

Music should pierce
the heart
and the mind



TAJA ASTAR

**COMPOSER,
PIANIST, CONDUCTOR**

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⇒KEY POINTS

- ✓ **Genres:** classical / art music,
musical theater, crossover jazz/pop
- ✓ **Language:** mostly modern tonal
 - ♪ Contemporary techniques
 - ♪ Strong melodies
 - ♪ Intricate intertextual component
- ✓ **Arrangement formation:**
from solo to full orchestra
- ✓ **Topics:** the emotional, the social,
the political, the philosophical
- ✓ **Target audience:** general public,
young people



COMPOSER'S CV

LATEST RELEASES AND PUBLICATIONS

Sept 2025 | *Cranes Coming Home*, for SSAATTBB, Gehrman's Musikförlag
Jan 2025 | *Sonnet*, for solo trombone, European Gramophone with
Christian Lindberg

AWARDS

2024 | **Winner:** HerVoice International Composition Competition (USA)
2023 | **Special Prize Radio Classic FM:** The Third International Composition
Competition SYN(es)THESIS (Bul)
2023 | **1st Prize:** European Gramophone's composition competition (Swe)
2022 | **Winner:** Diamonds in the Rough composition competition (Swe)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMISSIONS

2023 | Finalist: Marion Brown Prize 2023, USA
2023 | Commission: String quartet [NOName](#) for Wirénkvartetet, Swe
2023 | House composer: SMASK Piteå 2023 and SMASK National Finals
2023 song competitions, Swe
2022 | Commission: [In Sunset Sky Cerise](#), for piano quartet, for International
Composers Festival 2022 in Bexhill, UK
2019 | Commission: Chamber opera *Parainphernalia*, for OperaElect, USA
2018 | Winner: Art song [What Is Love](#), competitive call-for-scores for
International Composers Festival 2018 in Bexhill, UK

MUSICAL EDUCATION

2021-2023 | **MA in Composition**, with Fredrik Högberg and prof. Jan
Sandström, Piteå Academy of Music, Sweden
2019-2022 | Courses in Composition at postgraduate level, with prof. Rolf
Martinsson, Hans Gefors, prof. Bent Sørensen & Tebogo Monakgotla;
Malmö Academy of Music & Örebro University, Sweden
2007-2009 | **MA in Music, Mind and Technology** (2011), University of
Jyväskylä, Finland
1991-1996 | **Diploma (MA equivalent) in Piano Performance**, St.
Petersburg State Conservatory (Academy), Russia
1987-1990 | Certificate in Piano, Simferopol Music College, Ukraine

OTHER PORTFOLIO LINKS

[All the Power and Glory](#), for soprano and symphony orchestra, 2023. (Rec.:
NorrlandsOpera's SO, dir. Nick Shugaev, sopr. Serafeia Mangou)
[The Checkered Flag Villanelle](#), for piano and chamber orchestra, 2022. (Rec.:
Swedish Chamber Orchestra, dir. David Björkman, piano Taja Astar)
[Escape. Some Ways of Living Not](#), for chamber ensemble, 2022. (Rec.:
Norrbotten NEO, dir. Taja Astar)
[Another Ocean](#), for chamber ensemble and narrator/tape, 2021. (Rec.:
Norrbotten NEO, dir. Maria Andrejic Bengtsson, narr. Anna Astar)
[Fragments](#), for symphony orchestra, 2022 (Rec.: NorrlandsOpera's SO, dir.
Mathieu Keith)
[Ukraine, My Pain](#), for piano trio, 2022. (Rec.: Taja Astar – piano, Arantxa
Rodriguez Deroy – violin, Johanna Gronemann – cello)

