



**Composer Robert Sirota's *Luminous Bodies*  
Premiered by Jeffrey Kahane and yMusic**



**Sarasota Music Festival  
a program of Sarasota Orchestra**

**Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 8pm  
Sarasota Opera House | 61 N. Pineapple Ave. | Sarasota, FL**

**Tickets: From \$35 at [www.sarasotaorchestra.org/festival](http://www.sarasotaorchestra.org/festival)**

**Robert Sirota: [www.robertsirota.com](http://www.robertsirota.com) | yMusic: [www.ymusicensemble.com](http://www.ymusicensemble.com)**

Sarasota, FL – On **Saturday, June 23, 2018** at 8pm at the **Sarasota Music Festival**, Festival Music Director and pianist **Jeffrey Kahane** will give the world premiere of composer **Robert Sirota's** *Luminous Bodies* with the New York-based virtuosic chamber ensemble **yMusic**. The concert, which also includes Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27 (performed by Kahane) and Schumann's Symphony No. 3 ("Rhenish"), takes place at the **Sarasota Opera House** (61 N. Pineapple Ave.) and concludes the 2018 festival.

Sirota's *Luminous Bodies* has been commissioned by the Sarasota Music Festival for Jeffrey Kahane and yMusic. The title has multiple meanings. Sirota explains, "In the natural world the term refers to objects that emit their own light, like the sun and stars. Metaphorically, I also mean people whose inner light is strong and distinctive, like the seven extraordinary musicians for whom this piece is being composed. Finally, and most explicitly, the title refers to five composers who are significant in my own life and music, and after whom each of the work's five movements are named: George, Lili, Aaron, Fanny, Lenny. That is, Gershwin, Boulanger, Copland, Hensel, and Bernstein. Each of these great souls has had a deep influence on my life and work. I think of each movement as not so much an homage or portrait but an offering – a conversation that I am having with each composer in turn."

Over four decades, composer Robert Sirota has developed a distinctive voice, clearly discernible in all of his work – whether symphonic, choral, stage, or chamber music. Writing in the *Portland Press Herald*, Allan Kozinn asserts:

“Sirota’s musical language is personal and undogmatic, in the sense that instead of aligning himself with any of the competing contemporary styles, he follows his own internal musical compass.”

Robert Sirota’s works have been performed by orchestras across the US and Europe; ensembles such as Alarm Will Sound, Sequitur, yMusic, Chameleon Arts, and Dinosaur Annex; the Chiara, American, Telegraph, Ethel, Elmyr, and Blair String Quartets; the Peabody, Concord, and Webster Trios; and at festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Yellow Barn, and Cooperstown music festivals; Bowdoin Gamper and Bowdoin International Music Festival; and Mizzou International Composers Festival. Recent and upcoming commissions include the American Guild of Organists, the American String Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, the Naumburg Foundation, Concert Artists of Baltimore, and yMusic.

Recipient of grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, United States Information Agency, National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and the American Music Center, Sirota’s works are recorded on the Capstone, Albany, New Voice, Gasparo and Crystal labels. His music is published by Muzzy Ridge Music, Schott, Music Associates of New York, MorningStar, Theodore Presser, and To the Fore.

A native New Yorker, Sirota studied at Juilliard, Oberlin, and Harvard and divides his time between New York and Searsport, Maine with his wife, Episcopal priest and organist Victoria Sirota. They frequently collaborate on new works, with Victoria as librettist and performer, at times also working with their children, Jonah and Nadia, both world-class violists.

**About Jeffrey Kahane:** Equally at home at the keyboard or on the podium, Jeffrey Kahane has established an international reputation as a truly versatile artist, recognized by audiences around the world for his mastery of a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach, Mozart and Beethoven to Gershwin, Golijov and John Adams. Since making his Carnegie Hall debut in 1983, Kahane has given recitals in many of the nation’s major music centers including New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Atlanta. He appears as soloist with major orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and the Toronto and San Francisco symphonies and is also a popular artist at all of the major U.S. summer festivals. Kahane made his conducting debut at the Oregon Bach Festival in 1988. Since then, he has guest conducted many of the major U.S. orchestras including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Baltimore, Indianapolis and New World symphonies among others. Kahane was Music Director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra until 2017, concluded his tenure as Music Director of the Colorado Symphony in June 2010, and for ten seasons was Music Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony, where he is now Conductor Laureate. He has received much recognition for his innovative programming and commitment to education and community involvement with all three orchestras and received ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming for his work in both Los Angeles and Denver. Jeffrey Kahane has recorded for the SONY, EMI, Telarc, RCA, Nonesuch, Deutsche Grammophon, Virgin Records, Decca/Argo and Haenssler labels in collaboration with the New World, Cincinnati, Bournemouth and Oregon Bach Festival symphonies, as well as works by Gershwin and Bernstein with Yo-Yo Ma, the complete works for violin and piano by Schubert with Joseph Swensen, and Bach concertos with LACO and Hilary Hahn. A native of Los Angeles and a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Kahane’s early piano studies were with Howard Weisel and Jakob Gimpel. First Prize winner at the 1983 Rubinstein Competition and a finalist at the 1981 Van Cliburn Competition, he was also the recipient of a 1983 Avery Fisher Career Grant. An avid linguist who reads widely in a number of ancient and modern languages, Kahane received a Master’s Degree in Classics from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2011.

**About yMusic:** Hailed by *Performance Today*’s Fred Child as “one of the groups that has really helped to shape the future of classical music,” yMusic is a group of six New York City instrumentalists flourishing in the overlap between the pop and classical worlds. Their virtuosic execution and unique configuration (string trio, flute, clarinet, and trumpet) has attracted the attention of high profile collaborators—from Paul Simon to Ben Folds to Jose Gonzalez—and inspired an expanding repertoire of original works by some of today’s foremost composers, including Nico Muhly and Andrew Norman. Recent highlights include their Carnegie Hall debut in a groundbreaking new collaborative album with composer Son Lux and producer Thomas (Doveman) Bartlett, and premieres of a half-dozen newly-commissioned works, including a major new piece by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, and MacArthur grantee Chris Thile’s first instrumental work written without his own performative element. In a particularly noteworthy week, the group performed a set with Paul Simon at the Eaux Claires Festival, became the first chamber music guests in the 50+ year history of the Sarasota Music Festival, and joined Bruce Hornsby at his Funhouse Festival. Additionally, yMusic joined producer Blake Mills in recording a cover of “God Only Knows” with John Legend for the 59th Annual Grammy Awards’

“In Memoriam” segment. Other highlights include an Elbphilharmonie performance in collaboration with Anohni (formerly Antony & the Johnsons), the gut-wrenching, transgendered chanteuse, and further work on the development film project in collaboration with choreographer Bill T. Jones and composer Marcos Balter; part documentary and part concert DVD, the film will trace the events which saw Bill T. Jones coming out of retirement to dance for the first time in public in nine years. Capping off a little more than a season of touring with famed songwriter Ben Folds, yMusic and Ben released a 10-inch live concert record, featuring collaboratively-written songs, favorite live improvisations, and chamber music. To date, yMusic has released three full-length solo albums, 2017’s *First*, 2014’s *Balance Problems*, and 2011’s *Beautiful Mechanical*.

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