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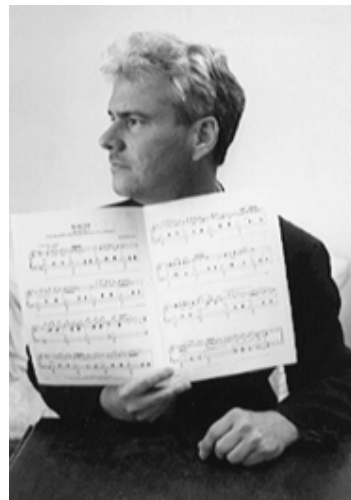
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# Webster Young

## COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR

## WRITER



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# BIOGRAPHY

*Webster A. Young is the composer and librettist of five operas, including a two-act comic opera, **The Wrong Party** (1994); two companion one-act operas based on the stories of Hemingway -- **The Sun Also Rises and Madrid** (1996 and 1998); and a four-act romantic comedy based on his own story set in New York -- **Stocks, Bonds, and Doggerel** (2000) He has most recently completed a four-act opera on Shakespeare's **As You Like It**, the first since Veracini's **Rosalinda**.*

*Mr. Young's great-uncle was Otto Harbach, author of some of the best known lyrics of American operetta, including "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", "Rose-Marie", and "Indian Love Call". Harbach's older brother, Adolphe, was a conductor, Webster Young's great-grandfather.*

*Young became the fifth Artistic Director of the Long Island Opera in 1998, and has presided over a significant strengthening of the forty year old company in Nassau County, NY. **The Sun Also Rises**, premiered at the Hays Theater in Long Island, was endorsed by important figures of the opera world and received top-notch reviews. Chester Ludgin, the baritone who sang the leads in the premieres of Robert Ward's **The Crucible** and Leonard Bernstein's **Trouble in Tahiti**, said of Young's opera, "The music of this opera should be eagerly anticipated by opera audiences -- and I can say that from the heart." Its concluding tenor aria, "We Danced the Night", was requested by Richard Marshall for performance in the finals of the Center for Contemporary Opera's International Vocal Competition.*

*Before his work in opera Webster Young was one of the most productive American ballet composers, writing the music for ten ballets, many of which earned high praise from critics. His music has been appreciated by PBS television audiences, ballet patrons, and radio listeners in the Pacific Northwest. Cleve Twitchell said of his ballet "Album" that "It is so fresh and lively that it should not be missed by anyone who appreciates ballet at its best." The 1990 International Who's Who in Music listed Mr. Young as "the most prolific composer for ballet in the U.S. in the 1980's". His work was the subject of a documentary film entitled "Two for Ballet", seen on many PBS stations from 1991-93. The film, narrated by ballet historian David Vaughan, focuses on Mr. Young's collaboration with Eric Hyrst, formerly of The Sadler's Wells Ballet of England and contains excerpts from five of their ballets. "Two for Ballet" was aired on 64 PBS stations nationwide and is available for educational distribution through Cinema Guild, Inc., New York.*

*The music of Webster Young has been published by [Musicnotes.com](http://Musicnotes.com) (opera arias), Warner Bros/Belwin-Mills Music, Miami (piano music), MMB Music, Missouri (orchestra), and Verdi Square Music, ASCAP, New York (advanced piano).*

# COMPOSITIONS

## *DRAMATIC and ORCHESTRAL WORKS:*

### *Operas*

*The Wrong Party An Opera in Two Acts (1994)*

*The Sun Also Rises A One-Act Opera (1996)*

*Madrid A One-Act Opera (1997)*

*Stocks, Bonds, and Doggerel An Opera in Four Acts (2000)*

*As You Like It opera in Four Acts (2002)*

### *Ballets*

*Le Peintre de Matadors A Ballet in One Act Op. 9*

*Summer Ballet A Ballet in Four Scenes: Op. 20*

*Album A Commedia Dell'Arte Ballet Op. 29*

*Polonaise A Pas de Deux Op. 32*

*Two Ballet Scenes Op. 40*

*Vintage A Ballet in One Act Op. 41*

*Tango A Ballet Suite Op. 42*

*The Judgement of Paris Op. 48*

*Waltzes A Ballet Pas D'Action Op. 51*

*Air for Strings Op. 5b*

*The Vendor A Ballet in Three Acts Op. 49*

### *Theatrical Music*

*Antigone Incidental Music Op. 12*

### *Opera Arias*

*Operatic Arias Op. 7*

*Songs and Arias Op. 26*

### *Orchestra*

*Yolo County Suite for Strings Op. 2/70*

*Overture/"The City Gates" from the Vendor Op. 4/49*

*Symphony (1982) in C# Minor for Orchestra Op. 5*

*Air for Strings Op. 5b*

*Song by Tennyson Op. 7b*

*Summer Ballet Op. 20*

*Waltzes Op. 51*

*Ceremonial Overture (Band) Op. 51b*

*The Vendor Suites for Strings.*

### *Concerti*

*Concertino for Piano and Orchestra Op. 52*

## *PIANO WORKS:*

*Antigone Incidental Music (6 pieces) Op. 12*

*Two Nostalgic Themes Op. 21*

*Album A Ballet (4 pieces) Op. 29*

*Polonaise No 1. Op. 32*

*Prelude Aria, Fantasy Op. 33*

*Ballet Scenes (2 pieces from Ballet Scenes) Op. 40*  
*Tango A Ballet Suite (5 pieces) Op. 42*  
*Melodie, Salute, Pastorale Op. 43*  
*City Scenes (6 pieces, including Polonaise No. 3) Op. 44*  
*Polonaise No.4 Op. 46*  
*Heroic Fantasy in the Phrygian Mode Op. 47*  
*The Judgement of Paris (A Ballet) Op. 48*  
*Waltzes (6 pieces) Op. 51*  
*Life of a Poet (7 pieces, including Tango No. 3) Op. 52*  
*From Exile (6 pieces) Op. 53*  
*Prelude, Aria, Andante Op. 58*  
*Two Cavatinas Op. 59*  
*Prelude, Canzone, Nocturn Op. 60*  
*Suite XVI Op. 61*

**CHAMBER MUSIC:**

*Suite for Unaccompanied Violin*

*The Parisian*

*The Virtuoso*

*Garance: Beauty and Truth*

*Paris New York*

*Op. 4/62*

*Three Ballet Pieces (violin, viola, piano)*

*Interlude from "Polonaise"*

*Overture from "Vintage"*

*Waltz from "Vintage"*

*Op. 32/41*

*Adagio for the Moon (violin, piano) Op. 46 B*

**GUITAR:**

*Etudes Op. 59*

*Suite Op. 60*

# RECORDINGS

## *Piano Music:*

*Piero's Dance Lesson*

*Pathetique*

*Salute*

*Wistful Theme*

*Winter Prelude*

*Midnight Bells*

*Robin's Beloved*

*Waltz after Granados*

## *The Sun Also Rises*

*Libretto and music by Webster Young, based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway.*

*Ca 38min*

*Richard Aulden Clark, Conductor; with Lawrence Harris (tenor) as Jake Barnes, Luciana Lamonico (soprano) as Lady Brett Ashley, Patrick Watson (tenor) as Robert Cohn.*

*The music of Young's "The Sun Also Rises" was endorsed, in advance of its premiere, by important opera world figures, including Alfred Hubay of the Metropolitan Opera, Elaine Malbin of New York City Opera, and the late Chester Ludgin, baritone of the San Francisco and New York City Operas and a veteran of 14 American world premieres.*

## *The Sun Also Rises*

*A recording of the full one-act opera, scored for chamber orchestra and singers.*

*Newspaper reviews were superlative:*

*The Long Island News, May 4, 2000, said:*

*"...a true opera in every sense of the word...  
All the elements --music, drama, staging -- are outstanding  
full of interesting musical themes..."*

*The Rockville Centre Herald, May 25th, 2000, said:*

*"Young's opera remains true to the love interest of the book...  
...a texture that works in tandem with the drama...  
one walks away with the memory of Young's melodies."*

## *As You Like It - In-concert Highlights*

*As You Like It - An Opera in Four Acts was adapted directly from the play by Shakespeare. It contains some of Webster Young's best melodies, exemplified in the arias and duets included here.*

*All recordings are for voices with piano accompaniment by either Anderson Brenner or Webster Young.*

## *Music from As You Like It*

*Under the Greenwood Tree - Michael Kavalhuna, baritone*

*Arioso - Patrick Watson, tenor*

*Duet No. 1 "Wear This for Me" - Patrick Watson, Lindsay Killian*

*My Brothers in Exile - Michael Kavalhuna*  
*Duet No. 2 "Whither, Adam?" - Patrick Watson, Stephen Fredericks*  
*All the World's A Stage - Patrick Watson, tenor*  
*Thrice Crowned Queen of the Night - Lawrence Harris, tenor*  
*Duet No. 3 "Courtship" - L. Killian, P. Watson*  
*It Was a Lover and His Lass - Gary Ramsey, David Kellet*  
*Rosa's Song*  
*Orpheus - T. Kim & S. Maxwell*  
*Break, Break, Break*

*Opera Arias*  
*From Madrid*  
*Spain is a Great Land*  
*Rosa's Song*  
*Manuel Garcia Maera*

*From Orpheus*  
*Lament from Orpheus*  
*Hades's Walls*  
*Orpheus Duet*  
*From The Sun Also Rises*  
*It's Best for You*  
*We Danced the Night*

*Other Arias*  
*Break, Break, Break*

# WRITINGS

*WEBSTER YOUNG is a writer on music for the National Catholic Register and the Catholic Herald (London). He is the only conservatory-trained, professional classical musician writing about Catholic music in newspapers. His writing seeks to uphold high standards in Church music, to help educate the Catholic non-musician, lay the groundwork for the reform of abuses in church music that occurred after Vatican II, and to remind the Church of Her great heritage in fine art music.*

*He has also written articles on classical music in general. These have appeared in Newsday (New York) and Express (Oregon).*

*Certain articles of Mr. Young have encouraged people and stimulated positive commentary. These articles are made available for re-print here. One article that appeared elsewhere, entitled "On the Value of Singing", received much acclaim for its inspirational character and is also included for reprint.*

*The Value of Singing - Article published in Express (Oregon):  
The Value of Singing*

*Articles published in the National Catholic Register:*

*What Happened to the Music at Mass?*

*A Reminder of Our Musical Past*

*On Musical Expression*

*When Words Marry Music at Mass*

*On Folk Music at Mass*

*The Spanish Music Opportunity*

*Article published in the Catholic Herald (London):*

*A Vision for Music in the Church*

*Essays:*

*The Operatic Voice*

*Music and Architecture*

*On Instruments and the Voice*

*Music, Language, and Speech*