

## JEFF BEAL

### Composer & Conductor

Jeff Beal is an American composer of music for film, media, and the concert hall. With musical beginnings as a jazz trumpeter and recording artist, his works are infused with an understanding of rhythm and spontaneity. Steven Schneider for the New York Times wrote of "the richness of Beal's musical thinking...his compositions often capture the liveliness and unpredictability of the best improvisation." Beal's seven solo CDs, including *Three Graces*, *Contemplations (Triloka)* *Red Shift* (Koch Jazz), and *Liberation* (Island Records) established him as a respected recording artist and composer.

Beal's eclectic music has been singled out with critical acclaim and recognition. His score and theme for Netflix drama, *House of Cards*, has received four prime time Emmy Award nominations and one statue. Regarding his compelling score for the documentary, *Blackfish*, the film critic Matt Zoller Seitz wrote of Beal's ability to "invoke many genres; thriller, mystery, melodrama." Another lauded documentary, *The Queen of Versailles*, opened the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Michael Phillips of the Chicago Tribune wrote that, "scored wittily by composer Jeff Beal, the film glides along on Beal's waltz theme, a theme full of elegance and class and a discordant hint of storm clouds."

Scoring Ed Harris' beautifully balletic painting scenes in *Pollock* was an exceptional opportunity for Beal. Film critic for the Los Angeles Times, Kenneth Turan wrote "To watch Lisa Rinzler's expressive shots of Harris as Pollock create his paintings, especially the famously acrobatic drip canvases, to Jeff Beal's Aaron Copland-influenced music is little short of thrilling."

He has received fifteen prime time Emmy nominations for his music, and has won four statues. Other scores of note include his dramatic music for HBO's acclaimed series *Carnivale* and *Rome*, as well as his comedic score and theme for the detective series, *Monk*, and the upcoming Lion's Gate film *The Shack*. Beal composes, orchestrates, conducts, records and mixes his own scores, which gives his music a very personal, distinctive touch.

Beal's commissioned works have been performed by many leading orchestras and conductors, including the St. Louis (Marin Alsop), Rochester, Pacific (Carl St. Clair), Frankfurt, Munich, and Detroit symphony orchestras. Kent Nagano commissioned and premiered two works, *Alternate Route* for trumpet and orchestra with Beal as soloist, and *Interchange* for string quartet and orchestra. His music for director Philip Haas' art installation *Butchers, Dragons, Gods & Skeletons*, was showcased at the Kimball Art Museum and the 2011 Venice Biennale. Other commissions include the Smuin Ballet, World Science Festival, Metropole Orchestra (Netherlands), Brooklyn Youth Chorus, The Ying Quartet, The Debussy Trio, The Henry Mancini Institute, and The Bay Brass. His first choral commission, entitled *The Salvage Men*, is written for the Los Angeles Master Chorale & The Eric Whitacre Singers.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Beal's grandmother was a pianist who performed on the radio and as accompanist for silent movies. She was an avid jazz fan, and gave him Miles Davis'/Gil Evans' *Sketches of Spain* album when he was beginning his trumpet studies. Beal graduated from the Eastman School of Music, where he was commencement speaker and honored alumnus in 2011. He now mentors and encourages young composers as a participant in the Sundance Film Composer seminars and as a guest lecturer at conservatories and universities. In 2015, along with his wife Joan Beal (a fellow Eastman graduate) pledged a 2 million dollar endowment to establish the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media at the Eastman School Of Music.