

## Steve Antosca

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The music of American composer Steve Antosca blends instruments with computers for audio processing and spatialization. Through the realization of scores that juxtapose elements of indeterminacy with traditional notation, musicians craft a sonically rich performance environment. The Washington Post has described his concerts as

*"spectacular, wonderfully provocative" and noted that "he has brought wildly imaginative concerts ... to Washington for more than a decade."*

Antosca is noted for performances of his compositions in unique spaces throughout Washington and recognized for his extensive record of collaborations with Washington performance venues. After several years of developing new music events with the National Gallery of Art, in 2010 Antosca was invited by Stephen Ackert, Head of the NGA Music Department to form the National Gallery of Art New Music Ensemble (NGA NME). He was appointed Artistic Director. NGA NME performances promote innovative and imaginative work aimed at enhancing the audience's experience with contemporary music.

Antosca was the National Gallery of Art Composer-in-Residence in the Fall of 2013 where he premiered two works with the NGA NME. His Chamber Music America commission *my end is my beginning* was described as

*"a shimmering, multilayered sea of sound, surging with power under a surface of delicate detail — a fascinating dance between the human players and their electronic ghosts."*

The residency culminated with the premiere of HABITAT for percussion, video, and computers, composed for the I. M. Pei architectural wonder, the NGA East Building Atrium. The performance was part of the 65th American Music Festival and celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the East Building. It was enthusiastically described:

*"HABITAT ... filled the atrium with a surging, often breathtaking ocean of sound — and turned the huge space into an instrument in its own right. ...a complex and wildly colorful palette of sound — that seemed to sweep in huge waves from every direction, as if [the percussionist] were playing the atrium itself as a gigantic meta-instrument — and we, the audience, were inside. A fascinating and often compelling new work from Antosca."*

Antosca presented HABITAT COMPOSITION | PERFORMANCE | TECHNOLOGY | SPACES as part of the Library of Congress Technofiles lecture series.

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the West Building of the National Gallery in 2011, Antosca presented an NGA NME concert in the Gallery Rotunda, which the Washington Post wrote was transformed into

*"an immense temple of sound, presenting a program of theatrical new works that married humans with computers, and ancient myths with contemporary aesthetics."*

In 2015 Antosca was appointed *Curator for New Music-in-Residence* at the American University Museum in the Katzen Arts Center creating the concert series CONNECTED: MUSIC IN THE MUSEUM. The series will focus on the use of technology in composition and performance to exploit the sonically unique and visually rich performance environment of the Katzen Museum.

Antosca was named winner of the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011, awarded by the National Academy of Music. He received a Meet the Composer award, an award in the 36th Bourges International Competitions, a Lifetime Award from the Mandel Foundation, and numerous awards from the Randy Hostetler Living Room Music Fund, the Maryland State Arts Council, and National Endowment for the Arts grants in 2007 and 2012 to present festivals of contemporary music in Washington. He received a three year teaching technology award from the US Department of Education.

Upcoming commissions for Antosca include the chamber ensemble work *a delicate balance* for the Phillips Collection as part of their 75th Anniversary celebration in the Spring of 2016. Among his works are commissions from Chamber Music America, the McKim Fund in the Library of Congress, the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University, a Subito/Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund/American Composers Forum commission, the Kennedy Center, American Music Center, Georgetown University Orchestra, Pictures on Silence, No EXIT Ensemble and the Johansen International Competition.

Antosca's works have been performed throughout America and Europe, and in China. In Washington, his work has been performed at the National Gallery, Corcoran Gallery, la maison Française, Phillips Collection, Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and numerous universities. His works have been performed at the first New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, NYU, June in Buffalo, the Stone, the Issue Project Room, and le poisson rouge. His work was presented at the first edition of the International Electroacoustic Music Festival in Rome and at subsequent EMUfest concerts.

The violin and computer work *One becomes Two* premiered at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC in 2007 by Lina Bahn. The performance was described by the Washington Post as

*"the afternoon's most exciting composition. It was performed with knowing sensitivity by Bahn, her violin plugged into Antosca's laptop, her fiddle generating ambient electronically controlled responses that were repeated or transformed into vaporous, liquid reflections of her sound."*

*One becomes Two* received its European premiere by Bahn in Paris at the Festival de musique Américaine in 2007 and has been performed throughout the US and in Mexico and China. A graphic page from the score was published in *Notations 21*. In 2010, *One becomes Two* was presented at the inaugural concert of the National Gallery of Art New Music Ensemble in the Atrium of the NGA East Building.

From 2002 through 2012, Antosca was Artistic Director and composer member of the highly regarded VERGE ensemble of Washington. During his tenure the Washington Post wrote the ensemble put

*"modern classical music in front of the public with more dedication and skill than any other group in Washington" and was "a national presence."*

Antosca was a co-director of the 2012 John Cage Centennial Festival Washington, DC, which took place throughout Washington from September 4 – 10, 2012. Regarding the Festival's impact, the Washington Post wrote that for Washington

*"where artistic life centers on museums and conservation" the Festival "could be seen as a gradual shift in Washington where Antosca, the National Gallery, the Library of Congress, the Maison Francaise and others have been working hard to cultivate a contemporary music audience."*

Steve Antosca has a Master's degree in Computer Music Composition from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. He lives and teaches privately in the Washington, DC area.