

GEORGE WALKER

COMPOSER

George Walker was born in Washington, D.C. in 1922. He began the study of piano at age five. He gave his first public recital at Howard University when he was 14 and was admitted to Oberlin College. Upon graduating from Oberlin at age 18 with a major in piano and a minor in organ, he was admitted to the Curtis Institute of Music where he was a pupil of Rudolf Serkin and Rosario Scalero, teacher of Samuel Barber and Gian-Carlo Menotti.

In 1945, he made his acclaimed New York recital debut in Town Hall, which was followed two weeks later by a debut performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3. Under the aegis of National Concert Artists and Columbia Artists Management, he toured the United States and Europe. In 1956, he received a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the Eastman School of Music and returned to Europe on Fulbright and John Hay Whitney Fellowships to study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger.

He has published over 70 works that include two overtures, two Sinfonias, concertos for cello, violin, trombone, Variations for Orchestra, two string quartets, two sonatas for violin and piano, four piano sonatas, sonatas for cello and piano and viola and piano, a brass quintet, *Perimeters* for clarinet and piano, *Five Fancies* for clarinet and piano four hands, a Mass for four soloists, chorus and orchestra, a Cantata for Boys Choir and orchestra, numerous songs and choral works, organ pieces, works for chamber orchestra (*Serenata* and *Orpheus*), a piano trio and the Address for Orchestra.

His works have been performed by virtually every important orchestra in this country and in England. Walker continued to compose throughout his 80s, while Albany Records worked to document a large portion of his works before his death at the age of 96 in 2018.

