

**Dan Visconti**  
Composer

danvisconti@danvisconti.com

**FULL BIOGRAPHY (821 WORDS):**

Dan Visconti (b. 1982) composes concert music infused with the directness of expression and maverick spirit of the American vernacular. His compositions often explore the rough timbres, propulsive rhythms, and improvisational energy characteristic of jazz, bluegrass, and rock—elements that tend to collide in unexpected ways with Visconti’s experience as a classically-trained violinist, resulting in a growing body of music one reviewer describes as “both mature and youthful, bristling with exhilarating musical ideas and a powerfully crafted lyricism.”\*

Upcoming concert seasons feature several premieres of Visconti’s compositions, including a work commissioned by the Jupiter Quartet for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s international string quartet series at Alice Tully Hall; an extended work for cellist Joshua Roman and pianist Helen Huang commissioned by Town Hall Seattle; and a consortium commission for the Gryphon, Deseret, and Triple Helix piano trios awarded by the 2010 International Barlow Prize. Currently, Visconti is engaged in a multi-year residency with opera companies including Seattle Opera, Opera Theatre St. Louis, New York City Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera as recipient of the Douglas Moore Fellowship in American Opera.

Recently, Visconti spent a year in residence at Berlin's Hans Arnold Center as recipient of the 2008 Berlin Prize. This year also saw premieres of works commissioned by the Albany Symphony and the Janaki String Trio, who with support from the Concert Artists Guild commissioning prize performed the piece in recitals at New York’s Symphony Space and the Asociacion Nacional de Conciertos, Panama.

Other recent commissions include an amplified work for the Kronos Quartet (who have performed Visconti’s music internationally in conjunction with the *Kronos Under 30 Project*); an orchestral work commissioned by the Annapolis Symphony to commemorate the city’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary; a work for the Berlin Philharmonic’s Scharoun Ensemble commissioned by the Annenberg Foundation; a work for orchestra and massed percussion commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra (who also programmed his *Black Bend* during the 2006 and 2007 seasons and on Minneapolis’s popular *Sommerfest* music festival); and works commissioned by the Corigliano Quartet, Antares, the Bakken Trio, classical guitarist Jason Vieaux, and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Visconti has also contributed vibrant and challenging works for ensembles of young performers, including two works commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and a work for chorus and orchestra commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony’s First Music program. The Kaufman Center’s youth ensemble-in-residence Face the Music have also performed his electroacoustic work as part of New York’s Look and Listen Festival.

His music continues to receive performances by some of the top interpreters of contemporary music, including eighth blackbird, Brave New Works, the Lake Quartet, Vox Novus, the Sybarite Chamber Players (who have also presented his music on CBS’s *Early Show*), pianist Gabriela Martinez, and Washington DC’s Contemporary Music Forum at the Corcoran Gallery; in recent seasons the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the American Composers Orchestra, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Spokane Symphony, and the South Carolina Philharmonic have also given his orchestral works repeated hearings. His music has been performed at prominent venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Library of Congress, Los Angeles’s Disney Hall, and Berlin’s Philharmonie, and featured at music festivals including the Montreux Jazz Festival, Vail International Dance Festival, Richmond’s Third Practice Festival, the Virginia Arts Festival, and the Aspen, Marlboro, Caramoor,

Norfolk, Yellowstone, Madeleine Island, Ravinia, Walla Walla, Chelsea, Blossom, and Lucerne music festivals.

In 2008, Visconti was awarded the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the performing arts as well as the Cleveland Arts Prize. His compositions have also been honored with awards from BMI and ASCAP, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Society of Composers, and the National Association of Composers USA, as well as the Bearn Prize from Columbia University. In addition to grants from the American Music Center, the Fromm Foundation, the Barlow Endowment, Meet the Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bascom Little Fund, the BMI Foundation's Boudleaux Bryant Fund, and Chamber Music America, he has been the recipient of artist fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Copland House, the Lucas Artists Program at Villa Montalvo, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Visconti studied composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Yale School of Music, primarily with Margaret Brouwer, Aaron Jay Kernis, Ezra Laderman, and Zhou Long. As an educator his commitment to engaging new audiences often involves unconventional venues and approaches; past projects have included interactive videoconferencing presentations on the social history of music and civil rights in America as well as appearances at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His online journal (hosted by Dartmouth's Hopkins Center for the Arts) detailed the compositional process in a multimedia experience, sharing images and streaming audio of works-in-progress. Since 2008 he has also written a weekly column for NewMusicBox, the web magazine of the American Music Center.

Visconti is a member of BMI and currently resides in Washington, DC.

### **SHORTER BIOGRAPHY (443 WORDS):**

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Visconti's music continues to receive performances by some of the top interpreters of contemporary music, including eighth blackbird, Brave New Works, Vox Novus, the Sybarite Chamber Players, and Washington DC's Contemporary Music Forum; in recent seasons the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the American Composers Orchestra, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Spokane Symphony, and the South Carolina Philharmonic have also given his orchestral works repeated hearings.

His compositions have been honored with the Berlin Prize, the Bearn Prize from Columbia University, the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the performing arts, and the Cleveland Arts Prize; awards from BMI and ASCAP, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Society of Composers, and the National Association of Composers USA; and grants from the American Music Center, the Fromm Foundation, Meet the Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bascom Little Fund,

and Chamber Music America. He has also been the recipient of artist fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Copland House, the Lucas Artists Program at Villa Montalvo, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Currently, Visconti is engaged in a multi-year residency with opera companies including Seattle Opera, Opera Theatre St. Louis, New York City Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera as recipient of the Douglas Moore Fellowship in American Opera.

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### **SHORT BIOGRAPHY (191 WORDS):**

Dan Visconti's musical compositions have been commissioned and premiered by ensembles including the Kronos Quartet, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Albany Symphony, and the Berlin Philharmonic Scharoun Ensemble, at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and LA's Disney Hall.

His compositions have been honored with the Berlin Prize, the Bearns Prize from Columbia University, and the Cleveland Arts Prize; awards from BMI and ASCAP, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Society of Composers, and the National Association of Composers USA; and grants from the American Music Center, the Barlow Endowment, the Fromm Foundation, Meet the Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bascom Little Fund, the Annenberg Foundation, and Chamber Music America. He has also been the recipient of artist fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Copland House, the Lucas Artists Program at Villa Montalvo, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

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\* Wilma Salisbury, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*