

# MICHAEL HERSCH

COMPOSER

A composer of “uncompromising brilliance” (*The Washington Post*) whose work has been described by *The New York Times* as “viscerally gripping and emotionally transformative music ... claustrophobic and exhilarating at once, with moments of sublime beauty nestled inside thickets of dark virtuosity,” Michael Hersch is widely considered among the most gifted composers of his generation. Composer Georg Friedrich Haas has written that Hersch “is the explorer of an unconditional, radical expressivity that reveals the human abyss without any palliation.” Recent events and premieres include his *Violin Concerto* at the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland and the Avanti Festival in Helsinki; new productions of his monodrama, *On the Threshold of Winter*, in Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Washington D.C., and his elegy, *I hope we get a chance to visit soon*, at the Ojai and Aldeburgh Festivals, where Mr. Hersch was a featured composer. Other recent premieres include his 10-hour chamber cycle, *sew me into a shroud of leaves*, a work which occupied the composer for fifteen years, at the 2019 Wien Modern Festival. In 2021, the composer’s opera, *Poppaea*, premiered in Vienna and Basel in a co-production with ZeitRäume Basel and Wien Modern. During the 2019/20 season, Mr. Hersch was the Composer-in-Residence with the Camerata Bern, and in early 2020, his new work *Agatha* saw had its premiere performances in both Bern and Geneva. In 2022/23, major projects include those for Ensemble Phoenix Basel and a new theater work for Sarah Maria Sun, Schola Heidelberg, and Ensemble Musikfabrik. Over the past several decade, Hersch has also written works for the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Ensemble Klang, Alban Berg Ensemble Wien, Decoda Ensemble, and the Library of Congress.

Also a pianist, noted for his “astounding facility at the keyboard” (*International Piano*), Mr. Hersch has appeared around the world including appearances at the Ojai Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, the Festival Dag in de Branding in the Netherlands, the Warhol Museum, the Romaeuropa Festival, the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C., Cleveland’s Reinberger Chamber Hall, the Festival of Contemporary Music Nuova Consonanza, the Network for New Music Concert Series, Festa Europea della Musica, St. Louis’ Sheldon Concert Hall, and in New York City at Merkin Concert Hall, the 92nd St. Y - Tisch Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and National Sawdust, among others.