**Ricky Ian Gordon** was born on May 15, 1956 in Oceanside, NY and raised on Long Island. After studying composition at Carnegie Mellon University, he settled in New York City, where he quickly emerged as a leading writer of vocal music that spans art song, opera, and musical theater. Mr. Gordon's songs have been performed and/or recorded by such internationally renowned singers as Renee Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Audra MacDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, the late Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Frederica Von Stade, Andrea Marcovicci, Harolyn Blackwell, and Betty Buckley, among many others.

Recent productions of his work include:

2010: *Sycamore Trees*, directed by Tina Landau, book by Ricky Ian Gordon and Nina Mankin, at Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA.

2010: The Grapes of Wrath - A Two Act Concert Version of the Opera with a libretto by Michael Korie, at Carnegie Hall. Narrated by Jane Fonda, with a cast that included Victoria Clark, Nathan Gunn, Christine Ebersole and Elizabeth Futral, with The Collegiate Chorale and The American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ted Sperling.

2008: Green Sneakers, a theatrical song cycle for Baritone, String Quartet, and Empty Chair, with a libretto by the composer, at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Vail, CO, with baritone Jesse Blumberg and the Miami String Quartet.

2007 & 2008: The Grapes of Wrath, a full-scale opera with libretto by Michael Korie, premiered at the Minnesota Opera in a production that then traveled to Utah Opera and Pittsburgh Opera. Musical America called the work, “The great American opera”. The full opera, live from the Minnesota premiere, is now available on a 3 CD set with libretto liner notes on PS Classics.

2005: Orpheus and Euridice, an hour-long song cycle in two acts, premiered at Lincoln Center. Directed and choreographed by Doug Varone and performed by Elizabeth Futral, Soprano, Todd Palmer, Clarinet and Melvin Chen, Piano, it won an OBIE Award and is recorded on Ghostlight Records.

2003: My Life with Albertine, written with Richard Nelson and based on Proust's Remembrance of Things Past, premiered at New York's Playwrights Horizons

2001: Bright Eyed Joy: The Music of Ricky Ian Gordon, was presented at Lincoln Center as part of the American Songbook Series.

Other works include, Dream True, written with Tina Landau and premiered in 1999 at The Vineyard Theater, States Of Independence, also with Ms. Landau, for The Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia, and Only Heaven, based on the works of Langston Hughes and premiered in 1995 at Encompass Opera. The Tibetan Book of the Dead, written with Jean Claude Van Itallie, premiered at the Houston Grand Opera in 1996 and Morning Star, written with William Hoffman was premiered at The Lyric Opera of Chicago, where Mr. Gordon was a composer in residence.

He is currently working on commissions for New York's Metropolitan Opera (*Adele Hugo*) with librettist Michael Korie, a co-commission for a new work about the Civil War with librettist Mark Campbell, for Virginia Opera and The Virginia Arts Festival, and a new opera for the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota Opera (Garden of the Finzi Continis) with librettist Michael Korie.

Mr. Gordon has taught both Master Classes and Composition Classes at Yale, NYU, Northwestern, Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Catholic, Bennington, Vassar, Carnegie-Mellon, Elon, Michigan State, U of Michigan, and San Francisco Conservatory. He has been the featured Composer-in Residence at The Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Songfest at Pepperdine University, Chatauqua, Aspen Music Festival, and Ravinia.

Among his honors are the 2003 Alumni Merit Award for exceptional achievement and leadership from Carnegie-Mellon University, the Shen Family Foundation award, the Stephen Sondheim Award, The Gilman and Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award, The Constance Klinsky Award, and many awards from ASCAP, of which he is a member, The National Endowment of the Arts, and The American Music Center.

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