

Press Release

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Website www.boosey.com

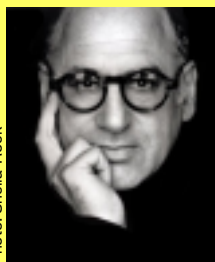


Photo: Sheila Rock

Michael Nyman signs with Boosey & Hawkes New publishing contract covers concert and stage works, film and TV

Michael Nyman, one of the most versatile, popular and successful composers of his generation, has signed a long-term exclusive publishing agreement with Boosey & Hawkes. The new contract covers all future works spanning the worlds of live performance, film and TV.

Michael Nyman statement

Michael Nyman spoke of the new contract: "I feel I have arrived at my natural home, having a close affinity with the music of many Boosey & Hawkes composers ranging from Stravinsky to Steve Reich and Louis Andriessen. I look forward to a lively and fruitful collaboration."

Boosey & Hawkes statement

Janis Susskind, Director of Composers & Repertoire at Boosey & Hawkes, commented: "We are delighted to welcome Michael Nyman to Boosey & Hawkes. He is a composer who knows no boundaries, maintaining his roots in experimental music while speaking to a wide audience. Our teams in Berlin, New York and London look forward to working with Michael to develop a range of international projects and explore new directions. We foresee a high-level engagement across all areas of the company – performance promotion, BooseyMedia, and printed music."

Nyman's future plans

Michael Nyman's future projects include a new one-act stagework forming a prequel to Purcell's **Dido and Aeneas**, concertos for percussionist Colin Currie and toy piano player Margaret Leng Tan, and an opera based on **Tristram Shandy**. Forthcoming film scores include **The Libertine** with Johnny Depp and an adaptation of Zola's **Thérèse Raquin**. The Michael Nyman Band embarks this month on an extensive tour of the Far East.

about Boosey & Hawkes

Boosey & Hawkes is widely regarded as having the world's top catalogue in 20th century classical music, including the masterworks of Stravinsky, Britten, Bartók, Copland, Prokofieff, Rachmaninoff, Strauss and many others. Boosey & Hawkes's select group of contemporary composers, which Michael Nyman now joins, is one of the most prestigious in the world of music publishing. Composers who have signed with Boosey & Hawkes over the past two decades include John Adams, Steve Reich, Karl Jenkins, James MacMillan, Louis Andriessen, Elliott Carter, Christopher Rouse, Harrison Birtwistle, Magnus Lindberg, Olga Neuwirth, Brett Dean, Unsuk Chin, Einojuhani Rautavaara and Mark-Anthony Turnage.

For biographical information and contact details please see over.

Nyman biography

Born in 1944 in London, Michael Nyman studied for a BMus at the Royal Academy of Music, specialising in keyboard and composition, and musicology with Thurston Dart at King's College London. Rejecting the orthodoxies of post-war modernism he turned away from composition in 1964 and worked for the next decade as a music critic, as an editor of music by Purcell and Handel, and as a collector of Rumanian folk music. He created the libretto for Harrison Birtwistle's **Down by the Greenwood Side**, was the first writer to apply the term 'minimalism' to music, and an influential study, **Experimental Music: Cage and Beyond**, was published in 1974 (re-published by Cambridge University Press in 1999). In 1976 he was invited by Birtwistle to provide arrangements of Venetian gondolier songs for a production of Goldoni's **Il Campiello** at the National Theatre and this fuelled a renewed interest in composition and the formation of the Campiello Band, which was renamed as the Michael Nyman Band. He developed a distinctive personal idiom displaying strong melodic profiles and high-energy drive, in a language that effectively fuses minimalism with baroque and popular music. In 1982 he wrote the score for Peter Greenaway's film **The Draughtsman's Contract**, the first of 11 highly successful collaborations with the film director. He has since pursued co-existent careers writing for live performance and for film.

Nyman's stageworks include the operas **The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat** (1986), **Facing Goya** (2000), and **Man and Boy: Dada** (2003), the second of three commissioned operas for the Badisches Stadtstheater in Karlsruhe, receiving its UK premiere at the Almeida Theatre on 15 July. His music is regularly programmed in the dance world by such distinguished choreographers as Siobhan Davies, Shobana Jeyasingh, Lucinda Childs, Karine Saporta and Stephen Petronio. His concert works include concertos for leading international soloists including John Harle, Gidon Kremer, Christian Lindberg, Julian Lloyd Webber, Katharine Stott, Elisabeth Chojnacka and the Labeque Sisters, together with ensemble works such as the **6 Celan Songs** for Ute Lemper and a series of six string quartets.

Notable Nyman film credits in addition to such Greenaway classics as **Drowning by Numbers** and **Prospero's Books** include music for **The Piano** (Jane Campion), **The Ogre** (Volker Schlöndorff), **Gattaca** (Andrew Niccol), **The End of the Affair** (Neil Jordan), and **Wonderland** and **The Claim** (Michael Winterbottom), and his music is frequently heard on radio and TV. His experimental interests have led to collaborations that cross musical frontiers, for instance working with Brian Eno on **Decay Music**, with Damon Albarn on the soundtrack for **Ravenous**, with Moroccan musicians on **The Upside-Down Violin**, and with Indian master musicians U.Shrinivas and Rajan and Sajan Misra. His music has been extensively recorded on the Virgin, Decca, EMI and Warner Classics labels. Michael Nyman celebrated his 60th birthday in March with a solo piano programme at the Hackney Empire in London and with the re-release of six EMI albums surveying his film music.

Michael Nyman's existing output, pre-dating the Boosey & Hawkes agreement, is published by Chester Music.

Further information on Michael Nyman and his music can be found at www.michaelnyman.com.

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