



Kenji Bunch

Composer
&
Performer

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Biography

(426 words)

Kenji Bunch uses his work as a composer and performer to look for commonalities between musical traditions, for understandings that transcend cultural or generational barriers, and for empathic connections with his listeners. Mr. Bunch draws on vernacular musical traditions, his interest in history, the natural world, and his classical training to create new concert music with a unique personal vocabulary that appeals to performers, audiences, and critics alike. After nearly three decades as a professional musician, whose work has been performed by over sixty American orchestras, by chamber musicians on six continents, and has been recorded numerous times, he considers his mission to be the continuing search for and celebration of shared emotional truths about the human experience.

Most recently, Mr. Bunch's work was commissioned and premiered by the Seattle Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, the Lark Quartet, the Britt Festival, Music From Angel Fire, Chamber Music Northwest, the Eugene Ballet, Third Angle New Music, the Grant Park Music Festival, and 45th Parallel, with whom he serves as Composer in Residence. All-Bunch concerts have been heard in Brooklyn, Boston, Denver, Nashville, Mobile, AL, and Portland, as well as the Perpignon Conservatoire in southern France, the Stamford Festival in England, and The Oranjewoud Festival in The Netherlands.

Mr. Bunch maintains an active performing career, and is widely recognized for performing his own groundbreaking works for viola. A founding member of the Flux Quartet (1996-2002) and Ne(x)tworks (2003-2011), he is a veteran of the New York new music world. In the ongoing search for fluency in other musical styles, he developed a deep interest in vernacular American music and improvisation. Mr. Bunch was a fiddle player and vocalist with the band Citigrass for over 15 years, and is a frequent collaborator with jazz, pop, folk, country, rock, and experimental musicians. He has also collaborated extensively in the dance world, with renowned choreographers Toni Pimble, David Parsons, Nai-Ni Chen, Kate Skarpetowska, Paul Vasterling, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. Mr. Bunch's music has been used in several films, including *The Bellman Equation* and *The Argentum Prophecies*.

A graduate of the Juilliard School, where he studied viola with Toby Appel and in composition with Robert Beaser, Mr. Bunch left New York City after 22 memorable years to return to his native Portland, Oregon, where he lives with his wife, concert pianist Monica Ohuchi, their two children, and their rescued pitbull mix, Coffee. He currently serves as Artistic Director of new music group Fear No Music, and teaches viola, composition, and music theory at Portland State University, Reed College, and for the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

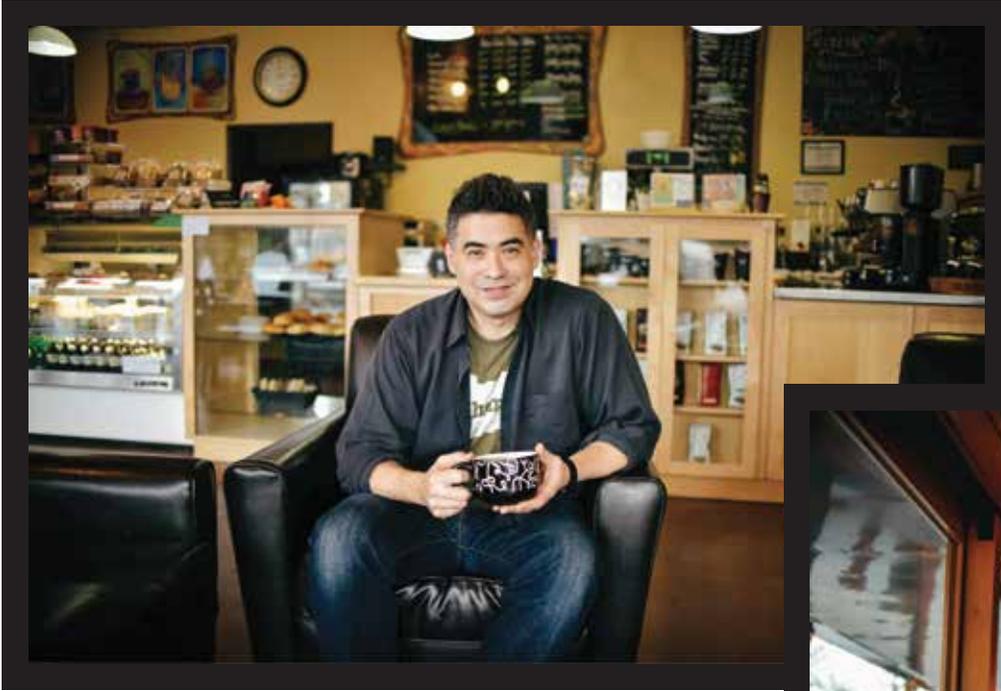
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Photos



Download photos at:

www.kenjibunch.net/presskit/KenjiBunch_Photos.zip



Photo credit: Artslandia Magazine; Meg Nanna

Music

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