

# Douglas Knehans

## Composer

[www.douglasknehans.com](http://www.douglasknehans.com)

### Medium Length Bio (570 words)

With a gift for extravagant color, beautiful melodic style, clear musical form and engaging, soulfully dramatic work, the music of award winning composer Douglas Knehans has gained the attention and warm appreciation of audiences and performers around the world. Knehans' two-piano work **cascade** has been performed in Steinway Hall, New York; UIC Recital Hall, Chicago; Tokyo, Japan; Kiev, Ukraine and recorded for worldwide CD release on Ablaze Records by the virtuoso piano duo The Pridonoff Duo in a recording hailed by Fanfare Magazine as "... effective ... incisive ... hauntingly beautiful ..." A disc of his early music for acoustic and electric cello was released on Ablaze Records in the fall of 2010 which was called "... amazingly sophisticated ... very beautiful ... intriguing ... captivating ..." by Audiophile Audition.

Since 1980, he has been the recipient of numerous commissions, awards and fellowships in Australia and the U.S. Most notably, the inaugural \$20,000.00 Victorian Council for the Arts Composition Fellowship (1987-88) which enabled him to write his first chamber opera **the ascension of robert flau**; over a dozen commissions (1986-1988) for various media supported by the Australia Council Performing Arts Board; Fellowships from the **MacDowell Colony** (1989) and the Leighton Artist Colony (1989), and a composer-in-residence grant from **Meet the Composer, Inc.** (1990), **The American Prize for Orchestral Music** (2012) and the Winner of the **International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition** (2011) among numerous others.

Douglas Knehans' works have been broadcast on ABC Classic FM and ABC Television (Australia); National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service (USA); RAI Radio and Television (Italy); and HTKY, the National Television Broadcaster in Ukraine. His music for Television has been nominated for an **EMMY Award** and he composed evocative music for the short film *A Song of Air*, which was invited to the prestigious *Un Certain Regard* section of the **Cannes Film Festival** (France). He has been featured in two books on Australian music (*A Handbook of Australian Music* and *A Companion to Music in Australia*).

Douglas Knehans (b. 1957, St. Louis, Missouri) received his initial music education at the Canberra School of Music (Australian National University) in Australia's national capital. In 1990 he received scholarships and awards from Queens College, City University of New York where he gained his M.A. in composition with Distinguished Professor and renowned composer Thea Musgrave, receiving the first *Luigi Dallapiccola Composition Award* (1991) for outstanding achievement in music composition. In 1991 Knehans entered the Doctoral program at Yale University where he studied music composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jacob Druckman, Lukas Foss, Martin Bresnick, and Jonathan Berger. He graduated Yale University in 1993 earning the *Woods Chandler Memorial Prize* (1993) for best composition in a larger form.

In 1993, Knehans was appointed to the University of Alabama School of Music, where he was chair of Composition, Theory and Electronic Music. In 2005 he created the *Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute* and was the Artistic and Executive Director of that Institute between 2005-2008. He was Professor of Music and Director of the University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music between 2000-2008, and Dean of the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati from 2008-2010. He is currently the Norman Dinerstein Professor of Composition Scholar at CCM. His music is available on New World Records, ERM Media, Crystal Records, Move Records and Ablaze Records. He self-publishes his music under the Armadillo Edition imprint.

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Please do not alter or edit this Biography without prior approval.

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