

# Michael Remson

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Michael Remson enjoys a diverse career as a working artist, arts educator and arts administrator/advocate.

As composer and librettist, Dr. Remson has received numerous grants, commissions and fellowships and his works have been performed throughout the United States. He has a long-standing relationship with Lone Star Lyric Theater Festival, who have staged five of his operas: **Breath of Life** (with composer J. Todd Frazier, 2024) **Mimi's Perfect Day** (2022), **Three Skeleton Key** (part of the "Radio Opera" trilogy, 2016), **Clever Gretel** (2011) and **Sorry Wrong Number** (also part of "Radio Opera", 2010). His operas have been performed at Houston Grand Opera/Opera To Go, Abilene Collegiate Opera, DePauw University Opera, Texas Tech University Opera, and as part of New York City Opera's "Showcasing American Composers" series. Recent performances include at the Del Mar International Composers Symposium (DMICS), with the Houston Camerata Choir, and the New England premiere and European tour of *Celebration*, commissioned by the Rhode Island College Choruses.

Other notable works include music for the installation **SoundForge** (with metalsmith Gabriel Craig) which was shown at The Cameron Museum (Wilmington NC), The Museum of Contemporary Craft (Portland, OR) and the Center for Contemporary Craft (Houston TX); **Grotto**, choreographed by Houston Ballet principal dancer Oliver Halkowich; and **Collapsible Rhythms**, choreographed by Houston Ballet artistic director Stanton Welch. Dr. Remson also served as Composer-in-Residence with the Ulster Orchestra in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as recipient of a prestigious award from the Americans for the Arts Foundation (ARTS-USA), and the Northern Ireland Arts Council. He has received numerous fellowships and residencies including Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Brush Creek Foundation, Ragdale, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center, Hambidge, Ucross, and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

As an educator and author, Dr. Remson has been a teaching artist for San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, Houston Ballet Academy, University of Houston's Moores School of Music, UH Mitchell Center for Performing Arts, and Carnegie Mellon University. As part of his composition teaching, Dr. Remson's students have pursued college careers at Eastman,



Oberlin, Yale, Peabody, USC, and many others. He has published two books on American music and his third, a web-based instructional program based on his teaching at Houston Ballet Academy, was published by Human Kinetics in September 2022. He is a contributor to the Groves' *Dictionary of American Music* and has written numerous encyclopedia entries and journal articles, most recently for the *Journal of Film Music*.

As an administrator, Dr. Remson serves as President & CEO of **KeyNote**, home of **San Diego Youth Symphony**, one of Southern California's leading arts education non-profits, and one of the cultural institutions that is part of San Diego's historic Balboa Park. In this capacity, he leads a team that impacts thousands of young people and their families every year with cradle to college music education programming. Previously, Dr. Remson served as Executive and Artistic Director of AFA, one of Houston's leading music education non-profits. Under his leadership, Dr. Remson led a decade of growth through the creation of year-round programs and outreach efforts in area schools, many in collaboration with Houston's leading arts presenters. In 2018, Dr. Remson was honored with a Milestone Award from the National Guild for Community Arts Education for his decades of service to the field of arts education.

A dual Irish-American citizen, Dr. Remson grew up in New York City and completed doctoral studies in composition and libretto writing with Grammy Award winning composer Carlisle Floyd, composer Robert Nelson, and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Edward Albee. He is a proud graduate of New York University, the University of Houston and Carnegie Mellon University. He lives in San Diego, CA.