

Hampson Sisler
Composer



"It [Four Impromptus] has melodies Howard Hanson would die for. It reminded me of Charles Ives' This man should be much better known than he is."

American Record Guide



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Hampson Sisler is one of the most prolific American classical composers living today. His first works were published at age nineteen starting with the H.W.Gray Co. and going on, with time, to Jos. Fischer & Co., Belwin Mills, World Library, Laundale and Morning Star. He has written more than one hundred works for solo instruments, organ, voice, choir and orchestra. His works have been performed in his native United States as well as Argentina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hawaii, Israel, Portugal, Russia and the Ukraine, etc. and under the direction of conductors that include Marlon Daniel, Arkady Leytush, Samuel Wong and Kirk Trevor.

Born in Yonkers, New York, on August 13, 1932, he began to show a prodigious talent at an early age and by the time he was in kindergarten he was already able to play the keyboard by ear at an extraordinary level for one so young. When his mother was asked from whom he took lessons, her answer was: "He doesn't take lessons; he just does it!"

By the age of twelve he was taken under the tutelage of David McK Williams and Norman Coke-Jephcott and began

performing professionally on his major instrument, organ, and conducting choruses. He earned a licentiate in Organ and Related Subjects from Trinity College of Music, London, at age sixteen and achieved the fellowship rank in the American Guild of Organists at age seventeen – the youngest ever for this distinction."

Today, in addition to being a composer, Sisler maintains a dual career as an organist and choral director. He has served seventeen churches, most notably Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, where Abraham Lincoln was an occasional attendee, and Central Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, where Charles Ives served in the same position in the early 1900s.

Currently, Hampson Sisler is the music director at the historic St. James Episcopal Church in Elmhurst, New York. His recent compositions have been performed in Bulgaria, Israel, Czech Republic, Russia and the United States. The majority of his orchestral works have been recorded on the MSR Classics label.



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