

# Debra Kaye

Heralded as “a new voice on our horizon” by *Classical-Modern Music Review*, the music of award-winning composer Debra Kaye has been praised by Gramophone as “an eclectic unfolding of creativity.” Her visceral language ranges from lyrical to grooving, experimental to coloristic. Winner of four Global Music Awards, Kaye’s catalog of chamber and orchestral music, art songs, choral, and theatrical works continues to expand through her steady stream of commissions and collaborations.

The 2022-23 season will celebrate the premiere of 5 new works including a commission from the accordion quartet ‘Bachtopus,’ a new work for the eGalitarian Brass Quintet, and a composition for saxophone great, Joe Lovano with string orchestra. Kaye responds to our world situation with *Ukraine 2022* for narrator and piano inspired by a text by Roger Apon and her chamber orchestra piece, *My Candle Burns* premiered as part of the annual Village Trip Festival on a concert featuring Suzanne Vega, presented by Composers Concordance and Marsyas Productions. This season also includes the release of Kaye’s orchestral work, *Rising Up* with the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava (Navona Records) which was chosen for ASCAP’s New Music Friday Playlist on the day of its release, recognized with a Global Music Award for creativity and originality, and hailed as “a strong and vibrant piece” by GRAMMY-winning conductor JoAnn Falletta.

Highlights and awards include commissions from the Howland Chamber Music Circle, Portland Youth Philharmonic and Kyo-Shin-An Arts, awards from ASCAP Plus, premieres at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, and performances with such acclaimed artists as the Lincoln Trio and Daedalus Quartet. The Off-Broadway production of *The Ugly Duckling*, produced by Literally Alive Family Theatre garnered enthusiastic notice in the *New York Times* in each of its three extended runs.

Kaye is recognized with grants from Meet the Composer, Mannes College, New School University, the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir, Atlanta Music Teachers Association, and the Edward T. Cone Foundation. She has held composing residencies at the Millay Colony and Helene Wurlitzer Foundation. An advocate for new music, Debra serves on the board of the New York Women Composers and is an Associate Director of Composers

Concordance. She previously served as President of the Howland Chamber Music Circle.

Media credits include interviews with Debra in HokToc Magazine, in Adriano Bassi's book, "A Guide to Women Composers" (*Odoyo*), on WMHT Radio (Albany); WRUU Radio (Savannah); and as a featured composer on "Music of our Mothers" (WFCF Radio of Flagler College). New Music USA's *New Music Box* published a series of Kaye's articles about the process and inspiration for her music. Her works have been heard on Chicago's WFMT Radio, Classical Discoveries (WPRB Radio, Princeton) and Berkeley's KALX Radio, to name a few.

Kaye's debut album *And So It Begins* (Ravello Records), produced by GRAMMY-winning Judith Sherman was on Ted Gioia's list of top 100 CD's and described as, "...inspirational, an album that will surely stand the test of time" (babysue.com). The acclaimed release of Kaye's solo violin work, *Turning in Time*, written for violin virtuoso Kinga Augustyn was featured on Augustyn's album of the same name, and was recognized as "a tour de force" by *New York Concert Review*.

Kaye is a graduate of Mannes College and New York University and served on the faculty of the Mannes College Preparatory Division from 1991 to 2018. When not composing, she loves reading, playing, the company of friends and nature. Debra is a life-long diarist and an avid amateur photographer.