

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond Clarinet Concerti

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Most famous Danish Composer, Conductor and Violinist.

Also wrote Fantasy Piece for Clarinet and Piano (1880), Wind Quintet (1922) and Serenata in Vano (1914)

- *Clarinet Concerto*, Op. 57 (1928) (A-clarinet)
  - Written for Aage Oxenvad.
  - Bitter tonality struggles between FM and EM with difficult technical passages and complex cadenza.
  - Also lore of Oxenvad having bi-polar, which concerto highlights with constant mood swings.
  - 24min

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Prominent American Composer, composition teacher write and conductor.

Also wrote Appalachian Spring (1944), Lincoln Portrait (1942), Fanfare for the Common Man (1942), and Rodeo (1942).

- Concerto for Clarinet, Strings and Harp (1947-49)
  - Commissioned by Benny Goodman.
  - Bittersweet lyricism combined with Jazzy elements and slightly inspired North and South American popular music.
  - Two through composed movement sections spaced by an elaborate cadenza. 1: Soft and supple yet difficult interval leaps, 2: Rhythmic and jazzy rondo
  - 18min

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

Prolific German composer, violist, violinist, educator, and conductor.

Also wrote Sonata (1939), Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes by Carl Maria Von Weber (1943), and Symphony in B-flat for Band (1951)

- Concerto in A for Clarinet in A and Orchestra (1950)
  - Commissioned by Benny Goodman.
  - Quasi-neo-classical style with Hindemithian 4ths and 5ths.
  - 4 Movements: 1: Rather Fast (Sonata-Allegro), 2: Ostinato Fast (Scherzo), 3: Quiet (Variation), 4: Gay (Rondo)
  - 23min

### John Corigliano (1938-)

Award winning American 20<sup>th</sup> Century American composer.

Also wrote Gazebo Dances (1972), Circus Maximus (2004), Symphony No. 1 (1988),  
Film Score to Red Violin

- Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra (1977)
  - Commission by New York Philharmonic for Stanley Drucker.
  - Very difficult concerto pushing boundaries of technical and musical ability.
  - 1: Cadenzas, 2: Elegy, 3: Antiphonal Toccata
  - 28min

### John Williams (1932-)

Legendary American film composer, conductor and pianist.

Also wrote Olympic Fanfare (1984), Air and Simple Gifts (2009), Viktor's Tale from the  
Terminal (2004)

- Clarinet Concerto (1991)
  - Written for Michele Zukovsky.
  - More harmonically adventurous than film music.
  - 3 Movements: 1: Maestoso, Cadenza, 2: Calmo, 3: Con Brio
  - Unpublished
  - 21min

### Christopher Rouse (1949-2019)

Prominent neoromantic American composer.

- Clarinet Concerto (2000)
  - Commissioned by Chicago Symphony for Larry Combs.
  - 1 Movement that is chromatically prickly that is inspired by indeterminacy and quick changes.
  - 19min

### Scott McAllister (1969-)

American composer and clarinetist. Infuses popular music, while expanding the  
virtuosity of the clarinetist.

Also wrote X Concerto (1996), Freebirds (2010), Epic Concerto (2012), X3 (2000)

- Black Dog (2002)
  - Commissioned by Florida State and dedicated to Frank Kowalsky.
  - Mends genres of classical and rock (Led Zeppelin).
  - 11min

Jonathan Russel (1979-)

American composer, educator, clarinetist and bass clarinetist.

Part of Sqwonk Duo (Jeff Anderle) and Edmund Welles Bass Clarinet Quartet.

Expands horizons for bass clarinetting.

Also composed Bass Clarinet Sonata (2011) and arranged Toccata and Fugue (2006)

- Bass Clarinet Double Concerto (2007)
  - Composed for composer's duo Sqwonk.
  - Inspired by Weber and Heavy Metal
  - 15min

**Further Works to Explore:**

Igor Stravinsky Ebony Concerto (1945)

Gerald Finzi Clarinet Concerto (1949)

Jean Françaix Clarinet Concerto (1968)

Thea Musgrave Concerto for Clarinet (1968)

Thea Musgrave Autumn Sonata for Bass Clarinet and Orchestra (1993)

Osvaldo Golijov Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind (1994)

Frank Ticheli Clarinet Concerto (2010)