

## Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

The works of New York-based composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė, winner of the 2022 Lithuanian National Prize in Arts and Culture and 2020 Guggenheim Fellowship, have been lauded as “breathtaking...profoundly moving” by the San Francisco Classical Voice, while *The Wire* praises her for “complex structures of perception and rich textures of experience”.

Described by WQXR as a textural magician, Martinaitytė has a growing reputation for her chamber and orchestral music. In 2021 Ondine Records released the CD “Saudade” of her orchestral pieces, which has gained wide critical acclaim with reviews in the *New York Times*, *Gramophone Magazine*, *BBC Music Magazine* and *Limelight Magazine*. “Saudade” was NPR Top 10 Classical Albums of 2021: “Martinaitytė’s orchestral language is rich, colorful and textured with fine detail. This album makes the case for Martinaitytė as a one of today’s most distinctive orchestral composers”. In February 2022 the New York Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Santtu-Matias Rouvali gave the US premiere of the title piece *Saudade* from this album. Martinaitytė's choral album "ALETHEIA" released in 2024 on Ondine Records, was acknowledged by the *New York Times* and became one of the NPR Best 10 Classical Albums of 2024.

Martinaitytė’s solo CD *In Search of Lost Beauty*, released on the Starkland label in 2019, received two gold medals at the Global Music Awards for Best Composer and Best Album. In 2020 she was granted the prestigious Lithuanian Government Award for her creative achievements and in 2022 a Medal of Honor from the President of Lithuania. In 2024 Martinaitytė was a recipient of the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Martinaitytė studied composition at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater and participated in various composition courses in Europe studying with Brian Ferneyhough, Boguslaw Schaffer, Magnus Lindberg, Tristan Murail and Jonathan Harvey. Although she began her career in Europe, in the last two decades her activity has been gaining momentum in the USA where she received commissions from the MATA festival, the Barlow Endowment, Volti, Bang On A Can Marathon, the “Look+Listen” Composers Competition Prize (NYC), a fellowship for the Other Minds festival (2011), the Copland House Sylvia Goldstein award and the “Composers Now” award for residency at the Pocantico Center, and the New Works residency at Harvestworks, NY (2016). She was also awarded a number of fellowships for creative residencies at the MacDowell Colony for Artists in New Hampshire (2009, 2011, 2019), Aaron Copland house (2010, 2019), Millay Colony for Artists (2012), Wildacres (2014), Djerassi Artists Residency (2017), Willapa Bay Residency (2018), Yaddo (2024), Cité des Arts in Paris (2015), the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy (2020) and the Bellagio Center by the Rockefeller Foundation in Italy (2023). In 2024 Martinaitytė joined the adjunct faculty at Steinhardt, NYU, teaching orchestration and composition.

Martinaitytė’s music has been performed throughout Europe, The USA and Asia by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Bruckner Orchester Linz (Austria), Weimar Staatskapelle (Germany), Esprit Orchestra (Canada), Volti (USA), Yarn/Wire (USA), Latvian Radio Choir, The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, The Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, The Lithuanian State Orchestra, ensemble Synaesthesia and

others. Her work for symphony orchestra *A Thousand Doors To The World* (2009), a commission by the Lithuanian National Radio on the occasion of “Vilnius – Culture Capital of Europe 2009” was broadcast by Euroradio – one of the “largest virtual concerts halls” with 4 million listeners. Five of her orchestral pieces received the Lithuanian Composers Union Award as Best Orchestral Performances for 2023, 2019, 2018, 2013 and 2009.

Martinaitytė's music has been released on 6 solo and multiple group CD's.

Her orchestral and choral works are published by Fennica-Gehrman, Finland.

## Awards & Prizes

2024 - Goddard Lieberson Fellowship, American Academy of Arts and Letters

2023 - "Enheduana", Best Orchestral Performance, the Lithuanian Composers Union Award.

2022 - Lithuanian National Prize in Arts and Culture

2022 - Medal of Honor awarded by the Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda.

2021 - "Solastalgia", Best Chamber Performance, Lithuanian Composers Union Award.

2020 - Guggenheim Fellowship.

2020 - Lithuanian Government Award for the creative work.

2020 - "Sielunmaisema", Best Orchestral Performance, Lithuanian Composers Union Award.

2019 - “Millefleur” Best Orchestral Performance, Lithuanian Composers Union Award

2017 - Sylvia Goldstein Award for “The Blue of Distance”, A. Copland House, NY.

2015 - “The Blue of Distance”, winner, ORTUS International New Music Competition, New York.

2014 - “Horizons”, Best Orchestral Performance, Lithuanian Composers Union Award.

2012 - “Driving Force” received the “Look+Listen” Composers Competition Prize (New York).

2010 - “A Thousand Doors To The World” Best Orchestral Performance, Lithuanian Composers Union.

## Recordings

2024 - solo CD "ALETHEIA", Ondine Records

2022 – solo CD “Hadal Zone”, Cantaloupe Records

2022 – solo CD of chamber orchestra works “Ex Tenebris Lux”, Ondine Records

2021 – solo CD of orchestral music “Saudade”, Ondine Records

2019 - solo CD "In Search of Lost Beauty", Starkland label

2017 - solo CD "Horizons", Lithuanian Music Information Center

## Selected Works:

**EKAGGATA** (2024) for violin and chamber orchestra (22')

Co-commissioned by the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, O'Modern't Chamber Orchestra and Lithuanian National Philharmonic. Premiere on October 25th, 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**ZEITGEBER** (2024) for 2 cellos (10')

Commissioned by the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light. Premiered on September 20th, 2024 in Germany.

**ENHEDUANA** (2023) for mezzo-soprano and symphony orchestra (35')

Commissioned by the Gaida festival. Premiered October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**SPIRAL SPIN** (2023) for cello (10')

Commissioned by the Kronberg festival Premiered on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the Kronberg festival, Germany.

**ALETHEIA** (2022) for a capella choir (17')

Commissioned by the LRT "Klasika". Premiered on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the "Baltic Music Days" in Kaunas, Lithuania.

**Hadal Zone** (2021) for bass clarinet, tuba, cello, contrabass, piano and electronics (64').

Premiered at Konzerthaus Blaibach, Germany on November 19th, 2021.

**Catharsis** (2021) for symphony orchestra (25')

Commissioned by the Lithuanian Composers Union. Premiered at the Gaida festival on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Ex Tenebris Lux** (2021) for string orchestra (25')

Vilnius Festival commission. Premiered on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Lithuanian National Philharmonie in Vilnius.

**Abyssal Zone** (2020) for contrabass (9')

Bang On A Can Marathon commission. Premiered on June 14th, 2020.

**Nunc fluens. Nunc stans** (2020) for percussion and string orchestra (16')

Premiered on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Lithuanian National Philharmonie in Vilnius.

**Saudade** (2019) for symphony orchestra (17')

Commissioned by the Lithuanian Composers Union. Premiered at the Gaida festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Sielunmaisema** (2019) for cello and string orchestra (34')

"Permainu Muzika" festival commission. Premiered on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

**Chant des Voyelles** (2018) for acapella choir (16')

Commissioned by VOLTI. Premiered on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in San Francisco, CA.

**Millefleur** (2018) for symphony orchestra (14')

“Iš arti” festival commission. Premiered on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

**Chiaroscuro Trilogy** (2017) for piano and string orchestra (18')

Gaida festival commission. Premiered on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Unique Forms of Continuity in Space** (2017) for two pianos and percussion (16')

Commissioned by the “Look+Listen” festival. Premiered on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at BRIC, New York.

**Vanishing Lands** (2016) for pre-recorded sounds, electronics and 3D mapping projections (20'). Created for New Works Residency at Harvestworks in New York. Performed in January, 2017 at Harvestworks, NY.

**In Search of Lost Beauty** (2015-16) for piano, violin, cello, electronics and visuals (68')

Created as part of a residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France.

Premiered on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Horizons** (2013) for symphony orchestra (17')

Gaida festival commission. Premiered in November, 2013 by The Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, conductor Mārtiņš Ozoliņš. USA premiere on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Composers Inc. concert “Remember November: Orchestra Invasion!” in Berkeley, CA. Performed by The University of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, conductor Nicolas Waldvogel.

**Serenity Diptychs** (2015) for violin, electronics and still images (13')

Creative collaboration with artist Philip Van Keuren. Premiered on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by Karen Bentley Pollick in Tallinn, Estonia.

**The Blue of Distance** (2010) a cappella choir (10'30")

Commissioned by GAIDA festival, Lithuania. Premiered in 2010 by the choir “Jauna Muzika”. East Coast premiere on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 by “C 4” in New York.

West Coast Premiere on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by VOLTI in San Francisco, CA.

**OSMOSIS** (2015) for brass sextet (12'30")

Commissioned and performed by TILT Brass on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in New York.

**Gridlock** (2013) for clarinet, cello and piano (25')

Commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University. Premiered in 2016 in New York City.

**American Hodgepodge** (2011) for flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello and electronics (17')

Created as a part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Other Minds Festival Composer Fellowship. Performed by Jill Heinke, Jeffrey Anderle, Elizabeth Choi and Hannah Addario-Berry on March 2nd, 2011 in San Francisco, CA.

**1+1= ∞** (2011) for 2 cellos, piano, pre-recorded sounds, live electronics and audio cubes (35') . Commissioned by Jauna Muzika festival, Lithuania. Performed by “Duo Violoncellissimo“ (Ukraine), Neringa Butkutė and True Rosaschi.

**Inhabited Silences** (2010) for violin, cello and piano (11'30")  
Performed by the New Pacific Trio, California on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in San Francisco, CA.

**A Thousand Doors to the World** (2009) for symphony orchestra (11'30")  
Commissioned by Lithuanian Radio on the occasion of “Vilnius - Culture Capital of Europe 2009”. Performed by The Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Juozas Domarkas.

**Polarities** (2008) for 13 instruments (13')  
Commissioned by the MATA festival (NYC) and performed by The Knights Chamber Orchestra, conductor Eric Jacobsen.

**Continuity-Discontinuity (11:11-11:22)** (2008) for 4 bassoons and tape (11'11")  
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika Festival and performed by “Vilniaus Fagotynas”.

**Mosaic** (2008) for tenor, flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello and piano (11'40")  
GAIDA festival commission. Performed by The Disobedient Ensemble.

**Perpetual Pulsing Transience** (2007) for 6 accordions and large ensemble (11'40")  
Commissioned by conductor Daniel Gazon. Performed by The Orchestra of Mons Royal Conservatoire in Brussels, Belgium.

**Breakthrough** (2006) concerto for accordion and chamber orchestra (20')  
Commissioned by the Association of Lithuanian Accordionists (LAA) and XI International accordion music festival in Vilnius. Performed by Raimondas Sviackevičius and The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, conducted by R. Šervenikas.

**Completely Embraced by the Beauty of Emptiness** (2006) for 13 instruments (10')  
Commissioned by ERGO ensemble (Canada). Performed at the CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Canada.

**Illusions of Time and Space** (2006) for string quartet and electronics (13'20")  
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika Festival and performed by The Smith Quartet (UK) on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Driving Force** (2004) for trombone, tenor saxophone and accordion (7'40")  
Commissioned by GAIDA festival, Lithuania. Performed by Mike Svoboda, Liudas Mockūnas and Raimondas Sviackevičius.