

VII edición
**Premios
Fundación BBVA
Fronteras
del Conocimiento**

7th edition
**BBVA Foundation
Frontiers
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Con la colaboración del  **CSIC**
With the collaboration of CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

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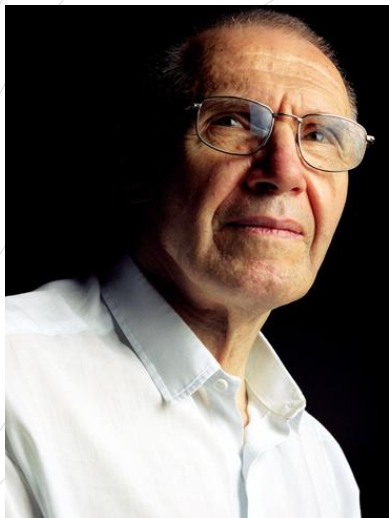
Categoría / Category
Música Contemporánea
Contemporary Music

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Prof. György Kurtág



Composer
Hungary

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**Música Contemporánea
Contemporary Music**

Nominated by:



Dr. Andrea Vigh

President

Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music

Budapest - Hungary

Mr. László Lovász

President

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Hungary



- Born February 19th, 1926 in Transylvania, Romania.
- From 1946 to 1955, he studied composition at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest with Sándor Veresss and Ferenc Farkas; piano with Pál Kadosa and chamber music with Leó Weiner.
- In 1957 he moved to Paris to attend courses given by French composers Darius Milhaud and Olivier Messiaen. There he came into contact with new musical styles and in 1959 wrote his first String Quartet, which he called Opus 1 to mark the opening of this new and decisive stage.
- From 1960 to 1968, Kurtág tutored the National Philharmonic soloists in Hungary. At that time he composed *The Sayings of Péter Bornemisza*, Op. 7, concerto for soprano and piano.
- In 1967 he was appointed professor of piano at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, and later also of chamber music. He remained in this position until 1993.

- In 1993 he moved to Berlin as Composer in Residence with the Philharmonic Orchestra in that city, and two years later was Composer in Residence with the Vienna Konzerthaus.
- He spent the next two years in Amsterdam (1996-1998), invited by the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and other musical institutions.
- In 1998 Kurtág returned to Paris as Composer in Residence invited by the Ensemble InterContemporain, the Conservatory, the Cité de la Musique and the Festival de l'Automne to work in the French capital for a period of two years.
- He has received numerous awards including the Kossuth Prize (1973, 1996) from the Hungarian government; the Grawemeyer Award (2006) for his composition *Concertante* Op. 42 for violin, viola and orchestra, and the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society (2013).
- In 2002 he moved to France.
- For the last few years he has been working on the opera *Fin de partie*, based on Samuel Beckett's original French text, scheduled to be premiered at the Salzburger Festspiele 2016.

- György Kurtág is one of the most original voices in contemporary music.
- His work and musical thoughts were deeply affected by the revolutions and upheavals of twentieth-century music, but it was by synthesizing these experiences that he arrived at his unique style.
- His musical language is powerfully individual, but reflects the influence of great masters from Guillaume de Machaut to Béla Bartók.
- His international reputation began to take shape in 1981 when the Ensemble InterContemporain premiered his *Messages of the Late Miss R.V. Trousova*, Op. 17, for soprano and chamber ensemble.

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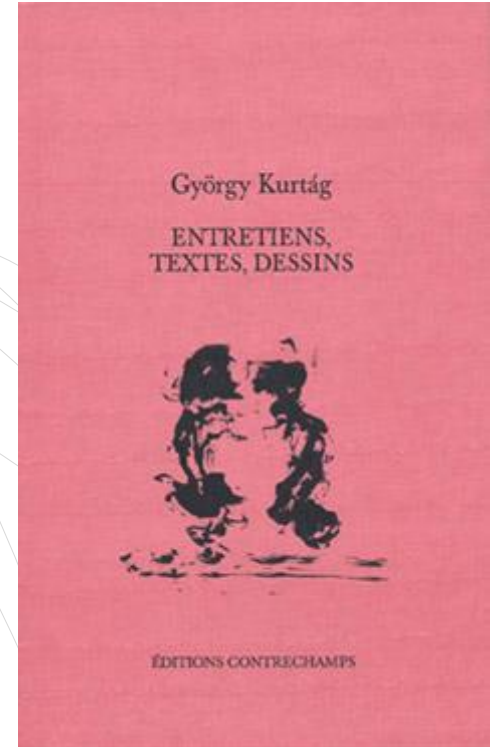
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- Kurtág's vocal music is a central part of his catalogue, as is his key relationship with poetry.
- He has influenced many generations of high-profile musicians through his chamber music teaching. He has also developed an original approach to bringing children to the experience of music.
- His voice has traced a path independent of the mainstream, transcending the historical concept of progress and regression and opening a new perspective for the music of the future.

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