



Robert Starer

From Wikipedia

Robert Starer (8 January 1924^[1] in [Vienna](#) – 22 April^[2] 2001 in [Kingston, New York](#)) was an Austrian-born [American composer](#), [pianist](#) and educator.^[3]

Robert Starer began studying the piano at age 4 and continued his studies at the Vienna State Academy. After the 1938 [plebiscite](#) in which Austria voted for annexation by [Nazi Germany](#), Starer left for [Palestine](#) and studied at the Jerusalem Conservatory with [Josef Tal](#). In [World War II](#) he served in the British Royal Air Force. And in 1947 he settled in the [United States](#). He studied [composition](#) at the [Juilliard School](#) in [New York](#), studied with [Aaron Copland](#) in 1948 and received a postgraduate degree from Juilliard in 1949. Starer became an American citizen in 1957.

Robert Starer taught at the Juilliard School, [Brooklyn College](#) and the Graduate Center of the [City University of New York](#) where he became a distinguished professor in 1986. He was married, had one child, Daniel, and resided in [Woodstock, NY](#) until his death. He lived with writer [Gail Godwin](#) for some thirty years; the two collaborated on several librettos.

Starer was prolific and composed in many genres. His music was characterized by [chromaticism](#) and driving rhythms. His vocal works, whether set to English or [Hebrew](#) texts, were particularly praised. He composed the score for [Martha Graham](#)'s 1962 ballet *Phaedra*. He also wrote four [operas](#), *The Intruder* (1956), *Pantagleize* (1967), *The Last Lover* (1975), and *Apollonia* (1979). Notable concertos include *Violin Concerto* which was written for [Itzhak Perlman](#) and recorded by the [Boston Symphony Orchestra](#), [Seiji Ozawa](#), conductor, and his *Cello Concerto*, commissioned by [Janos Starker](#) and recorded by [Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra](#), [Leon Botstein](#), conductor.

One of Starer's better-known pieces is "Even and Odds" for young pianists.

He is also known for his pieces entitled "Sketches in Color", as well as his sight-reading training manual, "Rhythmic Training."