Theodore Wiprud

Theodore Wiprud is a composer, educator, and arts leader. He is widely known for having served as Vice President, Education, at the New York Philharmonic from 2004-2018, and as host of the iconic Young People’s Concerts.

At the same time, he has produced a steady stream of works including a Sinfonietta (2016), premiered by the South Dakota Symphony; a Violin Concerto (Katrina), composed for Ittai Shapira, and released with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic on Champs Hill Records; a major song cycle, Girl on Fire, created with poet/soprano Emma Stace Darling; a one-act opera, My Last Duchess, with libretto by Tom Dulack based on poetry by Robert Browning; and a number of pieces based on gugak, Korean traditional music, and including gugak instruments like p’iri, gayageum, and haegeum.

Many of Wiprud’s works explore spiritual experience, like the orchestral Hosannas of the Second Heaven and Grail; his two string quartets; and a number of choral pieces. Other works respond to American literature, including American Journal, based on Robert Hayden’s poem, and A Georgia Song, a setting of Maya Angelou.

Wiprud graduated cum laude in biochemistry at Harvard and earned a master’s in theory and composition at Boston University, where he worked with David Del Tredici. He also studied with Robin Holloway at Cambridge University, and with Jacob Druckman and Bernard Rands at Aspen.