

Opus Two Biography - May 2017

Opus Two has been internationally recognized for its “divine phrases, impelling rhythm, elastic ensemble and stunning sounds,” as well as its commitment to expanding the violin-piano duo repertoire. The award-winning duo, comprising violinist William Terwilliger and pianist Andrew Cooperstock, has been hailed for its “unanimity of style and spirit, exemplary balance and close rapport.”

Opus Two first came to international attention as winners of the United States Information Agency’s Artistic Ambassador Auditions in 1993 and has since performed across six continents, including major tours of Europe, Australia, South American, Asia, and Africa. Their US engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall, where they performed Haydn’s *Double Concerto for Violin and Piano*, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall and a standing-room-only recital at New York’s Library for the Performing Arts. State Department associations have taken them to Japan, Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, France, Switzerland, Peru, Ghana, and Australia, and they have also held multiple residencies in China. The duo has presented master classes worldwide at a number of prestigious institutions such as New York’s Juilliard School, Beijing’s Central Conservatory, and Kiev’s Glier Conservatory.

Champions of American music, Terwilliger and Cooperstock have recently recorded *Gershwin: Music for Violin and Piano*, which features selections from *Porgy and Bess*, Gershwin’s original *Short Story*, Jascha Heifetz’s arrangements of *An American in Paris* and *Three Piano Preludes*, and newly commissioned arrangements by Broadway conductor/arranger Eric Stern of selections from Gershwin’s musical *Girl Crazy* and classic songs from the Gershwin Songbook. Singer-actress Ashley Brown, Broadway’s original Mary Poppins, joins them on Stern’s renditions of *Love Walked In* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. *American Record Guide* calls this an “excellent recording” in which “the performers throw themselves into this fresh look at Gershwin with enthusiasm and enjoyment.” The duo has created a multi-media program dedicated to this music and has presented it widely including a 20-concert tour of the Southeast and a highly praised performance at New York’s 54 Below.

Highlights of recent seasons include two twenty-city US tours across eleven states; performances with the [Boulder Chamber Orchestra](#); and a European tour, which featured the duo in recital and as concerto soloists in Nice, Monaco, Bern and Geneva, and as invited guests of the US Ambassadors to Switzerland and the United Nations. [The Strad](#) praised the ensemble’s debut performance at London’s St. John’s, Smith Square as “beautifully drawn, brilliantly coloured and intense,” remarking that “violinist William Terwilliger played with supreme tenderness and finely judged control and was partnered with assurance and sensitivity by Andrew Cooperstock.” Opus Two’s festival appearances include performances at the [Australian Festival of Chamber Music](#) (Queensland), [Piccolo Spoleto](#) (South Carolina), [Brevard Music Festival](#) (North Carolina), [Round](#)

[Top International Festival-Institute](#) (Texas), Raritan River Music Festival (New Jersey), [Rocky Ridge Music Center](#) (Colorado), [Vianden International Music Festival](#) (Luxembourg), Hell Hot! New Music Festival (Hong Kong), [Saarburg International Music Festival](#) (Germany), and [Classical Music Festival](#) (Austria). *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* called Opus Two's performance at Woodstock, New York's venerable [Maverick Concerts](#), the oldest such music festival in the country, "one of the most significant and worthwhile concerts of the season," commenting that the program was "performed with virtuosity, musicianship and excellent balance."

Opus Two's discography features a critically acclaimed series of single-composer recordings of American music, including works by Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Robert Starer, Paul Schoenfield, and Lowell Liebermann. The duo's Naxos debut recording [Leonard Bernstein: Violin Sonata; Piano Trio; New Transcriptions](#) features the world premiere of *Four Moments from Candide*, by Eric Stern. Acclaimed as "an excellent recording, performed splendidly throughout," the disc includes two additional Stern arrangements: "My House" from *Peter Pan*, and "Take Care of this House" from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, recorded with Tony-nominated actress-singer Marin Mazzie, as well as the duo's own transcription, for violin and piano, of Bernstein's *Clarinet Sonata*. A major grant from the American Music Center's Aaron Copland Recording Fund made possible Opus Two's world-premiere recording, [Souvenirs: Music of Paul Schoenfield](#), which was hailed by [American Record Guide](#) as "accomplished, sophisticated, and filled with the sheer joy of music-making." The duo has performed Aaron Copland's complete works for violin and piano extensively across the United States and abroad, and their recording of this music features works never before recorded, including two early, unpublished preludes. The ensemble's recording of chamber music of [Lowell Liebermann](#) features performances with cellist [Andrés Díaz](#) and the [Ying Quartet](#), and was lauded as "splendid" by [Strings](#) magazine. John Fitz Rogers composed *Sonata Lunaris* for Opus Two, whose discography also includes two discs of works by Robert Starer, featuring the world premiere recordings of *Duo for Violin and Piano*, as well as *Dispositions*, written for the duo and clarinetist Martha MacDonald. In 2014 the duo commissioned Columbia composer Meira Warshauer to create *Carolina Gallery*, a musical triptych inspired by works by South Carolina artists.

In addition to their concerts as Opus Two, William Terwilliger and Andrew Cooperstock regularly join forces with Martha MacDonald as members of Trio Contraste. The trio has been honored with the Centennial Chamber Music Award for Outstanding Promotion of American Music from the [National Federation of Music Clubs](#). Additionally, William Terwilliger and Andrew Cooperstock have collaborated together or individually with members of the [Takács, Emerson](#), and [Juilliard String Quartets](#), and the [Dorian Wind Quintet](#), violinists [Oleh Krysa](#) and [James Buswell](#), and cellists [Lynn Harrell](#), [Allison Eldredge](#), and Yehuda Hanani.

Opus Two's radio and television credits include appearances on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*, New York's WQXR, Chicago's WFMT, North Carolina's WDAV, Colorado's KVOD, the BBC, Radio France, Radio Latvia, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Their South American tours have also included appearances on television in the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Bolivia.

Prizewinner in the [National Federation of Music Clubs](#) Young Artist Competition and the New Orleans International Competition, Andrew Cooperstock has performed in most of the fifty states as soloist and chamber musician. He has also given lectures and recitals at the [Hochschule für Musik Hans Eisler](#) in Berlin, Germany, the [Academy of Music in Riga, Latvia](#), and the [Central Conservatory in Beijing, China](#), among others. In honor of the Leonard Bernstein centenary, he has recorded a 2-CD set of the complete solo piano works of Bernstein for Bridge Records. Currently Cooperstock is Professor of Piano at the [University of Colorado Boulder](#) and a member of the artist-faculty at [Saarburg International Music Festival](#) in Germany. A graduate of the Juilliard School and the Peabody and Cincinnati Conservatories, he studied with Abbey Simon, Walter Hautzig, and David Bar-Illan, as well as with collaborative pianist Samuel Sanders. He is a Steinway artist.

William Terwilliger has performed with orchestras in the US, Europe, South America, and Asia, and he is concertmaster of the [Long Bay Symphony](#). A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he studied with Donald Weilerstein and Zvi Zeitlin, and as a member of the prize-winning Augustine String Quartet, he coached with the Cleveland, Tokyo, and Emerson Quartets. In 1993 he was invited by the US State Department to serve as a Cultural Specialist in Bolivia, and since that time, as a gifted and experienced teacher of students of all ages, he has given master classes throughout the US and in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Australia. Currently Dr. Terwilliger is Professor of Violin at the [University of South Carolina](#) and artist-teacher at the [Saarburg International Festival of Music](#).

Both musicians regularly present and serve as jurors for such organizations as the [American String Teachers Association](#), the [College Music Society](#), the [National Federation of Music Clubs](#), and [Music Teachers National Association](#). The list of awards to their credit includes grants from the American Music Center, [Chamber Music America](#), the [National Federation of Music Clubs](#), and the Arts International Fund, to name a few. William Terwilliger and Andrew Cooperstock have written articles for *Strings*, [American String Teacher](#), and *Keyboard Companion*, among others. For more information please visit www.opustwo.org and follow [Opus Two on Facebook](#).