

FULL BIOGRAPHY

EVGENI ORKIN

Composer · Clarinettist · Conductor



Photo: Stefan Randlkofer

Evgeni Orkin, born in Lviv in 1977, is a composer of Ukrainian origin based in Germany. He is also internationally active as a clarinettist and conductor. At the heart of his artistic work is the connection between historical sound worlds and contemporary means of expression. Since the 2025/26 season, he has been Composer in Residence of the Jewish Chamber Orchestra Munich. His works are published by Universal Edition Vienna, Accolade Musikverlag, Konsid Musikverlag and Are Musikverlag.

Orkin studied clarinet and composition at the National Music Academy of Ukraine in Kyiv, including composition with Yevhen Stankovych. Further studies took him to the universities of music in Utrecht and Mannheim, where he continued his training in clarinet, conducting and composition. His composition teachers in Germany included Ulrich Leyendecker and Ernst Bechert.

His oeuvre comprises seven symphonies, twelve chamber symphonies, solo concertos for violin, piano, clarinet and saxophone, orchestral and chamber music, vocal works and music theatre. His larger stage works include the opera «Magister Ludi», the oratorio «Anne's Passion» based on texts from Anne Frank's diary, the Klezmer singspiel «Mendele Lohengrin» and the musical stage work «The Keys of Toledo». In his more recent orchestral works, Orkin repeatedly engages with history, remembrance and experiences of war, persecution and migration. These works include «Odesa Rhapsody», «Death Fugue», «Requiem for a Poet», «Five Interrupted Lullabies» and «Radetzky March».

Orkin's music has been performed by ensembles including the Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Odense Symphony Orchestra, Korean National Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, Odesa Philharmonic Orchestra, INSO-Lviv Symphony Orchestra, Württemberg Philharmonic Orchestra Reutlingen, Princeton University Orchestra, Jewish Chamber Orchestra Munich and Kyiv Camerata. Conductors who have interpreted his works include Oksana Lyniv, Daniel Grossmann, Cornelius Meister, Hobart Earle, Michael Pratt, Alexander Gordon and Volodymyr Sirenko. Soloists who have performed his music include Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Sol Gabetta, Bohdana Pivnenko, Andrii Murza and Alexey Semenenko.

His works have been heard at international festivals and concert series including the Wiener Festwochen, Young Euro Classic, Kunstfest Weimar, Lucerne Festival, «Un Week-end à l'Est» in Paris, Heidelberger Frühling, Gstaad Menuhin Festival, LvivMozArt, Kyiv Music Fest and the Kontrasty Festival in Lviv.

Orkin has received numerous distinctions for his work as a composer. These include the 2023 European Composition Award in Berlin for «Odesa Rhapsody», a scholarship from the President of Ukraine, the Mannheim composition prize «Goethe versus Schiller» and the Golden Hanukkah in Berlin.

Alongside his work as a composer, Orkin pursues an international career as a clarinettist and saxophonist. A particular focus of his work is the historical clarinet and historically informed

performance practice. He performs on both modern and historical instruments and has recorded numerous works from the Baroque, Classical and early Romantic periods. As an interpreter of contemporary music, he has premiered many new compositions; works by Valentin Silvestrov, Yevhen Stankovych, Nuno Côrte-Real, Bouke Feleus, Stefan Schulzki and Ernst Bechert were written for or dedicated to him.

Orkin brought together his experience as a performer, researcher and collector of historical clarinets in the book «Methodical Introduction to Learning and Using the Historical Clarinet in Historically Informed Performance Practice», published in German, English and Ukrainian.

Evgeni Orkin teaches clarinet at the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim. The combination of composition, performance, historical performance practice and teaching forms the distinctive profile of his artistic work.