Michael Jarrell

Composer

Since Michael Jarrell’s debut in the 80’s, his music has been inspired by his interest in painting, sculpture, dance and literature, and found an immediate place within the intellectual currents that punctuate occidental music of the 20th century. Alternating between intensely fragile and expressive passages, his writing gives also a large place to the soloist whilst paying detail to the colors and the textures of the orchestra.

Many leading soloists such as Emmanuel Pahud, Renaud Capuçon, Tabea Zimmermann, Ilya Gringoltz, François Leleux, Paul Meyer, Bertrand Chamayou commission, premiere and interpret his works, which has developed into an important *corpus* of concerti.

In his stage works, such as *Cassandre* (1993-1994 after Christa Wolf), Galilée (2005, after Brecht), *Le Père*(2010, after Heiner Müller), *Siegfried Nocturne* (2013 – libretto by Olivier Py with baritone Bo Skovhus), *Bérénice* (2018, after Racine, with Barbara Hannigan, Bo Skovhus and the Orchestre de l’Opéra de Paris with Philippe Jordan), Michael Jarrell explores the numerous interpretive possibilities of the text.

Born in 1958 in Geneva, Michael Jarrell studied composition with Eric Gaudibert at the Conservatoire de musique of Geneva and completed his studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg im Breisgau with Klaus Huber.

From October 1991 to June 1993, he was in residence at the Orchestre National de Lyon. The Lucerne Festival and Musica Nova in Helsinki dedicated their 1996 and 2000 editions to the composer. In 2001, he was commissioned by the Salzburg Festival to compose Abschied.

He has held the post of Professor of Composition at the University in Vienna since 1993, and the same position since 2004 at the Haute Ecole de musique of Geneva. Residing in Geneva, he spent one year in residence from September 2015 at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin.