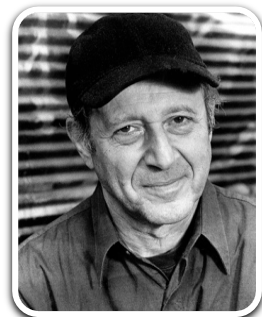


Steve Reich

Composer
United States



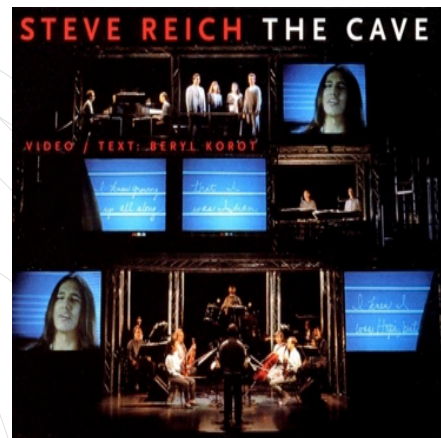
Steve Reich



- Born October 3, 1936 in New York, United States.
- Graduated with honors in Philosophy from Cornell University in 1957.
- Studied composition with the composer and jazz pianist Hall Overton, and from 1958 to 1961 studied at the Juilliard School of Music with William Bergsma and Vincent Persichetti.
- In 1963 he received his M.A. in Music from Mills College in Oakland (California), where he worked with Luciano Berio and Darius Milhaud.
- In 1966 he founded his own ensemble of three musicians, *Steve Reich and Musicians*, which rapidly grew to 18 members or more.

- In 1970 Reich became acquainted with the Ghanaian music and dance that inspired his work *Drumming* (1970). Encounters with Indonesian gamelan music in 1973-1974 at Seattle and Berkeley (California) were equally significant, and broadened his rhythmic and timbral palette.
- In 1974, he wrote his landmark composition *Music for 18 Musicians*, which brought him worldwide recognition.
- In the mid '70s, Reich started taking Torah classes with his future wife, Beryl Korot. He also studied traditional Jewish cantillation (chanting) and incorporated it into his psalm settings, *Tehillim* (1981).

- In 1988, his piece *Different Trains* (a Grammy winner), introduced a new compositional method, in which speech recordings generate the musical material for the instruments.
- Collaborating with his wife, in 1993 they completed their theater work *The Cave*, an opera exploring the combination of music and video. *Three Tales*, a three-part digital documentary video opera, was their second collaborative work.
- *City Life* (1995) for instruments and samplers marks an evolution in the use of technology: two keyboards play live word fragments and sampled urban noises. His attraction to early music (Perotin) inspires *Proverb* (1995).



- Since *Three Tales*, Reich has focused on writing smaller scale instrumental works, such as the three pieces in variation form: *You Are (Variations, 2004)*, *Variations for Vibes, Piano and Strings (2005)* and *Daniel Variations (2006)*.
- To commemorate the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Reich composed *WTC 9/11*, for String Quartet and Pre-Recorded Voices, incorporating recordings of emergency personnel and New York residents made on the day of the tragedy. It was premiered in March 2011 by the Kronos Quartet, at Duke University, North Carolina, USA.
- On March 5, 2013 the London Sinfonietta, conducted by Brad Lubman, gave the world premiere of *Radio Rewrite* at the Royal Festival Hall in London, a new work inspired by the music of Radiohead.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- Steve Reich is one of the main exponents of American contemporary music.
- He has developed a new concept of music that draws on the use of realistic elements related to daily life and elements of the traditional music of Africa and Asia.
- Also, he has opened new paths, creating a dialogue between popular and high culture, modern Western and non-European traditions, and achieving a rare combination of complexity and transparency.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- He has brought electro-acoustic instruments into play with others inspired by non-European music, where percussion and keyboards play a fundamental role.
- Reich has reinvented the form of the concert and musical theater, and broken the boundaries between these musical genres. He pioneered the use of video technology substituting the physical presence of actors in his operas.
- His music has reached a wide range of publics and inspired the work of many choreographers worldwide.

