

Daniel Neer is a librettist, lyricist and playwright with interests ranging from vocal chamber music, art song and choral projects to music-theater, contemporary opera, multimedia and interdisciplinary works.

He is the librettist of the new American chamber opera *Independence Eve* with music by Sidney Marquez Boquiren, which explores race relations in America, receiving its world premiere with UrbanArias at the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia in 2017 with a follow-up production by Opera Birmingham in 2019. Developed by American Opera Projects since 2012, *Independence Eve* has enjoyed a series of rewarding workshop productions by AOP First Glimpse, OPERATION Brooklyn, the Brooklyn BEAT Festival, Two Sides Sounding, Ensemble Pi and in residence at the Harlem School of the Arts. Daniel is also librettist of a shadow puppet opera *And Here We Are* with composer Matthew Welch, based on the imprisonment of Welch's great uncle in the Philippines during the Second World War. Commissioned by Experiments in Opera in collaboration with famed puppeteer-artist Jeanette Yew, *And Here We Are* made its world premiere in 2018 at National Sawdust after a series of workshop performances at Roulette, The Stone, and Merkin Concert Hall at The Kauffman Center. Other libretti include *Mercury Falling* with Chandler Carter, based on the last hours of French sculptor Jean-Louis Brian, which made its premiere at the 2009 Long Leaf Opera Festival, and *Odes to Earth an Air* with Sidney Marquez Boquiren, based on the contentious relationship between siblings Camille and Paul Claudel, receiving a workshop premiere at Adelphi University in 2010.

As a lyricist for art songs, Daniel is a frequent collaborator with composer Ellen Mandel, with whom he has created two song sets: *HAIKU-NYC*, based on an actor's salad days in the Big Apple, and *Hopper Haiku*, which gives voice to the characters and environments in the paintings of American iconoclast Edward Hopper. Other notable art song collaborations include *Gitchee Gumee* with Jonathan David, based on the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, *Algo Viene* with Isabelle Lindsey, which finds inspiration in the ancient deities of Puerto Rico's *Taíno* folklore, and *Sandy Songs* based on Hurricane Sandy's impact on New York City in 2012, composed by Linda Kernohan.

As lyricist for vocal chamber music collaborations, Daniel's projects have included the global warming-themed POLAR BEAR with Sara Carina Graef in conjunction with Polar Bear International, and two works with Jennifer Bernard Merkwitz: *Ellis Island* and *Babel* on themes of immigration in America and the plight of global refugees and stateless peoples. A recipient of two commissions by Two Sides Sounding, Daniel wrote lyrics for two 'urban cantatas': *Bruce Bailey* by Daniel Felsenfeld and *BQE (Brooklyn-Queens Expressway)* with Robinson McClellan. For his NARKISSOS project, a staged song recital on themes of narcissism, Daniel commissioned two works for tenor and harp based on his lyrics: *Metamorphosis* by Scott Mendel and *The Gyre* by Robinson McClellan. Other vocal chamber music collaborations include *Summer 1976* with Kim Sherman and *Gursky Songs* with Alex Burtzos for the program "music/poetry/ poetry/music" at Opera America, and *The Good Dr. Windhager* by Ronnie Reshef for a showcase premiere with The Secret Opera.

Daniel's collaboration with Faye Chiao on the choral work *Blanket of Stars* resulted in a premiere at a Benefit for Syrian Refugees sponsored by the United Nations Chamber Music Society and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). His first play, *The Interview*, received a world premiere as part of the New Works International Festival for Short Plays at the Richmond Shepherd Theater in New York City, directed by Ted Gorodetzky.

Daniel's works have been performed by Qube String Quartet, the Camarata Trio, and has premiered at the Queens New Music Festival, Bar Harbor Music Festival, and Phoenix Theater Festival. His collaborations have been performed at Brooklyn Historical Society, Cornelia Street Café, Roulette, Irondale Arts Center, Morse Recital Hall at Yale University and the Charles Library 'Beyond the Notes' concert series at Temple University.