

**UPDATED APRIL 2019**

### **Short Bio**

Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as “one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers,” Lori Laitman has composed multiple operas and choral works, and hundreds of songs, setting texts by classical and contemporary poets (including those who perished in the Holocaust). Her music is widely performed, internationally and throughout the United States, and has generated substantial critical acclaim. *The Journal of Singing* wrote “It is difficult to think of anyone before the public today who equals her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music.” For more information, please visit [www.artsongs.com](http://www.artsongs.com).

### **Mid-Size Bio**

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In May 2016, Opera Colorado presented the World Premiere of Laitman’s opera *The Scarlet Letter*, with a libretto by David Mason. Of the CD, released by Naxos in August 2017, *Gramophone Magazine* wrote: “The first thing that leaps into one’s ears is the sheer beauty of the music. Laitman has devoted much of her career to the art song, and her ability to meld words with lyrical, often soaring lines is on abundant display in her...impressive and fervent opera.” *The Three Feathers*, Laitman’s children’s opera with librettist Dana Gioia, is based on a Grimm’s fairy tale and was commissioned by the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, where it premiered in October 2014. An abridged version of the work was commissioned by Seattle Opera and toured Washington State in 2018. The Hartt School presented the orchestral abridged premiere in January/February 2019 with Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortilèges*. Opera Steamboat will present the full work in August 2020. *Uncovered*, Laitman’s opera-in-progress with librettist Leah Lax, based on her memoir, was a finalist for the 2018 Pellicciotti Opera Prize.

Laitman has received numerous prestigious commissions, including from Opera America, Opera Colorado, Seattle Opera, The Grant Park Music Festival, Music of Remembrance and The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She is a *magna cum laude* Yale College graduate and received her MM from The Yale School of Music. In May 2018, Laitman was the recipient of The Yale School of Music’s Ian Mininberg Alumni Award for Distinguished Service. For more information, please visit [www.artsongs.com](http://www.artsongs.com).

### **Long Bio**

Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as “one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers,” Lori Laitman has composed multiple operas and choral works, and hundreds of songs, setting texts by classical and contemporary poets (including those who perished in the Holocaust). Her music is widely performed, internationally and throughout the United States (Carnegie Hall, Benaroya Recital Hall, Strathmore Hall, The Meyerhoff Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Concertgebouw and Wigmore Hall) and has generated substantial critical acclaim. *The Journal of*

*Singing* wrote “It is difficult to think of anyone before the public today who equals her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music.”

In May 2016, Opera Colorado presented the World Premiere of Laitman’s opera *The Scarlet Letter*, with a libretto by Colorado’s former Poet Laureate, David Mason. Laura Claycomb, Dominic Armstrong and Malcolm MacKenzie starred in the production directed by Beth Greenberg and conducted by Ari Pelto. Of the CD, released by Naxos in August 2017, *Gramophone Magazine* wrote: “The first thing that leaps into one’s ears is the sheer beauty of the music. Laitman has devoted much of her career to the art song, and her ability to meld words with lyrical, often soaring lines is on abundant display in her...impressive and fervent opera.” It was named a Critic’s Choice by *Opera News*, who wrote “Lori Laitman’s score succeeds with a surging, sweeping, unapologetically tonal landscape that offers carefully etched character portraits, rapturous choral expostulations and lush orchestrations of insistently tuneful motifs.” Laitman and Mason also collaborated on *Vedem*, a Holocaust-themed oratorio commissioned by Music of Remembrance, and are currently developing the opera *Ludlow*, derived from Mason’s award-winning verse novel about the 1914 Colorado mining town disaster.

*The Three Feathers*, Laitman’s children’s opera with librettist Dana Gioia, is based on a Grimm’s fairy tale and was commissioned by the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, where it premiered in October 2014. Seattle Opera commissioned an abridged version, which toured Washington State in 2018. The Hartt School presented the orchestral abridged premiere in January/February 2019 with Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortilèges*. Opera Steamboat will present the full work in August 2020. *Uncovered*, Laitman’s opera-in-progress with librettist Leah Lax, based on her memoir, was a finalist for the 2018 Pellicciotti Opera Prize.

Laitman has received numerous prestigious commissions, including from Opera America, Opera Colorado, Seattle Opera, The Grant Park Music Festival, Washington Master Chorale, The Virginia Choral Society, The Alexandria Choral Society, Music of Remembrance, The Howard Hanson Institute for American Music, The Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership and The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Her works have been featured on Thomas Hampson’s *Song of America* radio series and website and in *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*.

She is a *magna cum laude* Yale College graduate and received her MM from The Yale School of Music. In May 2018, Laitman was the recipient of The Yale School of Music’s Ian Mininberg Alumni Award for Distinguished Service. For more information, please visit [www.artsongs.com](http://www.artsongs.com).