

## Full-length Biography

Jeffrey Nytech has built a diverse career as a composer, teacher, performer, arts administrator, and consultant. He has also run a small business, co-founded a non-profit service organization in Houston, performed a wide range of repertoire as a vocalist, and served five years as Managing Director of The Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble ("PNME"), one of the nation's premiere new music ensembles. In 2009 he joined the faculty of The University of Colorado-Boulder, where he serves as Director of The Entrepreneurship Center for Music.

A native of Vestal, New York, Nytech completed a bachelor's degree at Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), studying with John Carbon, and earned Masters and Doctoral degrees in composition from the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University (Houston), under the guidance of Composer-in-Residence Paul Cooper. He has also studied with Donald Erb at Gunther Schuller's Schweitzer Institute of Music in Sandpoint, Idaho, and has participated in master classes with Ross Lee Finney, Christopher Rouse, and Samuel Adler.

Hailed by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as "both impressive and satisfying," Nytech's music comprises a wide range of works that have been performed at venues throughout the United States and Europe, including Lincoln Center, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Soho Arts Festival, The Festival at Sandpoint, the Luzerne Chamber Music Festival, the Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition, and the Breckenridge Music Festival. His compositions have been performed by such artists as Richard Stoltzman, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, the Ahn Trio, the Verge Ensemble, the National Repertory Orchestra, the New York Chamber Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, the Binghamton Philharmonic, and the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra. Nytech has received numerous grants, awards and commissions, including First Prize in the American Festival for the Arts American Composers' Competition, a Creative Artist Grant from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston, and awards from ASCAP, the Ithaca College Choral Composition Competition, The Morton Gould Composers' Competition, "Meet the Composer," the American Music Center and the Mellon Foundation. His music has been recorded by the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robert Black, the Seattle Symphony with Richard Stoltzman and conductor Gerard Schwarz, and by George Manahan and the New York Chamber Symphony. The recording of his *Clarinet Concerto* was listed among the Best Classical Discs of 2002 by *Gramophone* magazine. Most recently, this *Symphony No. 1: Formations*, inspired by the geology of the Rocky Mountains, was co-commissioned by the Boulder Philharmonic and the Geological Society of America, receiving its premiere in the Fall of 2013.

During his tenure with The Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Nytech partnered with Artistic Director Kevin Noe to introduce an innovative new approach to presenting contemporary chamber music, incorporating movement, theatrical lighting, spoken word, video, and costumes to create a unique "theater of music." The new format resulted in a 600% increase in attendance in five years, as well as a doubling of the organization's budget. He still serves the group as its President. He has also held teaching posts at Carnegie Mellon University, the American Festival for the Arts, and Franklin & Marshall College.

In addition to composing and teaching, Nytech serves as a strategic consultant to arts organizations and works with educational institutions seeking to develop or begin entrepreneurship programs. He has lectured and conducted workshops at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, The Manhattan School of Music, Western Michigan University, The University of Minnesota, Louisiana State University, and others.

## Short Biography

Jeffrey Nych has built a diverse career as a composer, teacher, performer, arts administrator, and consultant. He has also run a small business, co-founded a non-profit service organization in Houston, performed a wide range of repertoire as a vocalist, and served five years as Managing Director of The Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble ("PNME"), one of the nation's premiere new music ensembles. In 2009 he joined the faculty of The University of Colorado-Boulder, where he serves as Director of The Entrepreneurship Center for Music. He earned his bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College and Masters and Doctoral degrees from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. Since then, his compositions have been performed throughout the United States and Europe by many major artists, and he has released several recordings on the MMC and Koch International Labels. The recording of his *Clarinet Concerto* was listed among the Best Classical Discs of 2002 by *Gramophone* magazine, and most recently, his *Symphony No. 1: Formations*, inspired by the geology of the Rocky Mountains, was co-commissioned by the Boulder Philharmonic and the Geological Society of America. In addition to teaching, composing and performing, he maintains a career as an organizational and programming consultant to music schools and arts groups.

## Critics say

### **Notturmo**

"But the most intriguing piece on the program may have been the world premiere of Jeffrey Nytch's *Notturmo*. A most vivid and unsettling nocturne, the piece evoked that dreamlike state between waking and sleeping, a surrealistic world where all things are possible and events take on a logic all their own."

Stephen Brookes, *The Washington Post*

### **Chamber Concerto**

"Nytch's work was both impressive and satisfying. Works such as this are creating hope for the future of classical music."

Mark Kanny, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

### **Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra**

"A buoyant and energetic work."

Victor Carr, Jr., *Classics Today*

### **Kaleidoscopes**

"The work contained broad, arching melodies, and was consistently enjoyable."

Charles Ward, *Houston Chronicle*

"A rich and vital piece which displays a sophisticated use of line and harmonic texture to convey a wide range of emotional states."

*The New Music Connoisseur*

### **...and the wind spoke**

"The work did more than merely amalgamate jazz, modernist and neo-classic elements. The whole was greater than even the cube of the parts, creating a distinct, fluent compositional language. ... The gradual building of energy and triumphant release resulted in a rhapsodic piece in which the listener was not only carried along but warmly embraced by the titular wind."

Eric Haines, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"The new piece possesses a clear emotional arch, proceeding from pain and frustration to weakness before regaining energy and strength and finally reaching healthy lyricism. [This] is appealingly energetic music that not only moves but gets somewhere. Nytch evokes the ancient image of the wind as a source of renewal and rebirth. The metrically varied music has an appealingly jazzy feel in harmonies, lines and rhythmic liveliness."

Mark Kanny, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

### **Lyric Suite**

"This is an appealing work, in which the lyricism of the viola part suggested the poet's own lilting voice and its spare piano writing perfectly evoked Sandburg's moodiness."

Travis Rivers, *Spokane (Wash) Spokesman Review*

### **Novas**

"Novas is a testament to explosive energy. Nytch is an excellent orchestrator, and uses conventional materials in a very expressive way."

*American Record Guide*

"Novas is the most successful piece on the disk. The piece is intricate but easy to follow."

Richard Burke, *Fanfare*

### **Silences**

"The PNME-commissioned work is a poignant, shimmering setting of poems by C.E. Cooper."

Eric Haines, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"Nytch's genuine lyrical gifts make his vocal settings especially effective. Silences is powerful beyond lyricism, with faster interplay of music shaped with compelling individuality."  
Mark Kanny, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

***Personal Affects***

"Nytch's combination of the three poems into a single work created an austere narrative arc of self discovery and personal reconciliation."  
Burkhardt Reiter, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



Photo credit: Franklin & Marshall College Magazine