

David Stern, Ph.D.

Composition • Orchestration • Music Preparation

David Stern biography

David Stern holds a Ph.D. in music theory from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and has taught music theory at the Mannes College of Music, Queens College, University of North Texas, and Ball State University, Scripps College and Pomona College, as well as composition at Ball State University. He has also worked as a freelance composer, orchestrator and music copyist in Los Angeles, for a while serving as assistant and music librarian to the famous singer, Miss Peggy Lee. He worked for the Los Angeles Philharmonic in music preparation and librarianship. His *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra* was premiered at the John Anson Ford Theater, Hollywood, by clarinet soloist Leo Chelyapov and the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony on July 11, 2004. An orchestral work written in response to the tragic attack on New York, “*We Stand for Freedom: In Memoriam, September 11th, 2001*” has already received five performances. Michelle Kinsley of *The Star Press* wrote the following review of the second performance, done by the Muncie Symphony Orchestra:

“...the pieces written by local composers stole this show ... A very impressive piece of music was performed next. We Stand For Freedom, written by Ball State University music faculty member David Stern, was quite simply music that every American needs to hear. The music, Stern said, was written as a response to 9-11. A lot of ground was covered, from the mournful beginning elegy featuring strings to a triumphant empowering section adding the horns and wind instruments, to the powerful, reaffirming ending that featured what appeared to be every member of the orchestra as well as some perfectly placed fire truck bells (played on the triangle).”

Dr. Stern’s choral setting of St. Francis’ peace prayer has been performed in various locations including the St. Francis Upper Basilica in Assisi. Two orchestral works

on Leonardo da Vinci were premiered by the New Haven Symphony in 2006: the tone poem *Da Vinci's Wings of Flight*, which is based on Leonardo's fascination with creating human flight centuries ahead of its time, and *Da Vinci's Musical Riddle*, based on musical notes from a riddle in one of his notebooks. Dr. Stern's attractive *Lyrical Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Chamber Orchestra* has been performed a number of times.

Dr. Stern also worked in the Los Angeles music business doing part preparation on projects for high profile clients such as distinguished film composer Fred Karlin and Joey Melotti (when he was Michael Bolton's music director). More recent work has been in preparing scores and parts for arranger-songwriter Marco Marinangeli for The X Factor TV show, "America's Got Talent," and for Walt Disney.

In 2015 Dr. Stern received a commission to write a large symphonic work for The Lafayette Citizens Band, "Lafayette Suite," which was very warmly received by performers and audience at its Memorial Day premiere that year. The Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble commissioned another work, an *a cappella* setting of Walt Whitman's poem, "A Clear Midnight," which was performed in New York City churches in May, 2016.

More recent compositional projects include Symphonies nos. 3-4 and *Neoromantic Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*. Symphony no. 4 blends a poetic ambient electronic prerecord with orchestra in the final movement. Dr. Stern believes strongly in writing classical music in a melodic and harmonic style that has both compositional depth and is accessible and attractive to general audiences.

For more information and to listen to many of Dr. Stern's works, please visit

www.davidsternmusic.com