



STACY GARROP

Repair the World

CEDILLE

LINCOLN TRIO

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STACY GARROP (b. 1969)

Repair the World (5:51)

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WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Cedille Records is donating 10% of its revenues from sales and streams of *Repair the World* in the first year of release to the GIFFORDS Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Program Note

by Stacy Garrop

How does a composer write a work in response to the horrific mass shooting that took place at Highland Park's Independence Day parade in 2022? I started with research. Joanne Bernstein, a longtime Highland Park resident and the commissioner of this project, arranged for us to talk with a wide range of people about the event, from city organizers and first responders to witnesses and survivors. We also visited the current memorial site for the seven victims, along with a Kindness Rock Garden situated close to the memorial where people have placed painted rocks with messages. Additionally, we sorted through thousands of tags written by people who visited the temporary arch memorial erected near the parade route in the months after the event.

As I ruminated over our research, I placed on my desk a stone I had brought from the Rock Garden that had the word "peace" written on it. Alongside it, I put a tag from the memorial arch that was inscribed with the Hebrew words *tikkun olam* and its corresponding English "repair the world." The rock and the tag stayed as permanent fixtures on my desk as I completed the

process of composing the piece. These objects became my guiding light as to how to respond musically in my work.

What is the role of music in response to such an event? I find three purposes: first, to honor the victims and survivors. Second, to reflect on the inherent goodness of the people who jumped into action to save the injured, who provided resources to the families of victims and to the survivors in the immediate aftermath, and who are continuously working to bring the community together since the terrible incident. Third, to attempt to bring healing to members of the community.

In naming the work *Repair the World*, I call upon the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* that we need to fix what is broken. This idea plays out musically in the piece, with melodies and chords first moving one way, then “fixing” themselves by reversing, as though getting repaired. The entire structure rewinds as well, with sections presenting themselves in reverse order halfway through the piece. I also wanted to express musically that our work to heal the world is ongoing. To represent this, I introduce a repeated note motive at the very opening of the piece; this

motive is heard throughout the entire work. I end the piece with this same motive to signify that we still have work to do.

Additionally, I wish to make the universal concept of *tikkun olam* personal for all who perform and hear it. I invite all presenters and performers to translate the title into the language that is personal to them and their audiences, and to list the title in their chosen language in concert programs. May we all strive to heal the world together.

After the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023, musicians began performing *Repair the World* as a response to the crisis. Joanne and I welcome musicians to play the work anywhere and everywhere people are dealing with loss of any kind, whether from gun violence, war, or even personal loss.

Special thanks to Joanne Bernstein for her vision, spearheading this project on behalf of the Highland Park community, and to the members of the Lincoln Trio for working with me to develop different versions of Repair the World for a variety of musical ensembles.



Stacy Garrop

Dr. Stacy Garrop is an award-winning, nationally recognized freelance composer whose music is centered on dramatic and lyrical storytelling. Her catalog covers a wide range of genres, with works for orchestra, opera, oratorio, wind ensemble, choir, art song, and various sized chamber ensembles. She has received numerous awards and grants including an Arts and Letters Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Fromm Music Foundation Grant, Barlow Prize, and three Barlow Endowment commissions. Notable commissions include *Forging Steel* for the Pittsburgh Symphony, *Goddess Triptych* for the St. Louis Symphony, *The Battle for the Ballot* for the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, *Berko's Journey* for the Omaha Symphony, *Spectacle of Light* for

Music of the Baroque, *The Transformation of Jane Doe* for Chicago Opera Theater, *In a House Besieged* for The Crossing, *Give Me Hunger* for Chanticleer, *Glorious Mahalia* for the Kronos Quartet, *Rites for the Afterlife* for the Akropolis and Calefax Reed Quintets, and *My Dearest Ruth* for voice and piano, with text by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's husband. Garrop was the inaugural Emerging Opera Composer for Chicago Opera Theater's Vanguard Program (2018–2020) and has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony (2016–2019) and Albany Symphony (2009–2010). Theodore Presser Company publishes her works. Her music is frequently recorded by Cedille Records with other works available on several additional labels.

An advocate for helping composers to build their careers, she frequently mentors emerging composers of all ages through her work with various music organizations and guest residencies at universities.

Dr. Garrop earned degrees in music composition at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (B.M.), University of Chicago (M.A.), and Indiana University-Bloomington (D.M.). She taught composition full-time at Roosevelt University for 16 years (2000–2016) before leaving to launch her freelance career.

garrop.com



Lincoln Trio

Founded in 2003 and described as “Sensational,” “Bewitching” (*The Strad*), and “Models of vibrancy and control” (*Gramophone*), the celebrated, multi-Grammy-nominated Chicago-based Lincoln Trio has been praised for its polished presentations of well-known chamber works and ability to forge new paths with contemporary repertoire. The group’s reputation as a first-rate ensemble draws an eclectic audience of sophisticated music lovers, young admirers of contemporary programs, and students discovering chamber music for the first time.

Bringing together performing experience spanning the globe, each member is an artist of international renown. Violinist

Desirée Ruhstrat has performed throughout the US and Europe, appearing at the White House and performing on a live radio broadcast heard around the world with the Berlin Radio Orchestra; cellist David Cunliffe has performed with the BBC and Royal Scottish orchestras as well as touring as a member of the Balanescu Quartet; pianist Marta Aznavoorian has garnered critical acclaim for her engagements with orchestras and concert halls worldwide including at Chicago’s Symphony Center, the John F. Kennedy Center, and the Sydney Opera House.

The Trio has performed throughout the United States, including appearances at Carnegie’s Weil Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Bryant Park Festival, Ravinia Festival, Green Center, Barge Music, Poisson Rouge, the Indianapolis Symphony Beethoven Chamber Music Series, University of Chicago, Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, and in Springfield, Illinois, where the trio was chosen to celebrate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration with President Barack Obama. International engagements have included performances throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

lincolntrio.com

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