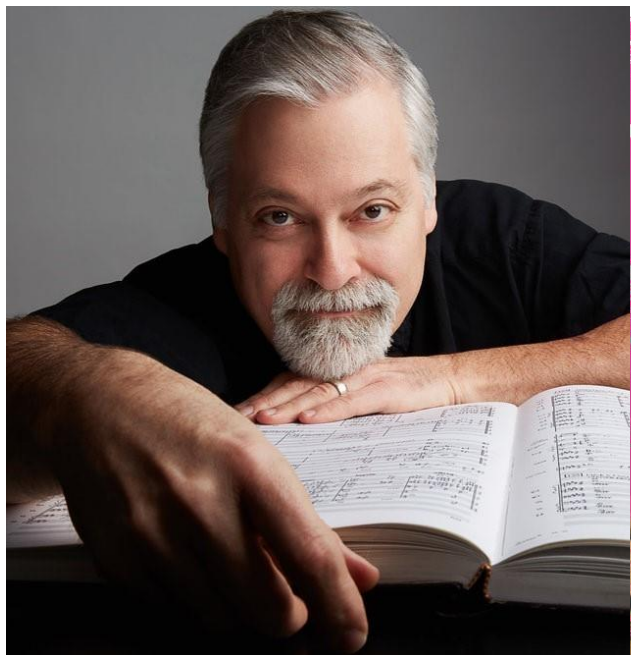


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**BPO commissions Daron Hagen for
90th anniversary season world premiere**

Hagen available for interview in Buffalo ahead of BPO concerts this week



*Daron Hagen, composer
Photo by Karen Pearson & Kevin Parada*



D. J. Sparr, soloist with BPO Feb 2-3

JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra are thrilled to reveal their latest commission, an orchestral work written by **Daron Hagen**, a renowned contemporary composer and frequent BPO collaborator. The piece, titled ***City of Light***, will be performed in its world premiere on the Opening Night program of the BPO's 90th anniversary season, in celebration of both the city of Buffalo and the BPO's decades-long legacy within it. The commission was made possible through a generous gift from West Herr's Scott Bieler, in honor of Falletta's 25th anniversary with the BPO.

City of Light draws inspiration from Buffalo's role in the electrification movement at the turn of the 20th century, imbued with a spirit of innovation, excitement, and pride. Hagen describes writing this work as "one of those rare opportunities when you are gifted the chance to simply celebrate – and there is not enough celebratory music in the world." Having collaborated with Falletta many times before, including as classmates at The

Juilliard School, Hagen asserts, "An important part of an artist's role in society is to uplift and celebrate their peers. When a composer is offered the opportunity to celebrate someone as important to American music as JoAnn Falletta, one doesn't think for an instant; one simply steps forward with gratitude."

Hagen arrives in Buffalo on Thursday afternoon for this weekend's BPO performances of ***Film Noir: Concerto for Electric Guitar and Orchestra*** – another novel orchestral work by Hagen – featuring guitarist D. J. Sparr. Audiences can experience this captivating piece at [Shostakovich & Six Strings](#) on Friday (Feb 2) at 10:30am or Saturday (Feb 3) at 7:30pm, promising an unforgettable blend of music genres and sound worlds.

For an interview with Daron Hagen this Thursday through Saturday (Feb 1-3), contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org or (716) 242-7814.

About Daron Hagen

The impeccable craftsmanship, social conscience, and emotional accessibility of creative polymath Daron Hagen's compositions moved *Opera News* to declare, "Daron is music." He is also a stage director, auteur filmmaker, librettist, conductor, collaborative pianist, and the author of the critically acclaimed memoir, *Duet With the Past*. His works are performed worldwide; his catalogue spans over four decades and includes 14 operas and two internationally-laureled composer-directed opera films, six symphonies (major works celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ASCAP's 75th, the New York Philharmonic's 150th, the Curtis Institute's 75th, Yaddo's 100th, and the Seattle Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Albany Symphony, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, among others), 14 concertos, over 50 chamber works, dozens of choral works, and over 500 widely-performed art songs.



Photo by Karen Pearson & Kevin Parada

A Lifetime Member of the Corporation of Yaddo, he has been a panelist for the NEA, Copland House, CRI, Joy in Singing, NATS, Douglas Moore Fund, Opera America, VCCA, ASCAP, received two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Kennedy Center Friedheim Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, two Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residencies, and the Barlow Endowment, Bearns, and ASCAP-Nissim Prizes. A graduate of Curtis and Juilliard, he has helmed music festivals and non-profit foundations and served on the composition faculties of schools from Bard to Curtis, the Chicago



College of Performing Arts to the Princeton Atelier. His music is widely recorded and published by Peermusic Classical.

Represented by Encompass Arts, he lives in Rhinebeck, NY with his wife Gilda Lyons and their sons.

To learn more about the BPO's storied history, distinguished conductors and world-class musicians, and commitment to IDEA, visit the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#).



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