

M I C H A E L R E M S O N

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An accomplished composer, author, educator and administrator, Michael Remson is dedicated to a dual career as a working artist and arts administrator/advocate. In 2018, Dr. Remson was honored with a Milestone Award from the National Guild for Community Arts Education for his decades of service to arts education.

As an administrator, Dr. Remson currently serves as President & CEO of the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory, one of Southern California's leading arts education organizations and one of the cultural institutions that is part of San Diego's historic Balboa Park. In this capacity, his work impacts thousands of young people every year, leading educational/artistic programming, fundraising, marketing, finance, and collaborations with other organizations. He partners with the Board of Directors and oversees a diverse team of 50+ high-performing staff and faculty to fulfill SDYS' vision to "make music education accessible and affordable for all",

Previously, Dr. Remson served as Executive and Artistic Director of AFA, Houston's largest independent provider of music education programs. Under his leadership, Dr. Remson led a decade of significant growth through the creation of year-round programs and outreach efforts in the community, many in collaboration with Houston's leading arts presenters. Employing a faculty of more than eighty professional musicians, AFA delivers 50,000+ hours of training to more than 3,500+ young people each year. As part of his advocacy, he also served on the leadership team of Arts Connect, Houston's collective impact effort working to bring arts education to thousands of school-children.

Other positions include service as CFO and Senior Consultant at Downey Associates International, a boutique consulting firm based in New York City. In addition to overseeing a \$2.5M budget, he facilitated organization development interventions, authored training materials and co-authored human resources strategies for a variety of Fortune 100 companies. He also served as Development Officer for Dragon's Gate, a start-up dedicated to working with at-risk populations through the visual arts.

As a composer and librettist, Dr. Remson has received numerous grants, commissions and fellowships and his works have been performed throughout the United States. His most recent opera, *Three Skeleton Key*, premiered at Lone Star Lyric Theater Festival. Other operas include *The Breath of Life* (libretto) at Texas Tech University and *Clever Gretel* at Lone Star Lyric Theatre Festival. Other operas have been performed by Abilene Collegiate Opera, Houston Grand Opera/Opera To Go and New York City Opera's "Showcasing American Composers" series.

Other engagements include the music for the installation *SoundForge* (created with metal smith Gabriel Craig) at The Cameron Museum (Wilmington NC, 2015), The Museum of Contemporary Craft (Portland, OR, 2013) and at the Center for Contemporary Craft (Houston TX, 2011). Dr. Remson also created the music for two short dance works in collaboration with Houston Ballet principal Oliver Halkowich. Other works include performances of *Suite de Danses* by The Nucleus Ensemble/Definiens Project (Los Angeles), performances of his 5x5 by the West Coast Wind Quintet, a performance of his *Variations for Flute and Piano* by the Bulgarian Composers Collaborative, a ballet, *Collapsible Rhythms*, with Houston Ballet artistic director Stanton Welch, and the New England premiere and European tour of *Celebration*, commissioned by the Rhode Island College Choruses.

Dr. Remson served as Composer-in-Residence with the Ulster Orchestra in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as recipient of a prestigious award from the Americans for the Arts Foundation (ARTS-USA), and the Northern Ireland Arts Council and has received numerous fellowships and residencies including The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, The Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, The Ragdale Foundation, The Kimmel Harding Nelson Center, The Hambidge Center, Ucross, and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

As an educator and author, Dr. Remson served on the faculty of Houston Ballet Academy, the University of Houston Moores School of Music, Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, the UH Mitchell Center for the Performing Arts, Houston Community College, and Carnegie Mellon University and has led numerous master classes both in the United States and Europe, most recently for San Diego Civic Youth Ballet. As part of his composition teaching, Dr. Remson's students have pursued college careers at Juilliard, Eastman, Oberlin, Peabody, Yale and USC among others. Dr. Remson is highly sought after as an adjudicator both in arts administration and music. He has published two books on American music, is a contributor to the *Groves' Dictionary of American Music* and has written numerous encyclopedia entries and journal articles, most recently for the *Journal of Film Music*.

A dual Irish-American citizen, Dr. Remson grew up in New York City and completed doctoral studies in composition and libretto writing with Grammy Award winning composer Carlisle Floyd, composer Robert Nelson and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Edward Albee. He is a graduate of New York University, the University of Houston and Carnegie Mellon University.