

Elmer Gantry

a new American opera

Robert Aldridge (composer, born:1954, Richmond,VA) has written over sixty works for orchestra, opera, music-theater, dance, string quartet, solo and chamber ensembles. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. He has received numerous fellowships and awards for his music from the Guggenheim Foundation (2002), the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2000), National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Massachusetts Artist's Foundation, the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund, Meet the Composer, The American Symphony Orchestra League, the New Jersey Council on the Arts and the Portland Arts Council. He was commissioned by Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra to compose a clarinet concerto for David Singer, which was premiered in April and May, 2005. His tone poem, LEDA AND THE SWAN, a commission from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, The Nashville Symphony Orchestra, The Louisville Orchestra, and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, was premiered in January, 2003 at the New Jersey Performing Center for the Arts (NJ PAC).

His opera, ELMER GANTRY, based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis, with a libretto by Herschel Garfein, will be given its full stage world premiere by Nashville Opera in November, 2007. Excerpts from ELMER GANTRY were performed by New York City Opera on their 2007 VOX Festival. He has been Composer-in-Residence at the Brevard Music Festival since 2006, and he was Music Alive Composer in Residence with the Westfield Symphony for the 2004-05 season. He was Composer-in-Residence at the American Dance Festival in 1987. He has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony on five occasions since 1987. In 1989, he was chosen to represent the New York Foundation for the Arts in a solo concert of his music at Lincoln Center.

He was a founder of the Composers in Red Sneakers, a composer consortium which achieved international recognition in the 1980's. In 1991 he received a National Endowment Recording Grant for a compact-disc of his chamber music for saxophone. His compositions are published by Edition Peters.

He received a Doctorate in Composition from the Yale School of Music, a Master's Degree in Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Currently, he is Director of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, where he is also an Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory.