

DAVID STOCK

Born 3 June 1939 in Pittsburgh

Sixth Symphony (2012)

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED BY THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

APPROXIMATE DURATION: 23 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION: piccolo, three flutes, two oboes, English horn, two clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, contrabassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion and strings

Pittsburgh native David Stock, Professor Emeritus at Duquesne University, received his baccalaureate in trumpet and composition and an advanced degree in composition from Carnegie Mellon University and a master's degree in composition from Brandeis. Stock has been Composer-in-Residence with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and Pittsburgh Youth Symphony, and is Conductor Laureate of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, which he founded in 1976 and led until his retirement from that position in 1999. He has appeared as guest conductor across America, including engagements with the major orchestras of Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Seattle and Los Angeles, as well as in Australia, Poland, Mexico and China. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and as a host of *Da Capo*, a weekly series on WQED-FM in Pittsburgh; his television credits include the theme music for the award-winning PBS series *Kennedy Center Tonight*. Stock's compositions, which have been performed throughout the United States and in Europe, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, China, Uzbekistan and Korea, include six symphonies, ten string quartets, a dozen concertos, much chamber, solo and orchestral music, and scores for dance, theater, television and film. Among his many distinctions are a Guggenheim Fellowship, five Fellowship Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, five Fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and grants and commissions from the Ella Lyman Cabot Trust, Paderewski Fund for Composers, Koussevitzky Music Foundation, Barlow Endowment, Boston Musica Viva, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, Seattle Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Erie Philharmonic, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, Duquesne University and many other ensembles and organizations; in November 1992, he was selected by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to receive the "Creative Achievement Award for Outstanding Established Artist."

Stock wrote of his Sixth Symphony (2012), commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and dedicated to Maestro Manfred Honeck, "My Third Symphony ('Tikkun Olam') and my Cello Concerto both feature liturgical and secular Jewish themes. In both works, I knew before starting what these connections and quotations would be: in the Cello Concerto, the soloist 'sings' in the voice of a cantor; in the Third Symphony, I was asked by one of the music directors who commissioned it to celebrate the Millennium, and 'Healing of the World' ['Tikkun Olam'], the ushering in of the Messianic Era, seemed a Jewish response to that request.

"With the Sixth symphony, however, I had no idea ahead of time that the final movement would revisit the world of the Synagogue, and I was quite surprised when it unfolded that way! But I've always advised my students to let the composition tell its composer where it wants to go, so I followed my own advice! Some of the quotations include: the prayer before the reading from the Torah; *Shema Yisrael*, the central prayer of a Jewish service ('Hear, O Israel, the Lord is One'); and *Kadosh, Kadosh* ('Holy, Holy').

"The original plan for the PSO commission was that the Sixth Symphony would celebrate my 75th Birthday, on June 3rd, 2014, but I'm thrilled that it will instead begin the 2013-2014 season of this great orchestra, inspiration of my youth."