

Matthew H. Fields

2800 Page Avenue

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA 48104-6916

Telephone/TDD 734-769-4836

mailto: composer@matthewfields.net

http://www.matthewfields.net

Matthew H. Fields allies himself with the broad banner of *classical music*. But he refuses to be pinned down to any doctrine or movement within classical music, insisting instead on the freedom to make tonal music, atonal music, modernistic music, atavistic music, music full of Apollonian intellectual fire, music full of Dionysian abandon, music of contrapuntal complexity, music of elegant simplicity, music reflecting the flavors of America and Europe as well as his native Jewish culture, and an ever-changing mixture of all of those and more.

With each work, Fields strives to push himself in new directions, expanding upon past developments while offering listeners something fresh. But he always values music as *splendor in sound*. By this, he means that music affects us because it is nonsense, and so, as listeners, we supply personal meanings for it and treat it as if it were very intimate communications in our own personal internal languages. Like the faces we see in clouds, we cannot help but project expression and emotion onto music, but we often see different faces in the same clouds, and project different expression onto the same music. In fact, it is precisely the fact that different people can enjoy the same music while getting totally incomparable messages out of it that makes Fields say music is not a universal language, not a language at all, but a special sort of service we offer to each other which seems to have universal appeal, and through which even warring factions find the ability to collaborate peacefully.

Born 1961 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, Matthew H. Fields grew up in and completed the public schools of Deerfield, Illinois before earning two bachelor degrees at Oberlin College in Ohio (1985, 1986), a masters degree at Stanford University in California (1987), and a doctoral degree at University of Michigan (1991). One of his bachelor degrees is in mathematics, and the rest of his degrees are in music composition. Rigorous training in computer science is woven into the fabric of these studies, and Fields has worked extensively as a computer programmer while continuing to compose and promote music.

Tuition at Stanford was paid by the private Johnson-Maile Fellowship, and at Michigan, Fields was a recipient of the Regents' Fellowship, a state-administered grant which provided tuition and a small stipend. Other honors include associate appointment to the Sigma Xi scientific research society (1984), first prize in a composition contest of the Ferruccio Busoni Memorial Society (1991), honorable mention in the Harvey Gaul Composition Competition of Pittsburg New Music Ensemble (2000), second prize in the composition competition of the Utah Composers Guild (2002), winner of the League of Composers/ISCM composers competition (2006) and a position at the Minnesota Orchestra Readings And Composers Institute (2006).

Recordings of music by Matthew H. Fields are published by Centaur Records and MMC Recordings. His works have been heard in concert and on the radio in various parts of the United States as well as Brazil, Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Armenia, and other places.

He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.