

## Avner Dorman (born 1975)

“Avner Dorman leaves a strong mark in the Israeli music scene here and now. His music is the most original, unique, and of the highest quality to have been played by our orchestras in the past season. Dorman is a contemporary Israeli composer that grew up in a musical family and was enchanted by all the sounds of musical space around him – of both concert and popular music. His works today demonstrate his personal statement within the realm of these influences, which serve as aesthetic models rather than a source for imitation.” (Ora Binur, Ma’ariv Newspaper)

Praised as a “fresh, young voice, worth following” (Gramophone Magazine), Avner Dorman has quickly risen to become one of Israel’s most successful and renowned composers. At the age of 25, he became the youngest composer to win Israel’s prestigious Prime Minister’s Award for his **Ellef Symphony**, and that same year he was awarded the Golden Feather Award from ACUM (the Israeli Society of Composers and Publishers). Since coming to the United States, Dorman received several international awards from ASCAP, ACUM, and the Asian Composers League

Dorman’s unique approach to rhythm and timbre has attracted some of the world’s leading conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Marin Alsop, Asher Fisch, and Simone Young to bring his music to audiences of the Israel Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Munich Philharmonic, the Hamburg Philharmonic, and the Cabrillo Music Festival, among others.

Dorman’s music achieves a rare combination of rigorous compositional construction while preserving the sense of excitement and spontaneity usually associated with Jazz, Rock, or Ethnic Music. In **Variations Without A Theme**, “Dorman dispenses with a traditional theme and instead bases his entire 20-minute work on just a few musical odds and ends—a repeated note, an ornament, a few Arab-flavored scales and a half-step interval. It’s all amazingly simple, but the end result is sophisticated music that cleverly explores both Eastern and Western sonic worlds.” (John Pitcher, Nashville Scene)

Famous for his innovative use of percussion, Dorman’s two percussion concerti are quickly becoming staples of the repertoire. Zubin Mehta led the premiere of his double percussion concerto, **Spices, Perfumes, Toxins!**, at the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and subsequently performed it with the UBS Verbier Festival Orchestra. Mr. Mehta will present the much anticipated US premiere of this piece with the New York Philharmonic and PercaDu in March 2009. His percussion concerto, **Frozen in Time**, tore audiences off their seats in an overwhelming standing ovation at Hamburg Philharmonic’s world premiere, with Martin Grubinger as percussion soloist. Dorman has made significant contributions to the repertoire of other unique instruments and ensembles in his **Mandolin Concerto, Piccolo Concerto, Saxophone Concerto, Concerto for Violin and a Rock Band**, and **Boaz** (for Soprano, Harp, and two pianos).

A pianist himself and an avid devotee of chamber music, Dorman has composed two **String Quartets**, a **Violin Sonata** (premiered in Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, a piano and woodwind quintet titled **Jerusalem Mix** (commissioned by the Jerusalem International Music Festival and the Chicago Chamber Musicians), two **Piano Trios**, and numerous works for piano solo. In

2005, Naxos released a recording of Eliran Avni performing Dorman's piano works to wide acclaim.

Born in 1975, Avner Dorman completed his Doctoral degree as a C.V. Starr fellow at the Juilliard School where he studied with John Corigliano and his Master's degree at Tel Aviv University where he majored in music, musicology, and physics and studied with former Soviet composer Josef Bardanashvili. Dorman was a composition fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and served as composer in residence for The Israel Camerata from 2001 through 2003.

Avner Dorman's music is exclusively published by G. Schirmer.