

BIOGRAPHY

RAYMOND J. LUSTIG, COMPOSER

“Lustig is writing music charged with intensity and leavened with intelligence,” wrote the American Academy of Arts and Letters recently in awarding composer **Raymond J. Lustig** its prestigious Charles Ives Fellowship. Lustig has also won ASCAP’s Rudolf Nissim Prize for his orchestral work *UNSTUCK*, the Aaron Copland Award from Copland House, the Juilliard Orchestra competition, the New Juilliard Ensemble competition, and has recently received commissions from The Academy (A Program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute), Metropolis Ensemble, the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, and the American Music Center's Live Music for Dance Project, and the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as a grant from the Alfred P.Sloan Foundation for the development of his new opera based on the tragic life of pioneering Hungarian physician Ignaz Semmelweis.

Lustig's music has been presented in venues ranging from New York City clubs and galleries to major concert halls and festivals around the world—from Le Poisson Rouge and Galapagos Art Space to Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall and the École Normale in Paris. Other venues include the 92nd Street Y, Symphony Space, Merkin Hall, the Angel Orensanz Center, the Stone, the Bowling Green, Norfolk, and Caramoor music festivals, the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, the New York City Ballet’s Choreographic Institute, the Norfolk Festival, the St. Louis Guitar Festival, the Juilliard Beyond the Machine Festival, the Gershwin Hotel, Yale University, Columbia University, Barnard College, Bard College, Holy Cross College, the Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus in Schwandorfand Germany, and Oberlin College and Conservatory.

Performers have included the Juilliard Symphony, the Bowling Green Philharmonia, Metropolis Ensemble, American Opera Projects, TENET Vocal Ensemble, the New Juilliard Ensemble, BLIND EAR, the Da Capo Chamber Players, Duo Noire, FLUTRONIX, NoiseBox, Avian Music, Orchestra Insonica, Opera Grows in Brooklyn, Opera on Tap, and counter)induction. Lustig is a member of BLIND EAR, a composer collective also including Jakub Ciupinski, Cristina Spinei, Ryan Francis, and Adam Schoenberg.

Lustig's music has been recorded on Albany Records (*UNSTUCK* for orchestra) and Avian Music (*You Catching?*).

His opera-theater work *SEMMELEWEIS*—based on the tragic story of the nineteenth-century obstetrician who discovered the devastating cause of one of history’s worst puerperal fever epidemics—is being developed with guidance from prominent surgeon and best-selling author Sherwin Nuland (*How we Die*), and has been workshopped with acclaimed director Jonathan Miller and American Opera Projects. The work was recently awarded a development grant from the Alfred P.Sloan Foundation.

His music has been used for dance at the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, the Juilliard School's Composers and Choreographers concert, and Barnard College's Spring Dances concert. He has collaborated with choreographers Yass Hakoshima, Peter Quantz, Melissa Barak, and Brynt Beitman.

Also a published researcher in molecular biology, Lustig is deeply inspired by science, nature, and the mind. He is Artist in Residence with the Imagine Science Film Festival. He has helped to co-found and develop the Juilliard Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Initiative, a new collaborative project between The Juilliard School and Weill Cornell Medical College that explores the many intersections of music, the sciences, the mind, and the healing arts.

Born in Tokyo and raised in Queens, New York, Lustig received his B.A. from Holy Cross College, where he pursued his interests in music and the sciences. He studied cell division, the cell skeleton, and cell polarity at Columbia University and Massachusetts General Hospital before beginning his graduate studies in composition at Juilliard, where he completed his MM and DMA degrees.

Lustig's teachers have included John Corigliano, Robert Beaser, Samuel Adler, Sebastian Currier, Jonathan Kramer, Derek Bermel, Philip Lasser, Pia Gilbert, Conrad Cummings, and Shirish Korde.

He currently lives in New York City and teaches theory and composition at the Juilliard School.