

### **Jennifer Higdon (December 31, 1962)**

Jennifer Higdon is a contemporary American composer known for her vibrant, accessible, and diverse works. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Higdon grew up in a musical family and began her formal music education at the University of Philadelphia, where she studied under the guidance of Joseph Dyer and later earned her Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

Higdon's compositions span a wide range of genres, including orchestral, chamber, and vocal music. She is best known for her Grammy Award-winning work, *Concerto for Orchestra* (2002), which showcases her distinctive style characterized by rich textures and colorful orchestration. Other notable works include *Blue Cathedral* (2000), a reflective and evocative orchestral piece, and *Percussion Concerto* (2005), which has been praised for its dynamic and innovative use of percussion.

Higdon's contributions to contemporary music have earned her widespread recognition. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2010 for her *Violin Concerto*, which has become a significant addition to the modern violin repertoire. Her work is frequently performed by leading orchestras and ensembles, and she has been a prominent advocate for contemporary music through her teaching and public engagements.

In addition to her compositions, Higdon is a respected educator, holding a position at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she influences the next generation of composers.