



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
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Biography- Gary Kulesha **Composer**

Gary Kulesha is one of Canada's most active and most visible musicians. Although principally a composer, he is active as both a pianist and a conductor, and as a teacher. Mr. Kulesha's music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by musicians and ensembles all over the world.

In March 2000 at the launch of the NAC New Music Programme, the National Arts Centre named Gary Kulesha as one of three recipients of the \$75,000 NAC Composers Awards, along with Denys Bouliane and Alexina Louie. Each composer has been commissioned to create three works over a four-year period, during which time they will work closely with the National Arts Centre Orchestra on a series of new music education initiatives. Mr. Kulesha's first commission will premiere later this season.

From 1988 to 1992, Mr. Kulesha was Composer in Residence with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra. In 1993, he became Composer in Residence with the Canadian Opera Company, a position he held until the end of 1995. His opera *Red Emma* was premiered in 1995. In 1995, he was appointed Composer-Advisor to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where his duties include composing, conducting, and advising on repertoire.

In 1990, Mr. Kulesha was nominated for a Juno award for his *Third Chamber Concerto*. He was nominated again in 2000 for *The Book of Mirrors*. In 1986, he was named Composer of the Year by PROCANADA, the youngest composer ever so honoured. Also in 1986, he represented Canada at the International Rostrum of Composers in Paris. In the summer of 1990, he was the first composer ever appointed to the position of Composer in Residence with the Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, Ontario. Mr. Kulesha has been the Artistic Director of The Composers' Orchestra since 1987.

In the Winter of 2000, Mr. Kulesha had premieres of his Violin Concerto with Gwen Hoebig and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, his Partita for Piano and Orchestra with David Moroz and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and *The True Colour of the Sky* with Jukka-Pekka Saraste and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In September 2000, Vancouver New Music premiered "Syllables of Unknown Meaning," for chamber orchestra, at the Chan Centre in Vancouver. In November 2000, Music Canada 2000 presented his second opera, *The Last Duel*, written in collaboration with librettist Michael Albano.

Mr. Kulesha is on the full-time staff at the University of Toronto, where he teaches composition and theory, and directs the Contemporary Music Ensemble. In addition, he teaches conducting and directs the contemporary music ensemble at the Royal Conservatory of Music. In the first four months of 1996, Mr. Kulesha served as Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Music at Brandon University.