resident Artist (2007/2008) in the American Lyric Theater's *Composer Librettist Development Program*, which was mentored by Mark Adamo and culminated in a public performance at Symphony Space in January 2008.

With his penchant for musical storytelling, Mr. Soluri is naturally drawn to film scoring. In the summer of 2000, he was selected to participate in the prestigious ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop in Hollywood. This led to a recording of his music on the *Newman Scoring Stage*, of the 20th Century Fox Studio, with an "A" list Hollywood orchestra conducted by Mr. Soluri himself. In the summer of 2005 Mr. Soluri composed the score for the independent feature film "*Dead Serious*," which has been screened in festivals throughout the United States. From 2006-2007 Mr. Soluri composed and produced 100+ tracks in many genres for a soon-to-be-released major Film & TV Music Library. In 2007 he scored the independent short film "*A Lesson in Biology*," which has also toured the film festival circuit in the US and overseas, and has won several awards.

Mr. Soluri's other recognitions include selection for the 2006 & 2007 *Who's Who in America* as a distinguished composer. He received consecutive *ASCAP Plus Awards* (for 2004 and 2005) from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Mr. Soluri was Composer-in-Residence for the *Manhattan Virtuosi* chamber orchestra from 1998 - 2000 and was a member of their Board of Directors. His first season as Composer-in-Residence culminated in the premiere of his *Fantasia* for String Trio & Orchestra, which received a 1998 *Margaret Fairbank Jory Copy Grant* from the American Music Center. In addition to composing, Mr. Soluri returned to playing the drums after a 10 year hiatus, and has performed around NYC with an alternative indie rock band in venues such as *CBGB's*, *Sine* and *Galapagos Art Space*.

Mr. Soluri began his formal training in composition at *Bennington College* in Vermont under the tutelage of Tobias Picker, Allen Shawn and Peter Golub. While attending Bennington he also studied improvisation and world percussion with Bill Dixon and Milford Graves, as well as electronic music with Joel Chadabe. Mr. Soluri went on to study on scholarship at the *Manhattan School of Music*, where his teachers included Aaron Jay Kernis (winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the Grawemeyer Award) and Nils Vigeland. He earned his BM in 1999. In May 2002 Mr. Soluri graduated with an MM in composition from the *University of Louisville* where he was a recipient of the *Moritz von Bomhard Fellowship*, a two-year, non-teaching, full graduate fellowship focusing on opera and dramatic vocal composition.