

Robert Tomaro, Composer

Featured Recordings of Selected Works

1. **The Song of the New Life** – A Concert March, composed by Robert Tomaro for symphonic wind ensemble, based on a melody by Henry Mindlin, commissioned by The Consortium of the Arts, Walnut Creek, California. Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the Symphonic Concert Band of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006.
2. **The Bridge of Souls, Part I** – “The Bridge Descends from Heaven and Appears Over the River”. Composed by Robert Tomaro. Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the London Symphony Orchestra at EMI Abbey Road Studios, London, 1996 for the CD: “Robert Tomaro Conducts”, MMC Records (MMC 2085).
3. **The Dream Palace** – A ballet score by Robert Tomaro, commissioned by The Consortium of the Arts, Walnut Creek, California, conducted in concert by Robert Tomaro with the Beloit Janesville Symphony, Wisconsin.
4. **The Bridge of Souls, Part II** – “Music Emanates from the Bridge.” Composed by Robert Tomaro, commissioned by Dr. Madeleine Schatz and the Fairbanks Symphony, Alaska. Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 1998 for the CD: “Robert Tomaro Conducts”, MMC Records (MMC 2085).
5. **Concerto for Electric Guitar and Orchestra**- Composed by Robert Tomaro with Randall Craig Fleischer. Commissioned by Randall Craig Fleischer. Recorded in concert with the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, Robert Tomaro, guitar solo, conducted by Antonia Joy Wilson.

Other performances of The Concerto for Electric Guitar and Orchestra:

- 1997 – Premiere performance with the combined orchestras of Catholic University and Howard University, Washington, D. C., Robert Tomaro, guitar solo. Conducted by Randall Craig Fleischer.
- 2012 – With the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, Dubuque, Iowa. Robert Tomaro, guitar solo. Conducted by William Intrilligator.

Celestial Navigation – Composed by Robert Tomaro. Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the Silesian Philharmonic Orchestra, Katowice, Poland for the CD: MMC New Century, Volume VI. (MMC 2028).

6. Celestial Navigation - Mvt. I –Andante con moto

7. Celestial Navigation Mvt. II- Allegro vivace

Celestial Navigation – Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the Black Sea Philharmonic Orchestra, Constanta, Romania. Capstone Records (“Black Sea Idyll” CPS 8648)

Aaron Copland- Symphony No. 3- Recording conducted by Robert Tomaro with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, Olomouc, Czech Republic for the CD: “Robert Tomaro Conducts”. MMC Records (MMC 2085).

8. Mvt. I – Molto moderato

9. Mvt. II – Allegro molto

10. Mvt. III – Andantino quasi allegretto

11. Mvt. IV – Molto deliberato

12. **In Spirit** by Robert Tomaro, for Jazz Quartet. Composed by Robert Tomaro, guitar by Robert Tomaro, with the Rob Tomaro Quartet, Chicago, Illinois

13. **Miraculous Transformation-** A duet composed by Robert Tomaro for violin and guitar. Susan Aquila, violin, Robert Tomaro, guitar, recorded in Beloit Wisconsin, 2016.

“These Things We Hold Dear”, a patriotic work for narrator and Symphony Orchestra, composed and conducted by Robert Tomaro. Premiere performances with the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, July 3 and 4, 2011. Commissioned by the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra.

“The Call” for tenor, rock band and symphony orchestra, composed and conducted by Robert Tomaro. Premiere performance with the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, 2008.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Composition, New York University **1994**

Master of Arts Degree in Composition, New York University **1989**

Doctoral Dissertation: *Contemporary Compositional Techniques
For the Electric Guitar in United States Concert Music*

Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Peacock, Professor, Music and Music Education, NYU

Studied arranging and composition with Don Sebesky, New York City, 1982

Honorary Member of the Board of Directors of *L'Association Nationale de Musique de Chambre*, Paris, France

Created an annual award-winning middle school student composition program: *Composing Kids: Making Music With the Maestro*, in which the students composed an orchestral score for a short silent film, which was then premiered in concert with the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Robert Tomaro.

Honors and Awards

Nominated for two Grammy Awards by the National Association for Recording Arts and Sciences (early rounds). **2015**

- “Producer of the Year,” for the CD ‘Miss Conduct’ by Susan Aquila, music and lyrics by Robert Tomaro
- ‘Best Instrumental and Vocal Arrangement for the song “Why” on the same CD. Music and lyrics by Rob Tomaro

Nominated for two Grammy Awards By the National Association for Recording Arts and Sciences (early rounds). **2014**

- “Best Instrumental and Vocal Arrangement” for the song ‘*Broken Angel*,’ recorded by Susan Aquila on her album of the same name, music and lyrics by Robert Tomaro
- “Best Instrumental and Vocal Arrangement” for the song “Things Will Go Your Way,” on the same CD. Music and lyrics by Rob Tomaro.

Award of Excellence – Highest Award **2013**
Wisconsin Community Media – To Robert Tomaro, Music Director and Composer, for presenting the premiere performance of his original work: *Concerto for Electric Violin, Rock Band and Orchestra*, Susan Aquila, Soloist, April, 2012, Janesville, Wisconsin, with the Beloit Janesville Symphony

Finalist – The American Prize in Composition **2013**
for his original orchestra work: *The Bridge of Souls*, Parts I and II.

Award for Academic and Artistic Achievement **2011**
From the Board of Education of Beloit, Wisconsin,
for his role in creating the in-school program: *Composing Kids: Making Music with the Maestro*.

Winner of the State of Wisconsin Award **2010**

For Achievement in Education and Community Relations
For creating and implementing the interactive music composition and performance program for young children: *Composing Kids: Making Music with the Maestro*.

ASCAP Special Award for Symphonic Composition **1998-2003**

Jazz Doctor Magazine - Best Jazz Rock CD of 20011.
Planet Z featuring violinist Susan Aquila and guitarist Rob Tomaro
music by Rob Tomaro – CD recording
(Blue Chair Enterprises – 001)

“The Call”
For tenor, Rock Band, and orchestra
By the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra.
Conducted the premiere on July 3 and 4, 2008.

New Jersey Council on the Arts grant recipient **1998**
For a one-year residency with the Elysian Symphony Orchestra
of Hudson County, New Jersey

Winner of the New York University **1991**
Graduate Composition Award
for *Concerto for Electric Guitar and Orchestra*.

Awarded Graduate Fellowships in Composition
from New York University. **1988-1991**

New Jersey Council on the Arts **1988**
Award for Symphonic Composition for *Celestial Navigation*
for symphony orchestra– CD recordings on MMC Records and Capstone Records,
Conducted the concert premiere at the Hayden Planetarium, New York City, 1995,
with the Elysian Symphony Orchestra of New Jersey.

ASCAP Award for Symphonic Composition **1987-2007**

Meet the Composer Grant, New York City Chapter **1984-1987**

Moore Foundation Grant for Symphonic Composition **1987**

Other CD Recordings of the Music of Robert Tomaro

Miss Conduct- Producer, Composer (Music and Lyrics) recorded by Susan Aquila on
Original Kitchen Records (OK002). The CD was nominated for five Grammy Awards.

Broken Angel - CD Recording featuring Susan Aquila, Turkey Vulture Records, Rockford, Illinois – Co-Producer, composer, arranger. The CD was nominated for five Grammy Awards.

Planet Z, featuring Susan Aquila – Music by Rob Tomaro
Blue Chair Enterprises 001

- Composed the score for the cult classic horror film “**Slime City**,” directed by Gregory Lamberson, CD recording produced by Robert Tomaro, available upon request.

Selected CD Reviews

Allegro Magazine, the magazine of the Association of Wisconsin Symphony Orchestras. Fall, 2001. Review of: “Robert Tomaro Conducts”. MMC Records (MMC 2085).

"The American conductor Robert Tomaro commanded the symphony in what proved to be a virtuosic performance, seemingly unending in its imagination and with a firm hand, with which he gave life to the two works in first audition including *The Bridge of Souls, Part II* by Robert Tomaro, as well as the *Symphony No. 3* of Copland. As a conductor, Robert Tomaro succeeded in creating a unique orchestral texture and was able to project a new spirit of thought and concept, generating an ideal interpretation."

Eutherpe, Telegraf, Bucharest, Romania. Review of Capstone Records (“Black Sea Idyll” CPS 8648)

"Robert Tomaro...virtuoso... brings a wide variety of instrumental colors...in a nice variety of dynamics... reflections of different cultures of the world molded in a singular statement. The concert was a significant success!"

American Record Guide, 1995. Review of:
MMC New Century VI (MMC 2028) – “Celestial Navigation” by Robert Tomaro
Silesian Philharmonic Orchestra
Recorded at Philharmonic Hall, Katowice, Poland, January, 1994

“An immersion in atmosphere and color permeates just about every bar of this music, from the bright percussion and bold fanfares of Robert Tomaro’s *Celestial Navigation* to the crazed tango of Roger Briggs’ *Tracer*. This disc offers attractive new American music, well recorded and ably performed.”

**Planet Z- featuring Susan Aquila – Music by Rob Tomaro
Blue Chair Enterprises - 0001**

- Voted number one CD on the jazz/rock charts of CMJ music listings, August, 2011.
- Named “Best Jazz Rock CD of 2011 by Jazz Doctor Magazine.

Jazz Doctor Magazine – August 8, 2011.

Music & Opinion for the 21st Century

Planet Z, featuring Susan Aquila, music by Rob Tomaro.

“As any of the promoters who pass us CD’s for review will tell you – nearly ALL albums go in the queue & get reviewed in the order they were received... the only time a CD is pushed to the front of the queue is when the energy levels are so significantly notable that it would be unfair (to the whole world) not to let folks know about it. This CD, featuring electric rock violinist Susan Aquila, definitely falls in that category. This music pushes the envelope so hard it will blow your eardrums (not to mention your mind) immediately. Her debut CD is colossal... just scope out the 3rd track, “The Fire of The Planes“, to hear what’s got me so fired up – & do it with ‘phones on at FULL BLAST... this music just RAWKS! My favorite of the 7 tracks offered up is the superb “Dance of Ecstasy“... Susan’s violin just SOARS, & all the other players (Robert Tomaro on guitar, Irio O’Farrill on bass, Ray Marchica & Paul Pizzuti on drums & Joseph Church & Ted Baker on keyboards) are out in full force. I certainly give this a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED; “EQ” (energy quotient) rating is a top-of-the-line 5.00... and they get the “PICK” of this issue for “best jazz/rock/fusion CD” of 2011! (Keep your ears on this band, folks... you heard it here first – they WILL take over the world)!!!” Get more information at: www.planetztheband.com *Rotcod Zzaj*

MIDWEST RECORD, Volume 34/Number 277 -Chris Spector, Editor and Publisher Copyright 2011 Midwest Record.

Planet Z, featuring Susan Aquila, music by Rob Tomaro.

“You’ve got an interesting bunch of talent on board here that just blows the roof off the sucker. Aquila is a jazz/rock electric violinist with a classical background that sounds more like she’s Jean Luc Ponty’s daughter than Clara does. Kicking it out on the music of Rob Tomaro, also a jazz rocker with a classical background, the two are an incendiary combustion that can’t be denied. The credentials of these two speak for themselves. Simply put, when you want that jazz/rock thing with something extra that just doesn’t quit, this is the set to put at the top of your list. This is hot stuff that just can’t be denied.”

Publications

New Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Seventh Edition, from a Doctoral Dissertation by Robert Tomaro.

London, 1997. "The Music of Elliot Sharp."

London, 1997. "The Music of Francis Thorne."

Journal for New Music Research, Swets & Zeitliner, Lisse, The Netherlands, Doctoral Dissertation by Robert Tomaro. Vol. 23, Fall 1994 "Contemporary Compositional Techniques for The Electric Guitar in United States Concert Music"