

Stanley A. Funicelli; biographical notes

Stanley A. Funicelli began his professional career in music in his native New Jersey at the age of twelve as a “drummer” in one of the area’s most popular small “combo”. By the age of 14 he began his self-directed study of theory and composition, beginning with the famous and famously difficult volumes by Hindemith and Schoenberg. He began a similarly self-directed study of the classical guitar, which remains his primary instrument to this day, at age 16.

He received his BA and MM from the University of Utah, where he distinguished himself from the very first. In his first quarter of attendance he was granted entrance to graduate level courses in composition, counterpoint, theory and analysis. While still technically an undergraduate, he studied composition privately with Alexei Haieff, Theodor Antoniou, Ramiro Cortes and Vladimir Ussachevsky.

Under Dr. Ussachevsky, he studied electronic composition as well as more traditional forms. Mr. Funicelli orchestrated several of Dr. Ussachevsky’s later works and was granted a full scholarship and stipend to Columbia University’s prestigious School of the Arts under Dr. Ussachevsky’s sponsorship.

At the U of U he was twice the recipient of Departmental Awards in Theory and Composition, awarded the Leroy Robertson Award in Composition, The University of Utah Bicentennial Composition Prize, was departmental tutor in theory and counterpoint, taught a section of music theory and had more than 40 works premiered and/or recorded of the over 100 composed,

At Columbia’s School of the Arts he studied with Jack Beeson, Allen Forte and George Perle, the latter two who were present as visiting faculty, as well as continuing his association with Dr. Ussachevsky. During that year he had five works premiered, was named co-finalist in the American Academy of Arts and Letters Charles Ives Award, as well as completing four years of course work with perfect marks.

Mr. Funicelli has received the Jerome Foundation/St. Paul Chamber Orchestra’s First Composer Award for *Scintillae* for Chamber Orchestra, served as the composer-in-residence of the Murray Symphony, for whom he produced three orchestral works - “Anodyne”, *Cenotaph*” and *Symphony No. 2*, has received numerous commissions, including a commission for orchestra, soprano, organ and antiphonal brass which he based on “Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold. He was also the first juried recipient of the US West/Utah Arts Festival commission, due to the strong support of Maestro Maurice Abravanel, conductor emeritus of the Utah Symphony, which resulted in his *Symphony No. 4*. The work was subsequently performed by the Utah Symphony under the baton of Maestro Joseph Silverstein.

At present his catalogue numbers over 600 original works, including 6 Symphonies, 7 Sonatas for Unaccompanied Violin, 5 sonatas and 7 sonatinas, as well as numerous other works for solo guitar, and 14 String Quartets. Recent works include the Sonata No. 1 for Piano, Overture to *the French Lieutenant's Woman* for orchestra (for a projected opera), "The Shape of Fire" - a work for large orchestra proposed by Ballet West, and a group of original compositions and transcriptions for the California Guitar Trio, who record and tour his works extensively, world-wide. Future projects include string quartet no. 15 and Symphony No. 7.

Mr. Funicelli is recognized as an innovative and insightful instructor and writer. He has completed a major text on Basic Atonal Counterpoint that was adopted by the University of Utah and is now at work on a treatise on the counterpoint of Bach, based entirely on original research, as well as a second theory text Unified Theory. Highly respected as a guitarist for his technique and performance skills as well as his teaching, he has completed six volumes of technical studies for the instrument and is at work on an extensive volume on The Theory and Practice of the Fingerboard.

His writings have been published in national and international magazines. He has also written several texts on composition and theory, as well as a series of texts on guitar performance and technique. He teaches theory, composition and classical guitar privately, and has taught at the University of Utah, City Academy, Salt Lake Community College and is presently on the faculty of the Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts.

On the basis of 40 years of regular and continuing contributions to the musical life of the region, Mr. Funicelli has garnered the respect of colleagues as well as the enthusiastic support of local audiences. His reputation is growing to national and international proportions. His writings in local newspapers and magazines have added to that reputation. In the words of the most respected local critic, he has been hailed as "the real thing". He has been hailed as a "complete master of guitar, composition" by the Deseret News and the Salt Lake Tribune has called him a complete master as both composer and performer.