



HANCHER

COMMISSIONED ARTISTS · COMMISSIONED WORKS



IOWA



INTRODUCTION

BY JEAN FLORMAN

The notion of commissioning work was hardly new when the Joffrey Ballet accepted the first Hancher commission in 1984. After all, for thousands of years, patrons around the world have financially supported the creation of music, paintings, sculpture, plays—even love sonnets. But Hancher’s first commission was an invigorating sea change for the University of Iowa’s performing arts venue. It heralded a new creative future for Hancher. In addition to serving as a presenter of the performing arts, Hancher now would become a creative force.

1986–2023

The number of works commissioned or co-commissioned by Hancher Auditorium and the University of Iowa.

39 commissions in dance

54 commissions in music

22 commissions in theatricals

115 commissioned works



THE
ARTISTS

THE
COMMISSIONS

THE
HANCHER
PERFORMANCES



James Kudelka, for the Joffrey Ballet • ***The Heart of the Matter***
1986 | February 25 • World premiere



Robert Joffrey and **Gerald Arpino**, for the Joffrey Ballet • ***The Nutcracker***
1987 | December 10–12 • World premiere



Laura Dean, for Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians • ***Equator***
1988 | March 4 • American premiere



David Gordon, for Pick Up Company • ***United States***
1989 | February 11



Alessandro Moruzzi, for the Kronos Quartet • ***concept/visual design for Assembly Required***
1989 | April 2



Paul Drescher Ensemble • ***Power Failure***
1989 | October 27–28



David Parsons, for the Parsons Dance Company • ***Incandescence*** (a.k.a. *Simply So*)
1990 | January 19–20 • World premiere



Larry Neff, for the Kronos Quartet • ***visual design for Salome Dances for Peace***, by Terry Riley
1990 | April 6 • World premiere



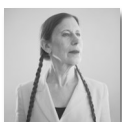
Larry Neff, for the Kronos Quartet • ***visual design for Black Angels***, by George Crumb
1990 | April 7 • World premiere



Alexander Goehr, for the Arditti String Quartet • ***Quartet No. 4***
1990 | October 8 • World premiere



Nina Wiener, for the Nina Wiener Dance Company • ***Harmonic Landscapes***
1990 | October 12–13



Meredith Monk • ***Atlas*** (1991)



Dumi Maraïre, for the Kronos Quartet • ***Mai Nozipo***
1991 | January 26 • World premiere



Christian Marclay and the **Kronos Quartet** • *New Work*

1991 | January 26 • World premiere



Bill T. Jones and **Julius Hemphill**, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Julius Hemphill Sextet • *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land*

1991 | February 2



Paul Drescher Ensemble • *Pioneer*

1991 | February 8–9



Libby Larsen, for the Cleveland Quartet • *Quartet: Schoenberg, Schenker Schillinger*

1991 | May 1 • World premiere



Wim Vandekeybus, for Ultima Vez • *Always the Same Lies*

1991 | October 16



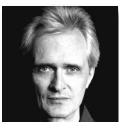
Rinde Eckert • *The Gardening of Thomas D.*

1992 | January 22–25 • World premiere



Jimmy Gamonet De Los Heros, for the Miami City Ballet • *Danzalta*

1992 | April 28



Scott Johnson, for the Kronos Quartet • *How It Happens (says I. F. Stone)*

1992 | November 5 • World premiere



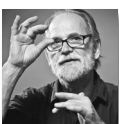
Laura Dean, Charles Moulton, Margo Sappington, Peter Pucci, and Prince for the Joffrey Ballet • *Billboards*

1993 | January 27–31 • World premiere



Pilobolus Dance Theatre • *Rejoyce—A Pilobolus Finnegans Wake*

1993 | February 27 • World premiere



Trimpin • *D.R.A.M.A. ohno*

1993 | September 14–15



David Parsons, for the Parsons Dance Company • *Ring Around the Rosie*
1993 | October 1 • World premiere



Bebe Miller, for Bebe Miller Company • *Nothing Can Happen Only Once*
1994 | February 26



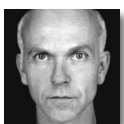
Joan Tower, for the Muir String Quartet • *Night Fields*
1994 | March 1 • World premiere



Michelle DiBucci, for the Kronos Quartet • *arrangement of Raymond Scott's Powerhouse*
1994 | March 14



Randall Woolf, for the Kronos Quartet • *arrangement of Raymond Scott's Twilight in Turkey*
1994 | March 14



John Oswald, for the Kronos Quartet • *Mach*
1994 | March 14



Bright Sheng, for the Takács Quartet • *String Quartet No. 3*
1994 | April 4



Bill T. Jones, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company • *Still/Here*
1994 | September 30–October 1 • American premiere



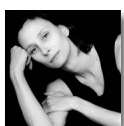
David Parsons, for the Parsons Dance Company • *Touched by Time* (1994)



Minoru Miki, for Pro Musica Nipponia • *Lotus Poem*
1994 | October 17 • World premiere



Rinde Eckert • *The Idiot Variations*
1995 | January 19–20 • World premiere



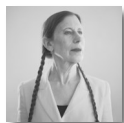
Susan Marshall, for Susan Marshall & Company • *Fields of View*
1995 | February 10



Brent Michael Davids, for the Kronos Quartet • *Tunpao Nenangpe* (Turtle People)
1995 | April 8



Ben Johnston, for the Kronos Quartet • **arrangement of Harry Partch's *Barstow: Eight Hitchhikers' Inscriptions from a Highway Railing at Barstow, California***
1995 | April 8



Meredith Monk • ***Volcano Songs***
1995 | May 2–3



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, for Urban Bush Women • ***Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story***
1995 | September 15 • World premiere



Marc Neikrug, for the Tokyo String Quartet with Pinchas Zukerman • ***String Quintet***
1995 | October 13 • World premiere



John Corigliano, for the Cleveland Quartet • ***String Quartet***
1995 | October 30



P.Q. Phan, for the Kronos Quartet with Nguyen Thuyet Phong
Hoi uc cua ke lac loi (Memoirs of A Lost Soul)
1996 | February 10 • World premiere



Tan Dun, for the Kronos Quartet with Wu Man • ***Ghost Opera***
1996 | February 10



Diamanda Galás • ***Schrei X***
1996 | March 27–28



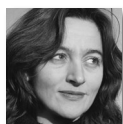
Mark Morris, for the Mark Morris Dance Group with the Handel & Haydn Society
conducted by Christopher Hogwood • Christoph Willibald Ritter von Gluck's ***Orfeo ed Euridice***
1996 | April 8–9 • World premiere



Ben Johnston, for the Kronos Quartet • **arrangement of Harry Partch's
*Two Studies on Ancient Greek Scales***
1998 | January 24

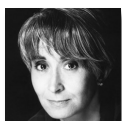


Robert LePage, for Ex Machina • ***Geometry of Miracles***
1999 | September 9–11 • American premiere



Traveling Music, for the Kronos Quartet
Osvaldo Golijov, arrangement of Anibal Troilo's "Responso"
Aleksandra Vrebalov, "Panonia Boundless"
Alicia Svigals, "Kale Baveynen II"
Hyo-Shin Na, "Kahk-seo-ree-ta-ryeung" (Song of the Beggars)
Kayhan Kalhor, "Gallop of a Thousand Horses"

1999 | September 15 · World premiere



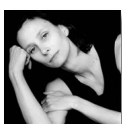
Twyla Tharp, for Twyla Tharp Dance · **Diabelli**

1999 | September 17-18 · American premiere



Ushio Amagatsu, for Sankai Juku · **Hibiki** (Resonance from Far Away)

1999 | October 1-2 · American premiere



Susan Marshall, for Susan Marshall & Company · **The Descent Beckons**

1999 | October 8 · World premiere



Paul Taylor, for the Paul Taylor Dance Company · **Arabesque**

1999 | October 15-16 · World premiere



Bill T. Jones · **The Breathing Show**

1999 | October 23 · World premiere



Lar Lubovitch, for American Ballet Theatre · **Meadow**

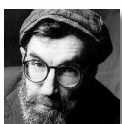
1999 | November 2-3



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

C-sharp Street - B-flat Avenue

1999 | November 19-20 · World premiere



Paul Schoenfield, for the Ahn Trio · **Four Music Videos**

2000 | January 27 · World premiere



Bill T. Jones, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company · **You Walk?**

2000 | March 24-25 · World premiere



Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe, for Bang on a Can All-Stars with the Australian Chamber Orchestra • ***Haircut***
2000 | April 8 • World premiere



Brett Dean, for Bang on a Can All-Stars with the Australian Chamber Orchestra • ***Game Over***
2000 | April 8 • World premiere



Steve Martland, for Bang on a Can All-Stars with the Australian Chamber Orchestra
Hard Times
2000 | April 8 • World premiere



Richard Danielpour, for the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio • ***A Child's Reliquary***
2000 | April 13 • World premiere



Michael Daugherty, for Ethos Percussion Group • ***Used Car Salesman***
2000 | April 18 • World premiere



Gabriela Ortiz, for Dawn Upshaw and the Kronos Quartet • ***Baalkah***
2000 | May 3 • World premiere



Pilobolus Dance Theatre, with Leonard Eto • ***Tsu-Ku-Tsu***
2000 | September 29–October 1



Bill T. Jones, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center • ***Evenings of dances and chamber music***
2002 | January 25–26 • World premiere



Kronos Quartet • ***Nuevo***
2002 | March 2 • World premiere



Terry Riley, for the Kronos Quartet, with Kantorei and University Choir • ***Sun Rings***
2002 | October 26 • World premiere



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, for Urban Bush Women, in collaboration with the National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique • ***Shadow's Child***
2003 | January 24



Lera Auerbach, for David Finckel and Wu Han • **Sonata No. 1 for violoncello and piano**
2003 | February 19 • World premiere



Bill T. Jones, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company
Reading, Mercy and the Artificial Nigger
2003 | October 11 • World premiere



Lin Hwai-min, for the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan • ***Cursive***
2003 | November 12



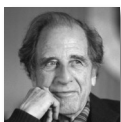
Paul Taylor, for the Paul Taylor Dance Company • ***Dante Variations***
2004 | April 16–17



Lucas Crandall, for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago • ***Gimme***
2004 | October 9



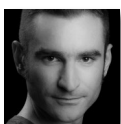
Augusta Read Thomas, for Chanticleer • ***Purple Syllables***
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
2006 | September 28



Lukas Foss, for the Guarneri Quartet • ***String Quartet No. 5***
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
2007 | April 10



David Del Tredici, for the Orion String Quartet and David Krakauer • ***Magyar Madness***
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
2007 | October 9



Brian Enos, for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago • ***B-Sides (12" Mix)***
2007 | October 12



Stefon Harris, for the Imani Winds
The Anatomy of a Box: a sonic painting in wood, metal and wind
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
2009 | September 25



Rinde Eckert, with students from the University of Iowa Division of Performing Arts • ***Eye Piece***
2010 | February 5–14 • World premiere



Tomáš Kubínek, with Orchestra Iowa and with Omaha Symphony
Professor Kubínek Meets the Symphony
 2010 | November 5, 6, 7, 13, & 20 · World premiere



Clébio Oliveira, for Hubbard Street 2 · ***The Fantastic Escape of the Little Buffalo***
 2011 | September 22–23 · World premiere



Dave Pietro · ***New Road: Iowa Memoirs***
 2012 | April 5 · World premiere



Sean Christopher Lewis, for Working Group Theatre · ***Mayberry***
 2012 | April 26–29 · World premiere



Stew & The Negro Problem · ***Songs about Iowa City***
 2012 | September 27 · World premiere



David Lang, for Anonymous 4 · ***love fail***
 2012 | October 11



Mervyn Warren and **Jeff Marx**, for *it gets better* presented by the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles · ***“You Have More Friends Than You Know”***
 2012 | October 19



Aaron Jay Kernis, for eighth blackbird · ***Pieces of Winter Sky***
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
 2013 | February 6



Jennifer Fawcett, for Working Group Theatre · ***The Broken Chord***
 2013 | April 12–14 · World premiere



Rinde Eckert and **San Jose Taiko** · ***Hancher Site Ceremony***
 2013 | June 29



Jennifer Fawcett, for Working Group Theatre • ***Out of Bounds*** (for children)
2013 | November 18–20 • World premiere



Jennifer Fawcett, for Working Group Theatre • ***Out of Bounds*** (for general audiences)
2014 | May 1–4 • World premiere



Mary Kouyoumdjian, for the Kronos Quartet • ***Bombs of Beirut***
Co-commissioned through Kronos Performing Arts Association's Under 30 Project.
2015 | February 7



Shulamit Ran, for the Pacifica Quartet • ***Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory***
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.
2015 | March 6



Sean Christopher Lewis, for Working Group Theatre, featuring Awful Purdies
All Recipes Are Home
2015 | April 17–18 • World premiere



Taylor Mac • ***“1846–1856, Whitman vs. Foster: Songs Popular Near the Breaking Point”***
from A 24-Decade History of Popular Music
2015 | December 5



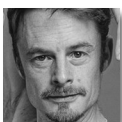
Step Afrika! • ***The Migration: Reflections of Jacob Lawrence***
2016 | October 20



David Lang, for Maya Beiser • ***the day***
2016 | October 27



Tomáš Kubínek, with Orchestra Iowa, University of Iowa Choirs, and Wycliffe Gordon
Pomp, Brass, and Lunacy!
2016 | November 5 • World premiere



Christopher Wheeldon, for the Joffrey Ballet • ***The Nutcracker***
2016 | December 1–4 • Preview performances



Samuel Carl Adams, for Emanuel Ax • ***Impromptus*** (2016)
Commissioned by the Music Accord consortium, of which Hancher is a member.



Rachel Grimes, Angélica Negrón, Shara Nova, Caroline Shaw, and Sarah Kirkland Snider
for A Far Cry and Luciana Souza • *The Blue Hour*
2017 | November 16



Camille A. Brown, for Camille A. Brown & Dancers • *ink*
2018 | January 27



Cirque Éloize • *Hotel*
2018 | October 5



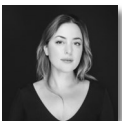
Third Coast Percussion • *Go Hawks!*
2020 | April 27 • Virtual premiere



Step Afrika! • “Stono,” from *Drumfolk*
2020 | September 9 • Virtual premiere on Facebook and YouTube



Third Coast Percussion • Three videos for *Hancher Youth & Family Talent Show*
2020 | September 10 & 18; October 1 • Virtual premieres



Paola Prestini, for Anthony de Mare • “Always” (after Stephen Sondheim’s “I Wish I Could Forget You,” from *Passion*)



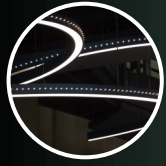
Step Afrika! • *Drumfolk*
2021 | September 11



Soweto Gospel Choir • *HOPE: It’s Been a Long Time Coming*
2022 | October 10

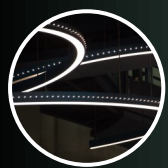


Michael Abels and Nikky Finney, for the Kronos Quartet
At War With Ourselves – 400 Years of You
2023 | February 11



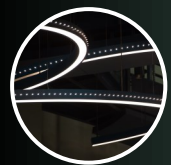
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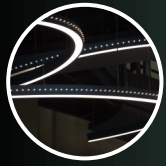
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OUR MISSION

Hancher enriches lives and helps build community through the transformative power of the performing arts.

Hancher's mission is to enrich lives and foster community through creating and sharing performing arts. Hancher is both a landmark destination and a creative spirit. We work to support the creation of new art and to make a wide range of performing arts accessible to broad audiences. A central element of this work is ensuring that art is a vital element of education for the University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff across disciplines, as well as for students and educators throughout the region. We believe that creating and sharing art this way can enrich individuals' lives and strengthen community through the broadened perspectives and understanding that result from meaningful engagement with the arts.

OUR VISION

Hancher is essential to the work of the university, the cultural richness of the state, and the advancement of the performing arts around the world.

Our vision is that, by 2025, Hancher will have a secure place at the heart of what makes the University of Iowa a destination university for students, faculty, and staff; will be a primary means by which Iowans in every corner of the state experience and learn about the performing arts; and will be an active and valued contributor to the advancement of the performing arts across the globe. Hancher's role in creating and sharing the performing arts will be as prominent in the hearts and minds of Iowans and the performing arts world as its unique physical presence is at the gateway to Iowa City for all who pass by.

OUR CORE VALUES

People First: We extend a welcoming invitation to all and value the vast diversity of the human experience. We listen, foster dialogue, and amplify stories of all kinds. People are at the heart of everything Hancher does.

Shared Experience: We prize the power of art to connect people, spark learning, and build community. We develop opportunity for collaboration—among artists, students, teachers, and community members—that leads to creative expression and new understanding.

Bold Creativity: We are catalysts. We help ignite innovation and push the limits of today to create new knowledge, insight, and art for tomorrow.

Inspired Excellence: We give the very best of ourselves, and we move others to do the same. We strive to develop and maintain the highest quality practices and facilities in the service of the performing arts and the people engaging with them.



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