

Michael Djupstrom, composer and pianist
www.michaeldjupstrom.com

Professional Biography

Composer and pianist Michael Djupstrom's work captured first prizes in the international composition competitions of the UK's Delius Society, the American Viola Society, the Chinese Fine Arts Society, and has received awards from institutions including the American Academy of Arts and Letters (Charles Ives Fellowship), Pew Center for Arts & Heritage (Pew Fellowship), S&R Evermay (Grand Prize, Washington Awards), Music Teachers National Association, College Band Directors National Association, New Music USA, American Composers Forum, Académie musicale de Villecroze, Symphony in C, and the Columbia Orchestra, among many others. MacDowell awarded him one of its prestigious artist residencies for the composition of his *String Quartet No. 2, "Romanian"*, commissioned by Arizona Friends of Chamber Music for the acclaimed Dover Quartet.

Other recent commissions have come from the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra Association, National Cherry Blossom Festival, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Great Falls Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Tanglewood Music Center, Music From Angel Fire, Curtis Institute of Music, Lyric Fest, New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program, Lake George Music Festival, Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, International Opera Theater, and the Lyra Society, among others.

Djupstrom's music has been performed and broadcast across the USA as well as in the UK, France, Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Romania, Austria, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Taiwan, China, and Japan. In recent seasons, his special interest in Romanian classical music led to performances at the George Enescu Festival of McGill University, a recital highlighting contemporary Romanian and American works at the annual Meridian Festival in Bucharest, and to advanced Romanian language study with the assistance of a Romanian government scholarship. A 2020 grant from the S&R Evermay Foundation helped share this excitement for Romanian music through the creation of a new chamber music series in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

As a pianist, Djupstrom's passion for chamber music has led to concerts for the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the British Library, Brooklyn Art Song Society, Astral Artists, Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music, Yale University, and many other presenting organizations worldwide. As an ensemble member, he has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philadelphia-based new music ensemble Relâche. His festival appearances include Hong Kong's "Intimacy of Creativity," Tanglewood, Music From Angel Fire, Brevard, and the Académie musicale de Villecroze, and he has performed in major metropolitan cities throughout the world, including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington DC, Houston, Atlanta, Hong Kong, Paris, London, Madrid, Bucharest, Tokyo, Shenzhen, Montréal, and Aix-en-Provence. Djupstrom has recorded for American Public Media's popular "Performance Today" radio program, Radio Television Hong Kong's Radio 4, and the Equilibrium, American Modern, and Meyer Media labels.

A committed music educator, Djupstrom teaches chamber music at the University of Pennsylvania and maintains a private composition and piano studio. Previously, he taught composition at the Curtis Institute of Music, theory and orchestration for Boston University, ear training for the University of Michigan, and piano at Settlement Music School. He has been a guest teacher and presenter at the National University of Music of Bucharest, International Saxophone Academy, Rowan University, Rice University, Westminster Choir College, Shasta Community College, International School of Brussels, Montana State University, Paris Conservatory, and Yichao Music Training Center in Shenzhen, China.

Djupstrom received BM and MA degrees from the University of Michigan, where he studied with composers Bright Sheng, William Bolcom, Susan Botti, Karen Tanaka, and Eric Santos. Djupstrom pursued further studies in Paris with Betsy Jolas, whom he later worked for as musical assistant. He also holds an Artist Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he was a student of Jennifer Higdon and Richard Danielpour. He lives in Philadelphia.