# Benjamin Pesetsky

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### Education

Bard College Conservatory of Music (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY)	May 2011
Bachelor of Music in Composition	-

#### **Bard College**

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

# **Professional Experience**

#### San Francisco Symphony (San Francisco, CA) **Associate Director of Editorial**

Creates enriching content in connection with 190 orchestral performances for a total audience of more than 270,000 people each year. Provides historical context and critical perspectives in accurate, interesting, and concise language.

- Lead editor for 22 annual concert program books, encompassing program pages, program notes, artist bios, and feature articles. (Approx. 16-24 pages / 12,000-16,000 words per issue.)
- Makes assignments and maintains editorial correspondence with Program Annotator and contributing writers. Identifies and hires additional freelance writers as needed.
- Writes up to 10 bylined program notes/articles each year.
- Oversees publication process from content planning through editing, proofreading, and print.
- Fosters inclusive language and a diversity of voices. Works with translators on bilingual Spanish and Mandarin content when needed.
- Edits and approves other public-facing materials from across departments.

#### Writer

Contributes program notes for:

- Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (Southbank, VIC, Australia) 2022–
- The Philadelphia Orchestra (Philadelphia, PA) 2018-•
- St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (St. Louis, MO) 2016-
- Carnegie Hall (New York, NY) 2017, 18, 21, 22
- Boston Symphony Orchestra/Tanglewood (Boston, MA) 2021 •
- Tippet Rise Art Center (Fishtail, MT) 2018–20

#### **Editor and Consultant**

Clients included:

- Handel and Havdn Society (Boston, MA), Program Book Editor, 2016–21 •
- **Tippet Rise Art Center** (Fishtail, MT), Writer and Editor, 2017–20 • Created an annual 300-page guidebook for an ambitious summer music and arts festival in the Montana wilderness.
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston, MA), Music Program Editor, 2018–20
- Bard Music West (San Francisco, CA), General Manager and Consultant, 2017–19 Worked with co-founding artistic directors to create a three-concert weekend, The World of *György Ligeti*, including 18 performers and a staged play. Advised subsequent festivals.
- St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (St. Louis, MO), Publications Consultant, 2016–18

#### Handel and Haydn Society (Boston, MA)

#### **PR and Communications Manager**

- Earned more than 120 pieces of coverage in The Boston Globe, Gramophone, Associated Press, The Washington Post, WBUR, and WGBH.
- Scripted radio segments about H+H's 200-year history for broadcast on WCRB.

#### 2016–present

#### 2015-16

2016-21

Nov. 2021–present

May 2011

# Composer

#### Select Musical Commissions

- Ryuji Ueno Foundation and Luosha Fang, violin and viola (Washington, DC), 2020
- Chordless, Sara LeMesh, soprano, and Allegra Chapman, piano, (San Francisco, CA), 2020
- WordSong (Boston, MA) 2010, 13, 19
- The Shakespeare Concerts (Boston, MA), 2017
- MUSA (San Francisco, CA), 2017
- Guerilla Composers Guild/Phonochrome Collective (San Francisco, CA), 2014
- Thomas Hecht, piano, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (Singapore), 2014
- Rivers School Conservatory Seminar on Contemporary Music (Weston, MA), 2013
- New England Conservatory Jordan Winds (Boston, MA), 2011
- Albany Symphony Orchestra (Albany, NY), 2011
- Bard College Conservatory Vocal Arts Program (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY), 2011

#### Residencies

- Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Banff, AB), Music Residency, Winter and Fall 2012
- Hambidge Center (Raybun Gap, GA), Fellowship, September 2012

#### **Festivals and Summer Programs**

- Vancouver International Song Institute (Vancouver, BC) 2014
- Tapestry Opera Composer-Librettist Laboratory (Toronto, ON), 2012
- Accent11, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory (Cincinnati, OH), 2011
- Deer Valley Festival (Park City, UT), 2010
- European American Musical Alliance (Paris, France), 2008–09

# **Teaching Experience**

#### Brookline Adult & Community Education (Brookline, MA), Instructor Summers 2016–18

Designed and taught four-session listening/music history courses for a diverse group of adults:

- Beethoven's Chamber Music, Summers 2016, 17, 18
- Mozart's Operas, Summers 2016, 17
- Classical Music in America, Summer 2018

### Tufts University Department of Music (Medford, MA), Teaching Assistant2013–14

- Introduction to Music Theory and Musicianship (Prof. John Page), Spring 2014
- Composition Seminar (Prof. John McDonald), Fall 2013 and Spring 2014

#### Bard College Academic Resources Center, Peer Tutor

Tutored for philosophy courses including Symbolic Logic.

### Service

Volunteer, Ojai Music Festival (Ojai, CA)	Summers 2016–17
Student Representative, Educational Policies Committee, Bard College	2010-11

### **Professional Memberships**

- PEN America
- BMI

2009-11

### **Publications**

#### **Select Articles**

"Lighting for the Ears: Jonathan Tunick '58," Bardian, Winter 2023.

[Profile of a renowned Broadway orchestrator and Stephen Sondheim collaborator.] "Ligeti: Paradigms on SFSymphony+," San Francisco Symphony, January 2022.

[Feature on an audio and visual exploration with Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and AI-generated imagery by Refik Anadol and Carol Reiley.]

"Bard Music Festival—And Its World," *Bardian*, Winter 2019 [Feature on the 30th anniversary of the festival with a focus on *Korngold and His World* and The Orchestra Now.]

"Fifty Years at Powell Hall: The St. Louis Symphony Celebrates Half a Century at Home," St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, January 2017.

"Now Playing: The Birth of Opera," *Early Music America Magazine*, Summer 2015. [Feature on the Boston Early Music Festival's triple-header of Monteverdi operas.] "Andris Nelsons Brings Youth to Boston Symphony," *The Boston Globe/Boston.com*,

September 25, 2014. [Profile of the BSO's new music director.]

#### **Select Criticism**

More than 40 concert reviews and features for *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*, 2013–19
"Emmanuel Music debuts an intriguing late night of music and poetry," *Boston Classical Review*, September 24, 2017
"Cello Rising," *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 40:4, Mar/Apr 2017 [CD review]
"Michel Corrette: *Les délices de la solitude,*" *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 40:4, Mar/Apr 2017 [CD review]
"A Half-Century of New Music: Composer John Heiss," *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 40:2, Nov/Dec 2016 [CD review]
"Xiaogang Ye: Symphony No. 3," *Fanfare Magazine*, Issue 40:2, Nov/Dec 2016 [CD review]
"Love Potion Makes Intriguing Fare in Synagogue Setting," *Classical Voice North America*

(Journal of the Music Critics Association of North America), November 22, 2014

#### **Program Notes**

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: June 8, 2023 Igor Stravinsky: The Firebird Suite (1911 version) Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: May 21, 2023 MSO Chamber: Clarinet Ouintets W.A. Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581 Peter Sculthorpe: String Quartet No. 12, From Ubirr Lachlan Skipworth: Clarinet Quintet Coleridge-Taylor: Clarinet Quintet in F-sharp minor, Op. 10 San Francisco Symphony: April 27–30 Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 43 [reprint] San Francisco Symphony: April 21–23 Dmitri Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Op. 10 [reprint] St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: April 15–16, 2023 Samuel Barber: Second Essay for Orchestra, Op. 17 Frédéric Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21 Edward Elgar: Enigma Variations (Variations on an Original Theme), Op. 36 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: March 26, 2023 MSO Chamber: The Kreutzer Sonata J.S. Bach: Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D minor for Solo Violin, BWV1004 Leoš Janáček: String Quartet No. 1, The Kreutzer Sonata (arr. for string nonet)

Anna Clyne: Shorthand Ludwig van Beethoven: Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Op. 47, Kreutzer (arr. for string quintet) The Philadelphia Orchestra: March 23–25, 2023 Andrea Tarrodi: Liguria St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: March 16, 2023 Sergei Prokofiev: The Love for Three Oranges Suite, Op. 33bis Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto in A major, Op. 16 Sergei Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances, Op. 45 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: March 10–11, 2023 Bohuslav Martinů: Symphony No. 1 San Francisco Symphony: February 14, 2023 John Williams and Anne-Sophie Mutter [reprint] St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: January 28-29, 2023 James Lee III: Visions of Cahokia Leonard Bernstein: Serenade (after Plato's Symposium) Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 43 St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: January 21-22, 2023 Detlev Glanert: Weites Land (Open Land) "Musik mit Brahms" Kevin Puts: Concerto for Orchestra (World Premiere, SLSO Commission) Johannes Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: November 18-20, 2022 Guillaume Connesson: Astéria (World Premiere) Nokuthula Ngwenyama: Primal Message James Lee III: Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula Gustav Holst: The Planets San Francisco Symphony: November 11–12, 2022 Danny Elfman: Cello Concerto San Francisco Symphony: October 7–9, 2022 Igor Stravinsky: The Firebird (complete ballet) St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: October 7–8, 2022 Kaija Saariaho: *Ciel d'hiver* (Winter Sky) Joseph Bologne: Violin Concerto in A major, Op. 5 Modest Mussorgsky (orch. Ravel): Pictures at an Exhibition Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: October 6–8, 2022 Paul Hindemith: Kammermusik Nr. 3 Mondavi Center, UC Davis (San Francisco Symphony), October 6, 2022 Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird* (complete ballet) Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: September 3, 2022 Thomas Adès: Three-piece Suite from Powder Her Face San Francisco Symphony: June 2–5, 2022 Lotta Wennäkoski: Om fotspår och ljus (Of Footprints and Light) Mason Bates: Piano Concerto [reprint] San Francisco Symphony: April 24, 2022 Great Performers Series: Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason Frank Bridge: Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor Benjamin Britten: Sonata for Cello and Piano in C major Karen Khachaturian: Cello Sonata Dmitri Shostakovich: Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 40 St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: April 22-23, 202 Franghiz Ali-Zadeh: Nagillar (Fairy Tales) Alberto Ginastera: Harp Concerto Sergei Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5

Carnegie Hall (The Philadelphia Orchestra): April 21, 2022 Across the Stars: The Music of John Williams John Williams: Violin Concerto No. 2 John Williams: "The Flight to Neverland" from Hook Excerpts from Close Encounters of the Third Kind "Donnybrook Fair" from Far and Away Theme from *Cinderella Liberty* ("Nice to be Around") "Hedwig's Theme" from Harry Potter "Throne Room and Finale" from Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope The Philadelphia Orchestra: April 19, 2022 An Evening with John Williams and Anne-Sophie Mutter San Francisco Symphony: April 7–9, 2022 Adolphus Hailstork: An American Port of Call St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: March 11–13, 2022 Stacy Garrop: Goddess Triptych (world premiere) Camille Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No. 5, "Egyptian" Paul Dukas: *La Péri* Igor Stravinsky: The Firebird Suite (1919 version) The Philadelphia Orchestra: January 14-16, 2022 Mason Bates: Piano Concerto (world premiere) The Philadelphia Orchestra: November 11–13, 2021 Jacob Bancks: Clarinet Concerto (world premiere) Carnegie Hall (The Philadelphia Orchestra): October 6, 2021 Carnegie Hall's Opening Night Gala Iman Habibi: Jeder Baum spricht [reprint] Boston Symphony Orchestra (Tanglewood): July 25, 2021 Iman Habibi: Jeder Baum spricht [reprint] Boston Symphony Orchestra (online): February 18, 2021 Iman Habibi: Jeder Baum spricht [reprint] Tippet Rise Art Center: Summer 2020 [Notes completed but concerts cancelled for pandemic.] Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in G minor, Op. 74, No. 3, "Rider" Erwin Schulhoff: Five Pieces for String Quartet Franz Schubert: String Trio in B-flat major, D. 471 Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3 Gabriel Fauré: Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15 Domenico Scarlatti: Select Keyboard Sonatas Frédéric Chopin: Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52 Aleksandr Scriabin: Mazurkas, Op. 3 Serge Prokofiev: Piano Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 83 [reprint] J.S. Bach: Suite No. 1 for Solo Cello in G major, BWV 1007 Anna Clyne: Rest These Hands J.S. Bach: Suite No. 5 for Solo Cello in C minor, BWV 1011 Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata for Piano and Cello in G minor, Op. 5, No. 2 Maurice Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in G major [reprint] Felix Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49 W.A. Mozart: Piano Sonata No. 15 in F major, K. 533/494 W.A. Mozart: Rondo in A minor, K. 511 Johannes Brahms: Sechs Klavierstücke, Op. 118 Claude Debussy: Images, Book 2 Frédéric Chopin: Nocturne in E-flat major, Op. 55, No. 2 Frédéric Chopin: Select Mazurkas Frédéric Chopin: Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97, "Archduke" Johannes Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25 J.S. Bach: Partita No. 1 for Solo Violin in B minor, BWV 1002 Ludwig van Beethoven: String Trio in C minor, Op. 9, No. 3 W.A. Mozart: Sonata for Piano and Violin in G major, K. 379/377a Miecław Weinberg: Prelude No. 13 from 24 Preludes for Solo Cello, Op. 100 Paul Desenne: Gavotte from Jaguar Songs for Solo Cello Robert Schumann: Dichterliebe, Op. 48 Paul Wiancko: X Suite for Solo Violin Thomas Morley: Fantasia "Il Lamento" Pēteris Vasks: Castillo interior for Violin and Cello Steven Foster: "Beautiful Dreamer," "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair," "Nelly Bly" Charles Ives: "Songs My Mother Taught Me," "Charlie Rutlage," "At the River," "The Circus Band" Franz Schubert: Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 100, D. 929 The Philadelphia Orchestra: March 12-15, 2020 Iman Habibi: Jeder Baum spricht (world premiere) Bard Music West: October 18-19, 2019 The World of Grażyna Bacewicz Grażyna Bacewicz: String Quartet No. 1 Igor Stravinsky: Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet Nadia Boulanger: Vers la vie nouvelle (Toward the new life) Karol Szymanowski: from Mazurkas, Op. 50 Ignacy Jan Paderewski: Nocturne in B-flat major, Op. 16, No. 4 Claude Debussy: from Études for Piano Claudio Monteverdi: from Nine Madrigals Grażyna Bacewicz: Piano Quinet No. 1 Grażyna Bacewicz: Polish Capriccio Mélanie Clapiès: Remains: Trio for Strings (world premiere) Tadeusz Baird: from Suita Liryczna (Lyric Suite) and "Song of Cherries" Andrzej Panufnik: from Hommage à Chopin-Five Vocalises for Soprano and Piano Andrzej Panufnik: "Warszawskie dzieci" (Children of Warsaw) Witold Lutosławski: "I'm not expecting anybody" Grażyna Bacewicz: "Boli mnie głowa" (I have a headache) and "Sroczka" (Little magpie) Grażyna Bacewicz: Partita for Violin and Piano Grażyna Bacewicz: Piano Sonata No. 2 Grażyna Bacewicz: String Quartet No. 4 Witold Lutosławski: Dance Preludes for Clarinet and Piano Agata Zubel: Cadenza Alban Berg: Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 5 Marta Ptaszynska: Katarynka Grażyna Bacewicz: Quartet for Four Cellos Hanna Kulenty: Van for Piano Four-Hands Lidia Zielinska: Expandata for Snare Drum and Tape Grażyna Bacewicz: String Quartet No. 7 Grażyna Bacewicz: Four Caprices for Violin Carnegie Hall (The Philadelphia Orchestra): March 8, 2019 Nico Muhly: *Liar*, Suite from *Marnie* [reprint] Tippet Rise Art Center: Summer 2019 Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 1, No. 1 Dinuk Wijeratne: Love Triangle Johannes Brahms: Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8

Joseph Haydn: Divertimento in G major, Hob. IV:7 Joseph Haydn: Divertimento in C major, Hob. IV:8 Claude Debussy: Syrinx Steve Reich: Vermont Counterpoint Maurice Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Cello Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in D major, Op. 20, No. 4, Hob. III:34 Jonathan Berger: Tango alla zingarese Osvaldo Golijov: Qohelet Haydn: String Quartet in C major, Op. 33, No. 3, Hob. III:39, "The Bird" J.S. Bach: Suite No. 1 in G major for Solo Cello, BWV 1007 Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. Osvaldo Golijov): Bagatelles for Two Violins, Op. 126 Serge Prokofiev: Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56 Ludwig van Beethoven: String Trio in E-flat major, Op. 3 John Luther Adams: Select Works J.S. Bach: Partita No. 3 for Solo Violin in E major, BWV 1006 Johannes Brahms: String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 111 György Ligeti: Musica ricercata Franz Schubert: Piano Sonata No. 19 in C minor, D. 958 Johannes Brahms: Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34 Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76, No. 4, Hob. III:78, "Sunrise" Claude Debussy: String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 J.S. Bach: Capriccio on the Departure of a Beloved Brother, BWV 992 Luciano Berio: Sequenza VII Antonín Dvořák: Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat major, Op. 87 Georg Philipp Telemann: Suite for Two Violins, Gulliver's Travels Steve Reich: Clapping Music Felix Mendelssohn: String Quintet No. 1 in A major, Op. 18 W.A. Mozart: Flute Quartet No. 1 in D major, K. 285 Paul Wiancko: American Haiku Alexandra Gardner: The Way of Ideas David Bruce: Gumboots, Part 2 The Philadelphia Orchestra: September 14-16, 2018 Nico Muhly: *Liar*, Suite from *Marnie* (world premiere) Tippet Rise Art Center: Summer 2018 Domenico Scarlatti: Select Keyboard Sonatas Henry Cowell: Aeolian Harp Enrique Granados: Coloquio en la Reja from Goyescas Erik Satie: Les trois valses distinguées du précieux dégoûté Claude Debussy: L'isle Joyeuse John Cage: In a Landscape Robert Schumann: Carnaval, Op. 9 J.S. Bach: Suite No. 2 in D minor for Solo Cello, BWV 1008 Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata for Horn and Piano in F major, Op. 17 J.S. Bach: Partita No. 2 in D minor for Solo Violin, BWV1004 Johannes Brahms: Sonatensatz in C minor for Violin and Piano Robert Schumann: Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 63 Clara Schumann: Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22 Johannes Brahms: Trio for Piano, Violin, and Horn in E-flat major, Op. 40 Timo Andres: Early to Rise Gabriel Kahane: Come On All You Ghosts Antonín Dvorák: String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat major, Op. 105 J.S. Bach (trans. György Kurtág): Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit, BWV 106

O Lamm Gottes, unschildig, BWV 1085 Timo Andres: *How can I live in your world of ideas?* Robert Schumann (trans. Claude Debussy): from Six Studies in Canonic Form, Op. 56 Timo Andres: Clear and Cold Gabriel Kahane: Four Songs from *The Ambassador* Benjamin Britten: Folksong Arrangements Antonín Dvorák: Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81 W.A. Mozart: Sonata for Violin and Piano in G major, K. 301 Sofia Gubaidulina: Rejoice! Sonata for Violin and Cello Dmitri Shostakovich: Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 40 Alfred Schnittke (trans. Yevgeny Sudbin): Tango from Life with an Idiot J.S. Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007 J.S. Bach: Partita for Solo Violin No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002 Henning Kraggerud: Variation Suite for Violin and Cello Arno Babadjanian: Piano Trio in F-sharp minor Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50 Ned Rorem: String Quartet No. 4 Johannes Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115 Ludwig van Beethoven: Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 Carl Maria von Weber: Grand Duo Concertant for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 48 Franz Schubert: String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, "Death and the Maiden" Frédéric Chopin: Preludes, Op. 28 Frédéric Chopin: Three Mazurkas, Op. 59 Fritz Kreisler (trans. Serge Rachmaninoff): Liebesfreud Johannes Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 1 in G minor Serge Prokofiev: Piano Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 83 Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95, "Serioso" J.S. Bach (Trans. Nicholas Kitchen): from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book One Aaron Jay Kernis: String Quartet No. 4 (musica universalis) (world premiere) César Franck: String Quartet in D major Bard Music West: April 6-7, 2018 The World of Henry Cowell Wang Lu: Urban Inventory Henry Cowell: Ensemble for String Quintet and Thunder Sticks Carlos Chávez: Sonatina John Cage and Lou Harrison: Double Music Henry Cowell: Return Henry Cowell: Homage to Iran Eugene Burman: The Sound of Your Solitude and Mine Carl Ruggles: *Mood*, *Prelude to an Imaginary Tragedy* Henry Cowell: 26 Simultaneous Mosaics George Crumb: Apparition Henry Cowell: Fabric, The Harp of Life, The Banshee, and Tiger Henry Cowell: United Quartet St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: March 16-17, 2018 Henri-Joseph Rigel: Symphony in C minor, Op. 12, No. 4 W.A. Mozart: Select arias Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 99 in E-flat major Stanford Live, Stanford University (St. Louis Symphony Orchestra), January 19, 2018 Thomas Adès: Powder Her Face Suite [reprint] Benjamin Britten: Violin Concerto, Op. 15 [reprint] Dmitri Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Op. 10 [reprint]