

William McGlaughlin

William McGlaughlin's introduction to music came late; he was fourteen before he took his first piano lessons. "Happily, I understood immediately what a wonderful thing I'd stumbled into. I can remember thinking as I walked away from my second piano lesson — „Well, that's it. I'll be a musician." Of course, I had no idea what that decision meant exactly."

Over the years, McGlaughlin was to discover that „being a musician" could embrace a great many paths. He has served as an educator, as a performer — a trombonist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony, and as a conductor — seven years as Associate Conductor with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, followed by periods as music director of orchestras in Eugene, Tucson and San Francisco, and most recently, a twelve year engagement as Music Director of the Kansas City Symphony. He has also been active as a guest conductor, leading the Baltimore Symphony, Denver Symphony, Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony, New Orleans Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Opera Theatre St. Louis, American Music Theater Festival and San Antonio Festival.

McGlaughlin has also been active in broadcasting, serving as host of the popular public radio program *St. Paul Sunday* since its inception in 1980. In 1996 the program received the highest honor in broadcasting, the George Foster Peabody Award. McGlaughlin has worked with PBS, the BBC and is now in his twelfth season as co-host of the chamber music program *Center Stage From Wolf Trap*. In November 2002, the NEA announced a special grant to the WFMT Radio Network to fund the development of a new daily program: *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, which began syndication on October 6, 2003. *Exploring Music* is now in its seventh season, playing in two hundred markets across the country as well as in Australia and New Zealand. A new program debuted in the fall of 2007 with McGlaughlin as host — *Center Stage from the Library of Congress*.

It was not until 1997 that McGlaughlin made a public debut as a composer. His *Three Dreams and a Question: Choral Songs on E. E. Cummings* — a work dedicated to memory of the young composer and pianist Kevin Oldham — was enthusiastically received by audience, performers and press at its premiere with the Kansas City Symphony and was quickly followed by five more premieres within a ten month span. *Aaron's Horizons*, a work dedicated to the spirit of Aaron Copland, with whom McGlaughlin worked in the 1970s, has been heard nation wide in a broadcast with members of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

In the summer of 1998 McGlaughlin signed a contract with Subito Music, which now publishes all of his work. His recent works include *Walt Whitman's Dream*, for large chorus and orchestra, a work commissioned by Continental Harmony, a Millennium project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Composers Forum. He has also composed a piece in collaboration with Garrison Keillor, *Surveying Lake Wobegon*, which had its premiere at the Ravinia Festival on September 3, 2000 and continued to be played by orchestras from coast to coast. In addition, he contributed a piece for a „quartet of neglected instruments" for the December 23, 2000 Prairie Home Companion broadcast from Town Hall in New York. *Angelus*, composed in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra, had its premiere on March 17, 2002. *Three Pieces for Wind Trio* was given its first performance at the Kemper Museum in Kansas City on June 1, 2002.

McGlaughlin served as guest composer in residence at The Chamber Music Festival of the East in Bennington, Vermont in the summer of 2003 and composed two pieces which received their premieres

at the Festival — *Echoes*, for horn trio and *Three by Six* for chamber ensemble. In October of 2003 McGlaughlin led the Tucson Symphony in the premiere of *The Bells of St. Ferdinand*.

An unusual request came from public radio station KRWG in Las Cruces, New Mexico: to compose an orchestral piece to celebrate a seventy fifth anniversary, a rare example of a public radio station commissioning a public radio figure. The result was *Remembering Icarus*, which was premiered by the Las Cruces Symphony in October 2005 and later heard together with an interview with the composer on NPR's Performance Today. That program has been re-broadcast three times.

In 2008 McGlaughlin had three premieres: the Washington Saxophone Quartet performed *Bagatelles at Wolf Trap* in February of 2008, the Temple University performed *The Heart's Light* at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and Carnegie Hall in April and the Boston Pops premiered *Old American Songs for G. K.* with Garrison Keillor in May.

McGlaughlin recently contributed a chapter on the conducting of Leonard Bernstein to the new book published by the New York Philharmonic: *Leonard Bernstein, American Original* (pub. Harper Collins, 2008).

Recent Developments:

In October 2010 McGlaughlin went to WFMT in Chicago for a "Mahler Immersion" — a seven hour program before a sold-out studio audience, exploring the music and life of Gustav Mahler, featuring guest artist Thomas Hampson.

In April 2011, The Association of Music Personnel in Public Radio presented McGlaughlin with the AMPPR Lifetime Achievement Award at a conference at WQXR in New York City, citing "McGlaughlin's incredibly knowledgeable but always inviting and warm presence with which he guides listeners to discover the heart, soul and humor of the music he plays."

Also in April, McGlaughlin hosted "Trout Week", a series of five chamber music concerts broadcast live from the Greene Performance Space at WQXR, featuring ensembles from the Ebene Quartet through the Tokyo Quartet.

SUNY Purchase continues the series "Chamber Music With Bill McGlaughlin", featuring the Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio, the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Shakespeare's Songbook with The Newberry Consort and The Romantic Legacy with cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han.

In January of 2012, McGlaughlin doesn't just take his approach to music on the road, he takes it to sea, as host of Symphonic Voyages, a ten day cruise of the Caribbean with symphony orchestra and chamber music.