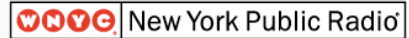


## PRESS Quotes

*"...an extraordinary piece.... great music by Kevin James!"*  
-John Schaefer referring to NYC Playground



*I came away feeling sanguine about the future of new music... "Sadako: Prayers for Peace" could not be more timely. The score interweaves solo and choral material... with spoken narrative and instrumental illustration. Some of the music's most effective touches are the simplest: women's voices floating above the whispered chant of other female voices... Music, song, image and spoken word form a seamless and deeply moving meditation.*  
-John Von Rhein



*"...An impressive achievement! Portraits is inventively written. One particularly artful movement [includes] spare melodies in the style of Webern and Luigi Nono. Snatches of the old gospel song, "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," work as a leitmotif, holding the work together...In no way an exploitation of human misery...James' work frames and enhances the strongly rhythmic, loud, and distinct voices whose sing-song intonations make them all the more audible on the streets."*  
-Benjamin Ivry



*[Sadako] was a compelling concoction. James' music... goes far in establishing the necessary atmosphere, a blend of fear and grief, anger and hope. The instrumentalists wander through a disturbing landscape of musical bits and pieces suggestive of ruins, of a landscape made barren, of material things left broken. The singers express loss and a how-could-it-happen amazement in a score that calls for speech and singing and whispers and screams. There was an emotional unity to what one heard and a strange beauty in how the performing musicians brought the cantata to fruition*  
-Peter Jacobi

***Bloomington Herald Tribune***

*Kevin James may be in the forefront of a new breed of classically trained but socially concerned composers, following in the footsteps of the likes of Frederic Rzewski. Mr. James' compositions are in consort with the exploratory but accessible crest of the new wave.*  
-Barry L. Cohen

