



Emmy Award-winning composer **Steve Heitzeg** (b. 1959) is known for his music written in celebration of the natural world, with evocative and lyrical scores frequently including naturally-found instruments, such as stones, birch bark wind chimes and sea glass shards. Heitzeg has written more than 100 works, including compositions for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, ballet and PBS films.



Named “Composer of the Year” at the 2000 Minnesota Music Awards, Heitzeg has amassed a large body of compositions that address social and environmental issues with vision and compassion in such works as *Aqua (Hommage à Jacques-Yves Cousteau)*, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*, *Blue Liberty*, *Elegy on Water*, *Endangered*, *Nobel Symphony*, *Symphony to the Prairie Farm*, *Voice of the Everglades (Epitaph for Marjory Stoneman Douglas)* and *Wounded Fields*.

Two recent works, both funded through a 2005 Archibald Bush Artist Fellowship, include *Social Movements*, a ballet premiered by James Sewell Ballet in 2008, and *Song Without Borders*, a four-movement string quartet premiered in 2008 by the Daedalus Quartet at the United Nations’ New York headquarters. Four months later, the work was performed by the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra String Quartet in Baghdad.

Heitzeg’s music has been commissioned or performed by the Atlanta Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia, Chanticleer, Daedalus Quartet, Dale Warland Singers, Detroit Symphony, James Sewell Ballet, Minnesota Orchestra, members of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and VocalEssence, among others. Marin Alsop, Philip Brunelle, William Eddins, JoAnn Falletta, Giancarlo Guerrero, Jahja Ling, Christopher Seaman, Osmo Vänskä and Dale Warland are among the conductors who have led his works.

Heitzeg’s debut recording *earthworks: music in honor of nature* was released in April 1998. In 2000, he received a regional Emmy for his original score for the public TV documentary *Death of the Dream: Farmhouses in the Heartland* and in 2004 his *Voice of the Everglades* was released on CD featuring the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra. Heitzeg attracted attention with his score for PBS’ *A Marriage: Georgia O’Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz* (starring Jane Alexander) in 1991 and for the award-winning children’s video *On the Day You Were Born*, released by the Minnesota Orchestra in 1996.

The recipient of a 2001 McKnight Fellowship, Heitzeg has also received grants from the American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, and the Jerome Foundation. In addition to concert and film music, Heitzeg composes *ecoscores* (intimate works with inventive musical syntax) that seek to honor nature and promote peace. Two of these works, *Peace March for Paul and Sheila Wellstone* and *American Symphony (Unfinished)* are in the permanent collection of Minneapolis’ Weisman Art Museum.

Heitzeg received his Ph.D in music composition from the University of Minnesota, studying with Dominick Argento, and completed undergraduate work at Gustavus Adolphus College. Born and raised on a dairy farm in southern Minnesota, Heitzeg now lives in Saint Paul with his wife, daughter and their Weimaraner.

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