

Silents and Strings

An evening of silent film with live string quartet.

Maria Newman, The Composer

Maria Newman, composer\conductor\violinist\violist\pianist, was born into one of the most famous and influential musical families in Hollywood. The youngest daughter of the nine time Academy Award-winning composer\conductor, Alfred Newman, she grew up surrounded by great music and fine musicians.



She was educated at the prestigious Eastman School of Music and Yale University, and graduated both institutions with high honors. Maria Newman has since become known as a serious composer in the field of concert music and continues to receive acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

Newman has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including ten consecutive ASCAP Awards and the Composition Grant 2000 from the California Arts Council. She has been commissioned by numerous organizations and has developed a large library of original works for chamber ensemble (vocal and instrumental), orchestra, chorus, ballet and opera\oratorio. She has served as Composer-in-Residence at the Icicle Creek Music Center in Washington for the past seven years, and has held residency positions with the Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of St. Matthew's in Los Angeles, Central Washington University, California Institute of Technology, Azusa Pacific University, the Gold Coast Chamber Music Festival and Viklarbo Chamber Ensemble, among others.

Newman has received numerous commissions from the Mary Pickford Foundation to compose original music for newly restored vintage classic films of the silent era. She has also been commissioned by Turner Classic Movies ("Mr. Wu" 1929, starring Lon Chaney), and by the Library of Moving Images ("Tom Sawyer" 1917, starring Jack Pickford). These compositions continue to receive live concert performances (with picture), appear on video\DVD format, and are frequently aired on television.

A world class violinist\violist, Maria Newman is a founding member of the award-winning Viklarbo Chamber Ensemble, with whom she has won multiple awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. As solo violist, Newman recorded Miklos Rozsa's Concerto for Viola and Orchestra with the Nuremburg Orchestra for the Grammy Award-winning Symphonic Hollywood CD, and continues to perform concerts nationwide. s. Newman is the mother of three beautiful children: Martha,; Isabella,; and Sonny.