

## Peter Kerkelov (1984)

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### General

Peter Kerkelov is a Bulgarian composer born in 1984 in Plovdiv to a Russian mother and a Bulgarian father, who resides in Greece.

### Compositions

Kerkelov's music possesses ascetic sincerity and profound straightforwardness. Though gaming with repetitive overtone-based melodic structures with multiple, self-reflecting transmigrations, his works very often cross over the limits of mere sonic games and aim to the fields of philosophy, to those other art forms – elements of which he integrates in his conceptions. Highlights in his list of works are:

- In 2018-2019, commission by **State Opera-Plovdiv** to write '**The Pied Piper and the Cars**' - Music theater-Ballet for children for soprano, bass, two choirs, wind instruments, percussion and electronics. On libretto by **Dragomir Yossifov** based on self-titled story by Gianni Rodari. Staged by the Russian choreographer **Liliya Burdinskaya**.
- In 2015, he wrote '**Time Etudes**' for orchestra, two choirs and voice solo, originally commissioned by **Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France** later on to be commissioned by **Bulgarian National Radio**.
- In 2017 he was commissioned by Apollonia Festival of Arts to compose '**Windows and Oranges**' for accordion and string orchestra. The piece was premiered by **Krassimir Sterev** (KLANGFORUM Wien) and Chamber Ensemble Sofia Soloists under Plamen Djouroff.
- The string quartet '**Two Symphonies and Postumus**' was commissioned by the Dutch Chamber Music Society on its 100th Anniversary, and was written for Ruysdael Kwartet, who premiered the work.
- In 2011, he composed '**Attempt at Screaming**' for **ASKO/Schoenberg Ensemble**.
- As a part of 2010 "New York comes to The Hague" project, he wrote '**HORO**' for **Bang on a Can-All Stars**.

### Awards

- In 2012, Kerkelov won **59th International Rostrum of Composers** in Stockholm in "under 30" category with "Attempt at Screaming"
- In 2016, his 'Time Etudes' received "Top 10 recommended work" in "**General**" category at **63rd International Rostrum of Composers** in Wroclaw
- Finalist at Sentierra Selvaggi Composition Competition, Milano
- Scholarship from **Richard-Wagner-Stipendienstiftung** – Bayreuth
- Twice awarded "Grant for artistic high education" by **Schuurman Schimmel-van Outerren Stichting**
- Twice awarded "Scholarship for classical music" by **Raina Kabaivanska Foundation**

## Career

Peter Kerkelov is a freelance composer since 2012.

As of 2017 Kerkelov is represented exclusively by the Dutch Contemporary Music Publishing House **DONEMUS** (<http://donemus.nl/peter-kerkelov/>)

Current projects include commission by **Radio France** for vocal ensemble **Les Cris De Paris directed by Geoffroy Jourdain** scheduled for 2023, an hour long vocal monodrama/music-theater "Songs of the Primitive I" inspired by the Eleusinian Mysteries and to be written for the Ukrainian-German soprano, conductor and activist **Vitoria Vitrenko** as well as a performance by **ensemble unitedberlin**.

Peter Kerkelov is Lead Research Assistant in Ethnomusicology at Institute of Art Studies in Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Previously he was appointed as a teacher in Counterpoint and Orchestration at AMDFA and served as "expert stage activity" and music score librarian at State Opera-Plovdiv. Prior to that, he was appointed as a classical guitar teacher at National School of Music and Dance Arts "Dobrin Petkov", Plovdiv.

Previous projects include commissions by Trio Imàge (Berlin), Ensemble CRUSH (Germany), State Opera-Plovdiv, pplANISSIMO Festival, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Bulgarian National Radio, Dutch Chamber Music Society, Royal Conservatoire-The Hague among others.

Kerkelov's music has been performed in Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and the USA in distinguished venues such as **Konzerthaus Wien, Gaudeamus Music Week, BOZAR Brussels, Teatro Massimo-Palermo** in performances by **Asko/Schoenberg Ensemble, "Bang on a Can All-Stars", Ensemble PHACE** (Austria), Ensemble "**Musica Nova-Sofia**", **Sofia Soloists** with **Krassimir Strev, Ruysdael Kwartet** (The Netherlands), Antonii Baryshevskyi (Ukraine), Hayk Melikyan (Armenia) among others.

Next to that he has a fruitful collaboration with **Bulgarian National Radio**, where up to date he has recorded: '**Time Etudes**' with the Orchestra and Choir of BNR with Israeli soprano Reut Rivka Shabi under Dragomir Yossifov; '**Attempt at Screaming**' with Ensemble Music Nova-Sofia under Dr. Yossifov; '**Two Symphonies and Postumus**' with string quartet FROSCH (Bulgaria).

## Education

Peter Kerkelov holds a PhD degree in Ethnomusicology from **Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**, Sofia, Master's degree in composition from **Royal Conservatoire, The Hague** where he studied under Martijn Padding and Guus Janssen, as well Master's in composition from **Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (AMDFA)**, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, where his teacher was prof. Dimitar Tapkoff. From AMDFA he has also a Bachelor degree in classical guitar and music pedagogy with teachers Milena and Valentin Valchev. In 2006-2007, as an exchange student he studied composition under prof. Dan Dediu in **National University of Music, Bucharest, Romania**.

Selected for masterclasses with **Louis Andriessen, David Lang** and **Kaija Saariaho**.