

Marcus DeLoach | Composer Biography

Marcus DeLoach's multi-faceted international career as a soloist in opera, musical theater, and popular music inspires a dramatically expressive compositional style that finds its roots in a fusion of the classical tradition and contemporary musical theater vocal idioms.

His first opera, *Mooch the Messy*, based on the book by acclaimed children's author Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, was premiered at the Greenwood Music Festival, SC in 2010, with Metropolitan Opera tenor Keith Jameson in the title role. The opera has been subsequently produced by the Boston Conservatory and Tulsa Opera "Opera on Tour" outreach program, where it has played to over 30,000 school children.

In 2016, DeLoach was commissioned by Music Director Elizabeth Braden to write "Look Up Into the Heavens", an anthem for choir and organ, for the Chancel Choir of Wallingford Presbyterian Church of Wallingford, PA. The group subsequently commissioned him to write another anthem "The Lord is My Shepherd" in 2019, which was featured in Opera Philadelphia's 2021 Digital Channel original film *Organ Stops*. His first sacred choral work, an a cappella anthem "The Prayer of St. Francis", was commissioned in 2013 by the Director of Music Ministries Steve Newberry for the St. John's Chorale of The Church of St. John the Divine, Houston, TX.

While a student at Rice University, DeLoach wrote and produced Three Capstan Shanties, folk-song arrangements for three solo voices and harmonium. Additionally, in cooperation with The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, DeLoach wrote new chamber orchestra arrangements for baritone of four of the composer's most popular songs – "Mack the Knife," "September Song," "Tchaikowsky," and "Johnny's Song."

In 2016, DeLoach completed a song cycle *Four Robinson Songs* for baritone and piano and based on the poetry of Weldon Kees. His other classical songs include settings of the poetry of Derek Walcott, E. E. Cummings, Robert Bly, and James de Priest's *This Precipice Garden*. Other operatic projects have included authoring the libretto for Jeff Grace's one-act opera *The Train Ride* for American Opera Projects and serving as stage director for the world premiere of Mark Volker's opera *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* for the Young Opera Company of New England.

DeLoach holds a B.M. and M.M. in Voice Performance from The Juilliard School and a D.M.A. from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music where he studied composition with Dr. Karim Al-Zand. Current compositional projects include a song set based on the poetry of Robert Bly and a solo monologue on Melville's "Billy in the Darbies," for which he was awarded a 2021 Vice Provost for the Arts grant (Temple University).

Current for fall 2021

Marcus DeLoach | Compositions

SONGS and CYCLES

Five Poems of Robert Bly for medium voice and piano (2022)

1. After Working
2. Taking the Hands
3. Snowbanks North of the House
4. Two Middle-aged Lovers
5. I Live My Life (translated from Rilke)

Four Robinson Songs (Weldon Kees) (cycle) for baritone and piano (2015)

6. Robinson
7. Robinson at Home
8. Aspects of Robinson
9. Relating to Robinson

Youth (W. S. Merwin) for baritone, solo voices (S.A.), and piano (2012)

Songs of Marcus DeLoach for solo voice and piano (2010)

- Love After Love (Derek Walcott)
- Star (Derek Walcott)
- Religious Leanings (e. e. cummings)
- After Working (Robert Bly)
- I Have Just Seen (Angelina Weld Grimké)
- Oh My God (Billy Collins)
- The Moron (anonymous)

This Precipice Garden (James DePriest) (cycle)

1. Beyond Me
2. Eclipsed World
3. Perhaps This Is All There Is
4. I Should Have Been

Ave Maria Virgo Serena for voice and piano (2009)

CHORAL

The Lord Is My Shepherd SATB and organ (2019), SATB and piano w. violin (2020)

Look Up Into the Heavens SSATB and organ (2017)

The Prayer of St. Francis SSAATTBB (2013)

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges arr. for voices, violin, and piano (2013)

OPERA

Mooch the Messy: An Opera for Children (2010)

for tenor, baritone, child, and piano

(also available in a chamber arrangement)

PARODIES

Christmas Camel (2013) arr. soloist, chorus, and piano (2018)

Vergeblisches Mess (1997)

ARRANGEMENTS

Dakotaland arr. for tenor and voices (2015)

Four Kurt Weill Popular Songs arr. for soloist and chamber orchestra (2011)

1. Ballad of Mack the Knife *from Threepenny Opera* (Kurt Weill/ Marc Blitzstein)
2. September Song *from Knickerbocker Holiday* (Kurt Weill)
3. Tchaikovsky *from Lady in the Dark* (Kurt Weill)
4. Johnny's Song *from Johnny Johnson* (Kurt Weill/ Marc Blitzstein)

Three Capstan Shanties arr. for male trio and harmonium (2011)

1. The Drunken Sailor
2. Shenandoah
3. Can't You Dance the Polka

The Streets of Laredo arr. for voice and piano (2005)

Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit arr. for voice and piano (2005)

INSTRUMENTAL

Eleven Variations on Deep River (4th Movement) for chamber ensemble (2019)

Marcus DeLoach | Headshot

