

Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Ivor Gotham

Composer, Saxophonist, Educator  
Born: Sept. 27, 1959, Eastleigh, Hampshire, UK  
Died: July 25, 2013, Toronto Canada  
Citizenship: dual British-Canadian  
www.gothamnic.com

### **Selected Compositions Since 1992**

2013

*Step. Pivot. Stride* for symphonic band and saxophone quartet. Duration 11 min. Premiered by Riga Professional Symphonic Band

*Tettmang , Pangnirtung 1, Auyiittuq, Pangnirtung 2 and Toronto.* Five miniatures written for Martha Baillie's novel, *The Search for Heinrich Schlogel*. For cello, clarinet, piano and percussion. Premiered by The Array Ensemble, Toronto 2013.

2012

*Barbara Allen* (2012) for mezzo-soprano and saxophone quartet. Text: traditional. Duration 11 min.

*Flying Caravan* for four flutes. 9' 30". Premiered by Amber Flutes in 2013.

*Tequila Logic* for two alto saxophones

*Spin, Weave, Cut* (2012) for flute, viola, harp. Duration 11 min., 30 sec.

*Ode to Gagarin.* With K. Auzans. Cello trio and symphonic band. 13 min, 37 sec.

2011

*Nightscares* for chamber orchestra (dur. 24 min), premiered by Sinfonietta in 2012

*Every Day* for wind orchestra (dur. 12 min.)

*Truth in Darkness* for female vocal ensemble (dur. 4 min.)

*Strategy* for female vocal ensemble and 3 instruments (dur.20 min.)

*Stand, Spin, Jump* (2011) An improvising piece for any two instruments or groups of instruments. Duration 7 to 12 min. approx. Created for One + One.

2010        *Equilibria* (2010). Suite in four parts, total duration 9 min., 30 sec

2009        Four short pieces for solo saxophone, DJ and symphony orchestra (*Zone, Les dessins sur trottoir, Your Oyster, James in Peril*), commissioned by the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra  
*Asleep In A Field* for mixed choir (text: A. Finlay), commissioned by the Latvian Radio Choir

2008        *The Life of Things* for mixed choir (text: W. Wordsworth), commissioned by the Latvian Radio Choir  
*Outing* for soprano saxophone, percussion and piano  
*Returning* for alto saxophone and piano

2007        *Canticum Fratris Solis* for male vocal ensemble and four instruments ("Schola Cantorum Riga" and "Altera Veritas")  
*7 Intermezzi* for two saxophones and organ

2006        *Vive la différence* for string quartet  
*Bakhanalija* for wind orchestra and saxophone quartet

- Dream Pipe* - four songs for men's choir and wind orchestra set to poems by Ēriks Adamsons
- 2005 *Songs of the Wolf-month* for female vocal ensemble („Putni“)  
*Up From Under* for saxophone quartet (version for clarinet quartet, 2007)  
*Venturi* for woodwind quintet and piano four-hands (“Quintus Animus”, Normunds and Antra Viksne)
- 2004 *Light Music* for string orchestra, percussion and alto saxophone solo. (Riga Chamber Players, Festival “Arena”)  
*Heliotrope* for the Altera Veritas ensemble (2 kokles, accordion, flute).  
*Escape From Troy* - suite for wind orchestra and choir
- 2003 *Fruits of the Earth* for choir, soloists and saxophone quartet. Commissioned by the Latvian Radio Choir.
- 2001 *Zoom* for alto saxophone solo, commissioned by the Brilliant Note International Saxophone Competition, Staicele, Latvia  
*Saxophonia* for 8 saxophones, commissioned by Festival Saxophonia, Riga, Latvia. Premiered February 22, 2001  
*A Nocturne of Old Riga*, commissioned by the Baltic Trio, premierd July 19, Riga.
- 2000 *Oh Pilot*, one-act chamber opera with libretto by Banuta Rubess. Première Toronto, April, 2000, TapestryNewOpera/World Stage Festival, subsequent productions in Riga, 2007, and Kaunas, 2008.  
*Playing With Fire* for alto saxophone and piano, commissioned by Brilliant Note International Saxophone Competition, Staicele, Latvia
- 1999 *The Fool by the Roadside* for chamber choir, commissioned by Vancouver Chamber Choir, premiered Vancouver, November 5, 1999  
*Album* for five saxophones, premièred in Riga, February 24, 1999
- 1998 *Wax Experiments* for 40 fingers saxophone quartet, premièred in Toronto, March  
*A Foggy Day*, "arrangement" of the George and Ira Gershwin song for the Hemispheres Ensemble, premièred in Toronto, April, 1998  
*Four Dances* for concert band, premièred by the University of Toronto Wind Symphony, November, 1998
- 1996 *Stone Harvest* for 40 fingers saxophone quartet, premièred in Toronto, January, 1997  
*Chrysalis* for seven players (Arraymusic), premièred in Toronto, May 1997
- 1995 *Grace* for 40 fingers saxophone quartet, premièred in Toronto, February  
*Crab Pool 2* for eight players (Hemispheres), premièred in Toronto, February
- 1994 *Glass Mountain* for the Bach-Elgar Choir, premièred in Hamilton, April 1995  
*Blue Quilt* for 40 fingers saxophone quartet, premièred in Toronto, June  
*Spirit of St. Louis* for trumpet, violin, piano, percussion (Hemispheres Ensemble), premièred in Toronto, April  
*Adolphe's Ax* for 40 fingers saxophone quartet, premièred in Toronto, March
- 1993 *Crab Pool* for accordion solo, commissioned by Tiina Kiik, premièred in Peterborough, October  
*Toy Garage* for the Evergreen Club Gamelan, premièred in Toronto, May
- 1992 *Hermit Hand* for 14-piece mixed chamber ensemble, Hemispheres, commissioned by the Newfoundland Sound Symposium, premièred in St. John's, July  
*Nigredo Hotel* one-act chamber opera with libretto by Ann-Marie MacDonald, première production in Toronto by Tapestry Music Theatre and Tarragon Theatre, May 20-June 14

#### **Composition for Live Theatre and Dance**

1985-1997 Eleven scores for professional theatre and dance companies

### **Composition for Radio Drama**

1990-1997 eleven scores for CBC radio dramas

### **Commercially released recordings of Compositions**

*The World is Your Oyster*

Performance (saxophone) and compositions. Ensemble NiMo, a collaboration with DJ Monsta. (Rad#02)

*Dream Pipe*

“Praulins, Puce, Gothams” Gaudeamus Men’s Choir, Latvian Armed Forces Orchestra (VKG #004)

*Nic Gotham & AbiGali*

10 original jazz compositions, released on Microphone Records (MicRec #335)

*Fruits of the Earth, Fool By the Roadside, Album*

Latvian Radio Choir, Riga Saxophone Quartet, Nic Gotham  
(Rad #01)

*Chrysalis*

Arraymusic CD 25 Miniatures (Artifact Music #025)

*Stone Harvest*

40 fingers CD Live Fingers (Artifact Music #017)

*Grace, Blue Quilt*

40 fingers CD Blue Quilt (Artifact Music #013)

*Nigredo Hotel\_ (excerpt)* Musicworks #58 CD accompanying journal

*Hermit Hand*

Hemispheres CD (Artifact Music #008)

### **Awards**

1997 Freddie Stone Award for "leadership, integrity and innovation in new music.

### **Performance Experience**

1980-2010 ongoing regular professional activity as freelance saxophonist, including recording and live performance in jazz, pop and classical groups, modern dance and theatre (

### **Published Articles**

1995 "The Nightingale" in Musicworks #62

1994 "An Operatic Dive - Nigredo Hotel" in Musicworks #58

## Teaching

- ongoing masterclasses in improvisation taught internationally
- 2009- Part-time faculty, Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music
- 2004- Part-time teaching staff. Riga Cathedral Choir School
- 2000-2003 Part-time of teaching staff, Jelgava Music College, Jelgava, Latvia, and Limbazi Music School, Limbazi, Latvia
- 1999-2001 Residency: "Composers in Electronic Residence"
- 1999 Residencies in Latvia: J. Medina Music College, Saulkrasti Jazz Festival
- 1998-96 Project Coordinator, "DOMusic" workshops in improvisation, composition
- 1998, 94 Residency: lecturing in composition at the International Latvian Youth Summer Music Camp, Jaungulbene, Latvia 1996
- Residency: North York Board of Education "ArtsReach"
- 1996,94,93 Residency: National Ballet of Canada "Creating Dances in the Schools"
- 1996,95 Residency: Composer-in-Residence for Ontario Arts Education Institute "Teaching and Learning in the Arts"
- 1995 Residency: Canadian Opera Company educational programme "Create An Opera"
- Artist-Leader for "Inventors & Innovators" workshops for music educators
- Residency: associate composer for "Changing Arts Practice" workshops directed by the Guildhall School of Music, London, England

## Affiliations

- 2002- Member, Society of Latvian Composers
- 1996-97 Member, Board of Directors, Ontario Arts Education Institute
- 1996 Composer Member: "Opera America"
- 1994-2005 Member, Canadian League of Composers
- 1993- Composer-Associate of the Canadian Music Centre
- Founding member, 40 fingers saxophone quartet
- 1992-98 Member, Board of Directors - The Music Gallery
- 1989-95 Artistic Director, Hemispheres Music Projects
- 1986- Member, Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)

## Education and Training

- 2008- Research PhD program in Music Composition, Brunel University, UK (supervisors Richard Barrett, Christopher Fox)
- 2001 Symposium and workshops in orchestral composition, Ostrava New Music Days (Christian Wolff, Ysolt Nagy, Jean-Yves Bosseur, Alvin Lucier)
- 1991-96 Informal studies in composition with James Tenney
- 1990-91 completed B.F.A. (Music) at York University
- 1988-90 private studies: improvisation and keyboard harmony with Frank Falco, South Indian rhythm and performance on kanjira with Trichy Sankaran
- 1986 private studies in improvisation with Fred Stone
- 1978-82 B.F.A. (Music) program York University; instructors included David Mott, James Tenney
- 1977-78 B.Mus. program University of Western Ontario