

## **Ludwig Tuman, Biography**

### **A Personal Note**

Like NASA astronauts who gaze on the blue ball of the earth floating in space, I see myself both as an American and a world citizen.

I regard humanity as one family, and the world's diverse cultures as our universal heritage. That perspective led me to begin a lifelong journey to immerse myself in the musical traditions of various countries. In my work as a composer, I draw on musical features found in cultures on all continents, whose music resonates with me on a deep level.

A love for humanity, and also for nature, is the spirit behind my creative work. It is the foundation for the values informing my work as an artist:

- a spiritual outlook on life, highlighting personal qualities such as mutual respect, kindness and generosity
- peace on a personal, local, and global level
- social justice and human rights, including equality of women and men
- promotion of humanity's oneness and unity
- appreciation of cultural diversity, and the healing of divisions and prejudices
- kindness to animals, caring for the environment, and living in harmony with nature.

Such values are at the core of my creative efforts and they are expressed, in one form or another, in the music I write.

### **Overview**

Ludwig Tuman is an international award winning composer and a performing pianist. He is also active as a teaching artist, producer and writer.

In our time, it has become common for art works to dwell on what is dark or disturbing. It has become so common as to be regarded by many as a hallmark of the serious artist. At such a time, Ludwig writes music that is attuned to the contemporary scene, yet dares to stand on a new and broader foundation. Rather than content itself with passively mirroring the human condition or objecting to the status quo, it steps beyond postmodern angst and actively proposes a way forward. It is unapologetic in its optimistic vision of human potential, innovative in its creative

combination of musical materials, and unabashedly melodic and clear.

The compositions of Ludwig Tuman evoke a musical journey around the world. His creations span many genres and media, including music for piano, orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles, and solo voice. Ludwig's works have been presented in numerous venues in Europe, the USA, South America, and on television, as well as on radio broadcasts in dozens of countries worldwide.

Ludwig's choral music has been recorded by renowned choral conductor Jonathan Talberg, directing the Chamber Choir of CSU Long Beach, winners of the Choir of the World Award.

### **Artistic Perspective**

The creative work of Ludwig Tuman is broad in its cultural sources, connected with community, and revolves around a core of enduring concepts and values.

Ludwig's music takes part in a 21st century movement among composers whose works seek to contribute to the cultural and social discourses of the time we live in, while avoiding didacticism and maintaining artistic standards. Moreover, in his published writings, he has long been an advocate of an emerging, world-embracing artistic vision that views the earth and humanity as a single whole, and the diverse arts and cultures of the world as organically related to one another. It is a vision that also views past musical styles not as outdated, but as providing a rich field of ingredients that can be recombined creatively and fruitfully in an endless variety of ways. Like other composers who share this emerging vision, his attraction to musical cultures of various continents and historical periods has led him to selectively blend, in his compositions, musical elements from a range of origins.

The cultural elements found in his compositions reflect this forward-looking vision, in which aspects of present and past, North and South, East and West, are integrated in innovative ways, in service to the public's cultural and social interests.

For him, this involves drawing upon and honoring the varied musical sources of his creative work in a way that brings into view both the oneness of the human family and its cultural diversity. The Choral Tales Project, which he founded and directs, is a clear example of this approach.

At times Ludwig composes in the more complex styles used in some of contemporary music. In other cases, such as the Variations for Piano, he is willing to draw on musical languages from an earlier period, or from the various regions of the world with whose music he feels deeply identified. With an inclusive, world-embracing approach to composition, the source of inspiration from one work to another may be from Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas, or the Pacific.

## **Background**

Ludwig Tuman is a long-standing member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers). His studies in music composition and related areas were at Harvard (B.A. cum laude), University of California, Berkeley (graduate level), San Francisco State University (M.A.), and included studies with the composers Leon Kirchner and Roger Nixon.

He also studied the piano under the internationally recognized artists Adolf Baller (who toured with violinist Yehudi Menuhin) and Istvan Nadas, himself a prized piano pupil of Bartok. As a pianist Ludwig has given numerous performances, including engagements as a soloist with orchestras, and is a highly sought after instructor.

Ludwig is a former faculty member of the Chicago Conservatory College, where he designed and taught courses in composition, theory, and piano. One of his courses surveyed the extensive influence of the music of Africa, via the African diaspora, upon that of North and South America, and featured a series of guest lecturers including jazz musicians.

## **The Choral Tales Project**

Ludwig serves as the founder, artistic director and composer for The Choral Tales Project, a major endeavor uniting choral music and dance in a celebration of uplifting folk tales from around the world. The project builds bridges across cultures, celebrating the diversity and the oneness of humankind.

[www.choraltales.org](http://www.choraltales.org)

## **Creative Member of Club of Budapest**

On the strength of the Choral Tales Project and earlier work, Ludwig became a Creative Member of the Club of Budapest, by invitation of its founder and president, Dr. Ervin Laszlo. The Club of Budapest is a platform dedicated to facilitating and providing direction to a global shift underway in the world.

Membership in the Club of Budapest is by invitation and is based on the member's engaging in significant artistic, literary or spiritual pursuits that promote a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world. Its members number some 200 worldwide.

Among them are the Dalai Lama, Princess Irene Van Lippe-Biesterfeld of the Netherlands, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dame Jane Goodall, Deepak Chopra, conductor Zubin Mehta, and the late Elie Wiesel. [www.clubofbudapest.org](http://www.clubofbudapest.org)

## Recent Honors

**2019 - Choral Tales music by Ludwig Tuman was selected for worldwide broadcast on World Radio Day, an annual event sponsored by UNESCO in partnership with the European Broadcast Union and many other broadcast unions around the world. The music was part of a package provided by the event's organizers to participating radio stations in over 100 countries.**

2019 - All three Choral Tales works were awarded Judges' Citation for Excellence in The American Prize, a prestigious national competition in the performing arts — in the division of Composition for Opera/Theater/Film/Dance.

2019 - "Cat's Protector" was selected as an International Finalist in the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, a film festival with some 4,500 applicants, based in the UK and recognized by BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts)

2019 - All three Choral Tales works selected as National Finalists in the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award

2019 - "Cat's Protector," a Choral Tales piece, selected as National Finalist in Choral Music Composition - in The American Prize

2018 - Grant for creative work from Build a Better World Foundation

2017 - "The Happy Man's Shirt," a Choral Tales piece, selected as Semi-Finalist in The American Prize.

2017 - Luxembourg Peace Prize, awarded to Club of Budapest and its Creative Members

2017 - Grant for creative work from Nora Betyousef Foundation

2016 - "The Happy Man's Shirt," original choral work selected for performance by Dr. Jonathan Talbert, director of Chamber Choir of CSU, Long Beach

2015 - Commissions for creative work in the Choral Tales Project

2014 - Grant for creative work from The Arts Collaborative (California)

2014 - Grant for creative work from Wings to the Spirit Foundation (Florida)

2013 - Grant for creative work from Artists Building Capacity as World Citizens (New Hampshire)

His work, 14 Variations for Piano, won top honors in the Concorso Counterpoint-Italy, an international competition based in New York. The competition seeks to enrich "the contemporary dialogue with outstanding works that enhance a developing international musical language." Winning compositions were selected from a large field of composers living in four continents.

In recognition of the award, the Variations for Piano were premiered in Long Island, New York.

Ludwig is also a music producer and has owned and managed a professional production facility, where he created and produced music for television. As a private teacher, he has worked with a wide range of students in piano, composition, and theory. Some of his students have gone on to produce their own albums. He is the author of a book, several published articles on the arts, and is an experienced choral director.