

Composer **Kevin James** was one of only 5 American artists recently named for the extraordinary honor of a JAPAN-US Friendship Commission Fellowship for 2009. He has received awards and grants from the American Composer's Forum, Jerome Foundation, NEA, and New York State Council on the Arts, among others. Mr. James' *Horobi No Naka Kara*, commissioned by the Young People's Chorus of New York City was previewed on WNYC radio and premiered in Hiroshima at a Concert for Peace commemorating the 60th anniversary of the bombing. His first art film project (*Jocasta*) is currently scheduled for screenings at festivals throughout the US and a second project is under way. His cantata, *Sadako: Prayers for Peace*, commissioned by the Chicago Humanities Festival was workshopped and performed at University of Indiana prior to being premiered by the Fulcrum Point New Music Project as part of the Music Now Festival at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and the Harris Theater. Mr. James' multi-media work *NYC Play Ground*, also commissioned by the YPC for their Transient Glory Series (premiered at the 92nd St. Y in a live broadcast on WNYC radio) was chosen to represent the US at the World Choral Music Symposium in Kyoto Japan in 2005. *In Complexu Pacis* received honors in the worldwide Waging Peace choral music competition and was a winner of the Essentially Choral competition where it was performed by the renowned *VocalEssence*. Mr. James' selection for the highly competitive Meet The Composer/New Residencies Program in 1999 placed him in residence variously with the Police Athletic League, The Kitchen, the Quintet of the Americas, and the Sirius String Quartet. This residency partnership included the commission of *The Portraits Project*, a 90-minute multimedia "opera-lingua" on the theme of homelessness, for which Mr. James recorded over 700 interviews with homeless New Yorkers. *Portraits* has had several successful runs at The Kitchen and The Public Theater in New York City. Mr. James continues his work with this community through the creation of the *Portraits Project Mentorship Program* and the *Arts Conservatory Program*, groundbreaking programs hosted by groups such as the Police Athletic League where children living in homeless shelters and highly underserved communities are given the opportunity to learn instrumental music from top New York musicians.

Other commissions include song cycles commissioned by Mr. James' alma mater, Depauw University, a work based on the poetry of Charles Simic for Quintet of the Americas (*A One Night Stand in the Ballroom of the Hotel Insomnia*) & a string quartet for the Sirius Quartet (*Messy Annie's Origami*).

Mr. James' music has also been performed on the Brooklyn Philharmonic's *Music Off the Walls* series, The Orchestra of St. Luke's *Second Helpings Series*, the *North River Music Series* at the Greenwich House, the Oregon Bach Festival, and on symposia of the American Composers Forum, Chamber Music America and the Society of Composers Inc. national conferences. His music has been performed by the Meridian Arts Ensemble, Trio Akkobasso, First Avenue, Glen Velez and Handance, Steve Gorn and many other acclaimed ensembles throughout the U.S. and Europe. Several of these groups have current plans to include Mr. James' work on upcoming CDs. Mr. James' music has been featured numerous times on WNYC radio's *NewSounds* hosted by John Schaefer, as well as shows on WKCR, WBAI and DCTV.

Mr. James has held two residencies at the Atlantic Center of the Arts and another at the MUSIC-OMI artist colony in upstate New York, as well as numerous guest artist residencies at American Universities.

"...an extraordinary piece.... great music by Kevin James!"

-John Schaefer, host of WNYC *NewSounds* and *The Listening Room*

I came away feeling sanguine about the future of new music... Music, song, image and spoken word form a seamless and deeply moving meditation.

-John Von Rhein, Chicago Tribune

"Kevin James is in the forefront of a new breed of classically trained but socially concerned composers..."

-Barry Cohen, *The New Music Connoisseur*

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1825 Riverside Dr. #6D
New York, NY 10034
(212)304-8214
dangerjames@earthlink.net
www.portraitsproject.com