

Introduction to Fredrick Kaufman. 3:59 min. Music: Fredrick Kaufman.
Photo & Design: Raymond Elman.

Composer Fredrick Kaufman: Life on the Cutting Edge

By Elman + Marchante + Floyd

Fredrick Kaufman (b.1936) is the composer of over one hundred and thirty compositions that have been performed worldwide by orchestras such as the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Radio Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Lithuanian Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Symphony Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony, the Instrumental Ensemble of Grenoble, the London Sinfonietta, Orchestra Novi Musici (Naples Italy), the Dominican Republic National Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Brazil, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New World Symphony and the Pittsburgh Symphony orchestras. His ballets have been danced by companies such as the Royal Swedish Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Batsheva Dance Company, the Bat-Dor Dance Company and the Pennsylvania Dance Theater.

Kaufman is a former Fulbright Scholar, and author of *The African Roots of Jazz*, a groundbreaking study that drew heavily on his early musical life as a jazz trumpet player with the Woody Herman Band. He is the recipient of the Darius Milhaud Award in Composition from the Aspen Music Festival, and honors and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller, Guggenheim and Ford Foundations, the California, Montana and Pennsylvania Arts Councils as well as the Norwegian Government.

Fredrick Kaufman's Holocaust composition *Kaddish*, which Bernard Holland of *The New York Times* described as "having the most expressive writing for strings to be heard today," has been performed in the major concert halls of Europe, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Israel, South America, Asia and throughout the United States.

His works have received prizes at international competitions and have been selected for performances at festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival, the Telluride Chamber Music Festival, the Music Festival of the Hamptons, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Israel Festival, the Darmstadt Festival for New Music, the International Arts Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the St. Cyprien International Festival of the Arts in France.

Renowned artists such as Richard Stoltzman, Julius Baker, Susan Starr, Roy Malan, Mark Drobinsky, Andres Diaz, David Kim, Roberto Diaz, Yehuda Hananni, Charles Neidich, Kemal Gekic, Paul Green, Sarah Lambert Bloom, The Miami String Quartet, The Diaz Trio and numerous others have recorded and performed Kaufman's concertos and chamber music. Additionally, Israeli television has paid tribute to him as a composer in the thirty-minute documentary film *Fredrick Kaufman-Life of an Artist*.

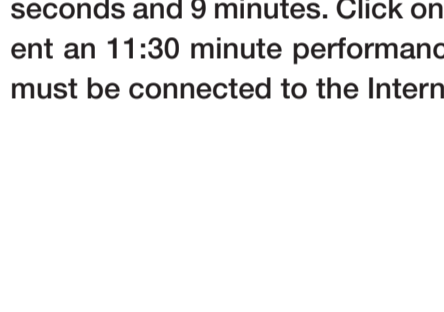
In 1985, the Statue of Liberty committee commissioned Fredrick Kaufman to write a choral work *Mother of Exiles*, for the re-dedication ceremonies of the Statue of Liberty. The composition was premiered by the United Nations Chorus at the ceremony and was broadcast worldwide by network television. *WE THE PEOPLE 200* of the City of Philadelphia commissioned Kaufman to write his 5th Symphony, "The American," in 1987 for the 200th anniversary celebration of the Constitution. Maestro Kaufman conducted the premiere performance which was nationally broadcast on NBC-TV. Over the past 10 years, Kaufman has been called upon repeatedly to conduct his compositions around the world.

The points of departure for Kaufman's writing are often gestures and sound imagery from his own wide-ranging background, which includes jazz and Eastern European Jewish folk traditions and a foundation deeply steeped in the classics as well as the avant garde. Kaufman continues to stretch the boundaries of standard approaches to composition.

Fredrick Kaufman currently resides in Miami Beach where he holds the position of Professor Emeritus in Composition at Florida International University. Professor Kaufman was the founding Director of the FIU School of Music for ten years and established its internationally acclaimed FIU Music Festival. He was formerly Academic Dean of the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts and a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Montana at Billings, the University of London and the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, Israel. Kaufman is the founder and former Artistic Director of the St. Cyprien International Festival of the Arts held in St. Cyprien, France.

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 9 minutes. Click on any video. At the end we present an 11:30 minute performance of *Kaminarimon Part II*. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

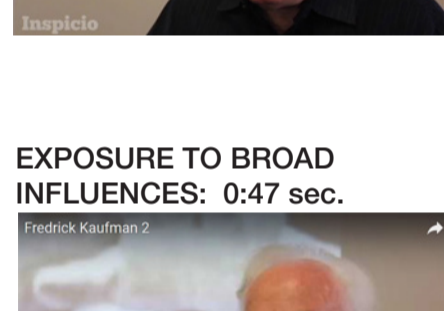
INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 2:09



What was your earliest memory of music?

Inspicio

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 0:47 sec.



Your early music memories cover a wide span from Harry James swing to liturgical music.

Inspicio

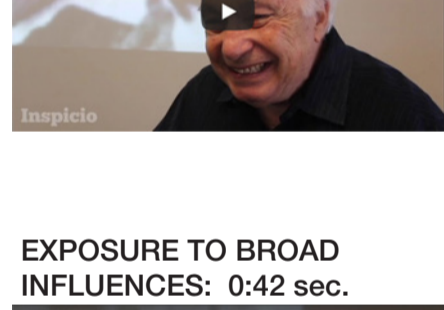
EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 6:51 min.



Why and how did you transition from jazz to classical music?

Inspicio

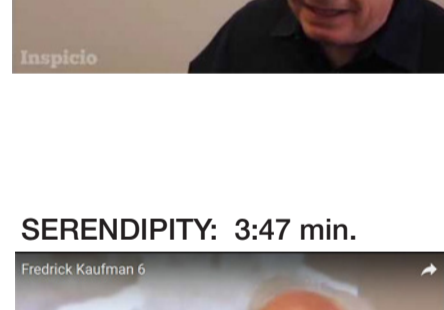
SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES: 1:15 min.



Do you by any chance know the artist and jazz saxophone player Carmen Cicero? He's about your age and I know him from Cape Cod.

Inspicio

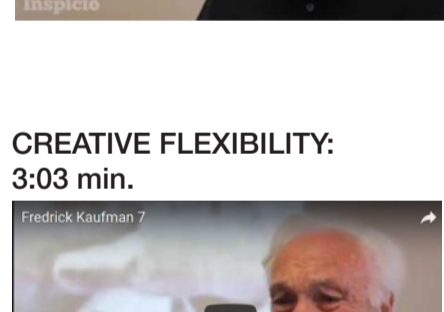
EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 0:42 sec.



One can think of Billie Holiday as being more blues than jazz.

Inspicio

SERENDIPITY: 3:47 min.



Let's talk about your transition to classical music.

Inspicio

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 3:03 min.



Why did you move toward avant-garde classical music?

Inspicio

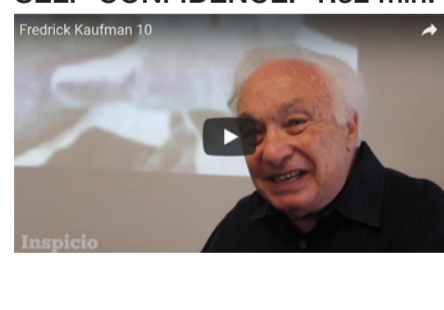
INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 0:44 sec.



John Cage inspired visual artists and writers as well as musicians and composers.

Inspicio

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 3:57 min.



What was the most important thing about growing up in Brooklyn?

Inspicio

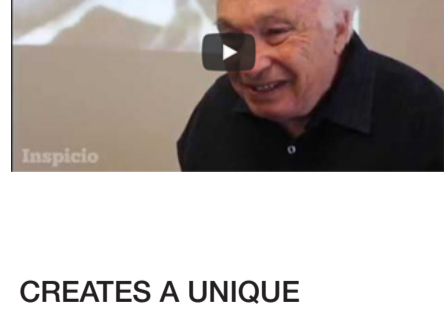
SELF-CONFIDENCE: 1:32 min.



You didn't write any music inspired by baseball did you?

Inspicio

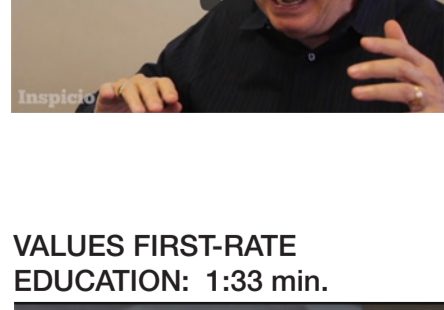
INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 5:10 min.



Some of your music seems to be inspired by major tragic events like the bombing of Guernica. What role do emotions like sorrow, happiness, humor play in your composing protocol?

Inspicio

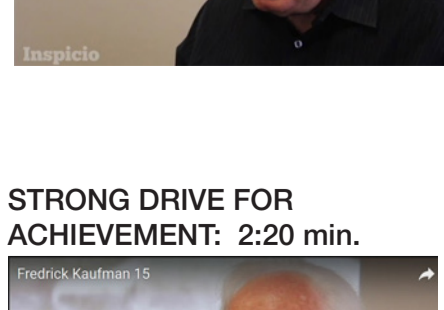
INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 5:02 min.



How has visual art influenced your music?

Inspicio

CREATES A UNIQUE VALUES FIRST RATE EDUCATION: 1:33 min.



What are your experiences as a teacher? Is your interaction with students inspirational or does it sap your creativity?

Inspicio

STRONG DRIVE FOR ACHIEVEMENT: 2:20 min.



How did you grow FIU's music department into a college of music?

Inspicio

**INSIGHT & INSPIRATION:
5:05 min.**



*How did you come to compose
"Thundergate Suite?"*

**OVERCOMES CHALLENGES
TO SUCCEED: 4:19 min.**



*Where did the name Kaminarimon
come from?*

**CREATES A UNIQUE
PERSONAL BRAND: 2:02 min.**



*How did you describe
Kaminarimon to the Japanese
delegation?*

**CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY:
2:32 min.**



*Talk about the expansion of
Kaminarimon.*

**OVERCOMES CHALLENGES
TO SUCCEED: 8:33 min.**



*How did you get the job as
Director of Music for City of Haifa
in Israel?*

**SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:
2:30 min.**



*How did the Yom Kippur War
impact you?*

**COMMUNITY VALUES:
2:16 min.**



*What is your assessment of the
current status of Miami's music
community?*

11:30 min.



*Kaminarimon Part II
by Fredrick Kaufman*