

**David Wolfson** is a composer, music director, arranger, and pianist who lives in New York City, currently a PhD candidate in composition at Rutgers University. He holds an MA in composition from Hunter College, where he studied with Shafer Mahoney and Richard Burke, and a BM from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Eugene O'Brien and John Rinehart, graduating in 1985. In that same year he was awarded the first annual Darius Milhaud Award by the Darius Milhaud Society and won the Bascom Little Musical Theatre Composition Competition for his short opera, *Rainwait*.

Mr Wolfson's music has been called "brilliant" by the Cleveland Plain Dealer; the New York Times referred to it as "musically inventive" and "theatrically forceful." His concert works have been performed by such notable performers as Margaret Leng Tan, Jenny Lin, and the cello quartet Cello. Recent premieres include *Ruck*, for saxophone quartet, at Marble Collegiate Church in New York City; *Twinkle, Dammit!*, for toy piano and toys by Margaret Leng Tan at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Toy Piano Festival; and *Rapture*, a short opera, on the Pocket Opera series at Hunter College in New York City. A film version of another short opera, *Maya's Ark* (produced by Grethe Holby's Ardea Arts), recently had its premiere screening.

Mr. Wolfson is the composer of *Story Salad*, a series of stage revues for children, which toured nationally for fourteen seasons beginning in 1988, and was seen by well over a million children, teachers and parents. He has supplied incidental music for several off-off-Broadway plays, created sound designs for a set of Macy's window displays, and written songs for an amusement park big-headed-costumed-character show, Riverside Park's *Country Critter Jamboree*.

In the 1990s, Mr. Wolfson was resident composer and music director of EM/R Dance Co., a choreographer's collective, and co-artistic director (with choreographer Lynn Wichern) of Wichern/Wolfson dance & music, a company dedicated to performances involving both dance and live music. In connection with the company, Mr. Wolfson received several grants from Meet The Composer and a grant from the Music Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. From 2005-2009, he was the Associate Artistic Director and Music Director of Experience Vocal Dance Company (EVDC). Mr. Wolfson's compositions for EVDC have been performed in London at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, at Symposium "Tanz und Musiktheater" in Hannover, Germany, and in New York at The Field's *Fielday*, New Dance Group's *The Exchange*, Movement Research's *Open Performance*, and the *Composer's Voice* series at Jan Hus Church. His theatrical song cycle *Dreamhouse*, based on the poetry of Barbara DeCesare, was produced in 2005 as part of the Sixth Annual Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York City, to critical acclaim.

In 2013 Albany Records released *Seventeen Windows*, a CD of Mr. Wolfson's music, featuring the suite of piano pieces *Seventeen Windows*, performed by Jenny Lin, and *Sonata for Cello and Piano*, performed by Ms. Lin and Laura Bontrager. His music has also been recorded by cellist Suzanne Mueller, soprano Karen Jolicoeur, and pop singer Tamra Haydn.

Mr. Wolfson has served as music director, music supervisor, orchestrator and/or arranger for numerous musical theatre, music theatre and opera productions and readings in New York and across the country; notable examples include the Ardea Arts production of Kitty Brazelton's *Animal Tales* (directed by Grethe Holby), the Prince Music Theatre production of Adam Guettel's *Myths and Hymns*, and Al Tapper's off-Broadway musical *National Pastime*. He is a frequent performer in Broadway pit orchestras and cabaret stages around New York.