

Bio - Raymond Luedeke :

COMPOSER- CIRCUS TERRIFICO

Ray Luedeke, one of the leading composers in North America, was born in New York City. He attended the Eastman School of Music, the Vienna Academy of Music, and Dartmouth College, where he studied with George Crumb. His output is extensive and varied. It runs the gamut from entertaining theater pieces for children, through a long list of sophisticated solo and chamber music to colorful, carefully crafted pieces for orchestra.

Recordings of his music include *Shadow Music* with the Louisville Orchestra, *The Transparency of Time* with pianist Andre LaPlante and the Winnipeg Symphony, *The Moon in the Labyrinth* with harpist Judy Loman and the Orford String Quartet, *Brass Quintet* with the New Mexico Brass Quintet, *Circus Music* with the Hannaford Street Silver Band, and *Ah, Matsushima!* with violin/marimba duo Jacques and Michael Israelievitch. Quartetto Gelato has recorded Ray's brilliant arrangement of Maurice Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* and has performed it worldwide.

The striking originality and meticulous craftsmanship of his music have been recognized by numerous grants and awards, among them prizes from the Percussive Arts Society, from the International Horn Society, and from Northwestern University. His contest winning orchestral Fanfare, opened Toronto's Thomson Hall and his overture The North Wind's Gift was performed throughout Europe in the 1991 tour of the Toronto Symphony. Six Canadian orchestras jointly commissioned *Tales of the Netsilik* for narrator and orchestra.

Ray Luedeke is also an experienced librettist. He collaborated with playwright Sean Dixon for his first opera, *Wild Flowers*, produced at The Guelph Spring Festival. Subsequently, he worked with acclaimed director/dramaturge Tom Diamond to write the libretto for his second opera, *The Magical Singing Drum*, and the script for *Into the Labyrinth*. for two pianos and actor.

In the summer of 2007, Ray started a new music theater company, Voice Afire Pocket Opera and Cabaret, and produced three shows, each reflecting a particular passion of the composer/arranger. *I Confess, I Have Lived* is based on the poetry of Pablo Neruda. *The Pocket Madam Butterfly* is an arrangement/adaptation of Puccini's great masterpiece. *Close Embrace* is based on the Golden Age of Argentine Tango and reflects the fact that Ray and his wife, Dulce, are avid ballroom dancers.

Circus Music was commissioned by Toronto's Hannaford Street Silver Band and it's then director, Robert Sutherland, now Principal Librarian of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. It is orchestrated for the traditional British brass band and besides having

been performed and recorded by the Hannaford Street Silver Band has also been performed and broadcast on the BBC by the famous British band, The Desford Colliery Caterpillar Band. The music for Circus Music was in part inspired by the famous circus figures of American artist, and inventor of the mobile, Alexander Calder.