

Linda Bouchard / Biography

French Canadian Linda Bouchard has composed over 50 works in a variety of genres, from orchestral and chamber works to dance scores, concerti, and vocal pieces. Her works have been heard extensively on both sides of the Atlantic and have been recorded by the CBC (Elan) and Analekta (Compressions) in Canada, ECM (Pourtinade) in Germany, and CRI (Lung Ta, Black Burned Wood) in the US. A full compact disk of orchestral works called Exquisite Fires was released in 1998 on the Canadian label Marquis Classics. Her works have won four SOCAN awards in Canada with *Icy Cruise*, *Revelling of Men*, *Triskelion* and *Fanorev*. Her honors in the US include first prizes in the Princeton Composition Contest with *Elan*, the Indiana State Competition with *Fanorev* and the National Association of Composers USA Contest with *Ma Lune Maligne*.

She lived in New York City from 1979 to 1990 where she composed, led new music ensembles and made orchestral arrangements for the Washington Ballet, the St. Luke's Orchestra and various churches in the Metropolitan area. In 1988, she created her own performing ensemble called "ABANDON" for which she wrote: *Muskoday*, *Possible Nudity*, *Le Scandale*, the *Minotaurus* and *Propos IV*. She also was Assistant Conductor for the New York Children's Free Opera from 1985 to 1988. She guest conducted the St. Luke's Orchestra, the American Dance Festival, the New York New Music Ensemble, the Absolute Music Group and the New Music Consort.

In 1990, she returned to Canada for the premiere of her first orchestral work *Elan* which was commissioned by the New Music America Festival held in Montréal. Her next commission was for the opening of the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal with a piece for two ensembles spatially separated (*Ire*). From 1990 to 1992 she was guest conductor for the "Atelier de Musique Contemporaine" of l'Université de Montréal, and served as artistic coordinator of FORUM 91 for le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne.

From September 1992 to August 1995, Linda Bouchard held the position of Composer in Residence for the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra in Ottawa. During her residency, she composed five orchestral works and organized 20th Century Music events such as *The First Orchestral Workshop*, the *Summer Music Festival: Atonal Departure*. In 1993 she led the NAC Orchestra in an innovative *Young People's Concert* dedicated to the music of this century and conducted the first *Double-Take Concert*. In early 1994 she served as musical director and conductor for the NAC performance of *Mauricio Kagel's Varietè*.

Ms. Bouchard was music director for the 20th-Century Songs Integration Program at the Banff Center in 1994. She returned as Guest Artist to give master classes in composition in 1995. She conducted the premiere of her *Pilgrim's Cantata* at the Oregon Bach Festival in 1996. Ms. Bouchard received the *Prix Opus* as "Composer of the Year" by the Conseil Québécois de la Culture and she won the *Joseph-S. Stauffer Prize* from the Canada Council for the Arts for her outstanding contributions in music (1997). She was one of the featured composers at the *Other Minds Festival* (1998) in San Francisco where she led the SF Contemporary Music Players in the West Coast premiere of her *Ductwork*.

In 2000, she was the featured composer at two of the most prestigious Canadian Contemporary Music Festivals: the *Winnipeg Symphony New Music Festival* and the *Vancouver New Music Festival* where she conducted the premiere of her latest orchestral work *The Open Life* with the Vancouver Symphony. She also conducted the Vancouver New Music Ensemble and the *Standing Wave Ensemble*. Her theatrical fashion show *Musique Défilé* was premiered by the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne in Montreal in February 2000 and was performed in June at the International Arts Festival in Singapore. She was guest conductor of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players in 1982 for the premiere of *Revelling of Men*. She returned as guest conductor in February 1998 and October 2000. In June 2001, Ms. Bouchard was invited to participate at IRCAM's "Stage d'Informatique Musicale" in Paris. In 2002, she completed *BRASIER* for twenty musicians, for Vancouver New Music and *NEIGES* for ten musicians for her "Portrait Concert" New Music Concert in Toronto. Her outstanding commissions are for the Canadian trio *Bellows and Brass*, her opera "The House of Words" commissioned by the Banff Centre and *Standing Waves* based in Vancouver. Ms. Bouchard currently resides in San Francisco, where she has lived since the spring of 1997.