

# Corey Hamm

Piano by Age Adjudicator

Pianist Corey Hamm has established a unique musical profile performing widely in North America and in Asia as both soloist and chamber musician. He is the 2026 Honorary Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music along with such others as Oscar Peterson, Lang Lang, Yannick Nézet-Séguin. His CD of Frederic Rzewski's hour-long solo piano epic *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (Redshift Records TK431) won Spotify's Best Classical Recording 2014, and Best Classical Recording at the 2014 Western Canadian Music Awards, and was included as one of the top three all-time recordings in the June 2025 issue of International Piano Magazine. He has performed the work over 80 times all over the world. Hamm had the privilege of working on all of the piano and chamber works of Dutilleux with the composer himself. Among his recording plans are CDs of Dutilleux Piano Sonate, Prokofiev Sonata 8, Op. 84, and Kapustin Sonata 2, as well as solo works written for Corey by Michael Finnissy, Frederic Rzewski, John Psathas, Alice Pingye Ho, Adam Zolty, Claude Lapalme, Keith Hamel, Jocelyn Morlock, Jordan Nobles, Dorothy Chang, Ronn Yedidia.

Corey Hamm has commissioned, premiered and recorded over four hundred works by composers from all over the world. These commissions have been for solo piano, chamber music, and concerti.

His most extensive collection of commissioned works includes over 80 pieces for PEP (Piano and Erhu Project) with whom he has toured China. To date the composers for the project come from China, Canada, UK, and the United States, and include Michael Finnissy, GAO Ping, Brian Cherney, among many others. The result is a new and flourishing catalogue of works for piano and erhu composed in the musical languages of the 21st century. This combination of instruments bringing together two of the world's great musical traditions, now has a unique collection of works to draw from for audiences of the 21st century. PEP has released some of these works on their PEP CDs, Vols. 1, 2, and 3 (Redshift TK437, TK440, TK474). Volume 2 was nominated for Best Classical Recording at the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards, and PEP won Ensemble of the Year at the 2021 WCMA.

Corey has also commissioned over 50 works for The Nu:BC Collective and for Hammerhead Consort (two piano and two percussion). As pianist for The Nu:BC Collective he has released the critically acclaimed CD *Beyond Shadows* (Redshift TK432), and as a founding member of Hammerhead Consort, he received the 1993 Sir Ernest Macmillan Memorial Foundation Chamber Music Award, and was winner of the 1992 National Chamber Music Competition.

In recent years, Corey Hamm has studied, recorded and toured one of the great piano works of the last decades, Frederic Rzewski's monumental hour-long solo piano epic, *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (Redshift TK431). This work, made up of a theme and 36 variations, has been recorded by a small number of pianists including Marc-André Hamelin, Ursula Oppens, and Stephen Drury. Frederic Rzewski received Corey Hamm's interpretation as one of the finest to date. "Excellent! Bravo! This may be the best recording."

Corey Hamm premiered Dorothy Chang's PEP Double Concerto for erhu and piano soloists, Gateways, with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO), and was soloist in the World Premiere of Jordan Nobles' Piano Concerto with Bramwell Tovey and the VSO. He gave the World Premiere of Howard Bashaw's Concerto for Two Pianos and Percussion with conductor Grzegorz Nowak and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and has recent and upcoming performances of Ligeti Piano Concerto, Barber Piano Concerto, Prokofiev Piano Concerto 2, Saint-Saens Piano Concerto 2, Prokofiev Piano Concerto 3, Dorothy Chang double concerto Gateways, Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto 2, Bartok Piano Concerto 2, Lutoslawski Piano Concerto, Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, Faure Fantasie Op. 111, and Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue.

Dr. Hamm is Professor of Piano at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where he was awarded the prestigious Killam Teaching Award, and the Dorothy Somerset Award for Artistic Excellence. He has been on the Piano Faculty of Morningside Music Bridge, Chetham's International Piano Festival, Summer Institute for

Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP) at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and the New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston, MusicFest Perugia (MFP) in Italy. His beloved teachers include Lydia Artymiw, Marek Jablonski, Stéphane Lemelin, Ernesto Lejano, and Thelma Johannes O'Neill.

Dr. Hamm has been a juror for such international and national competitions as the American Piano Association, Weatherford College International Piano Competition, Hong Kong Music Schools Competition, Seattle International Piano Festival, Canadian Music Competition Finals, among many others.

Dr. Hamm has given masterclasses, lectures, and recitals at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore, Seoul National University, Juilliard, NYU, Boston Conservatory, New England Conservatory, Rotterdam Conservatory of Music, Carpi Music Festival, Beijing Capitol Normal University, Central Conservatory of China, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Wuhan University, Soochow University, Washington University, Roosevelt University, McGill University, University of Toronto, Glenn Gould School, among many others.

Dr. Hamm's students have won prizes at numerous international and national competitions including: 2024 Leeds International Piano Competition (First Prize), 2025 Eckhardt-Gramatté Contemporary Piano Music Competition (First Prize, Second Prize, and Prize for Best Performance of the Commissioned Work), 2024 Concours de Montréal International Musique (First Prize, Prize for Best Performance of Required Work), 2023 Orleans Concours Internationale Brins Herb (OCI) (Second Prize, Prize for Best Performance of Required Work), 2022 Santander Paloma O'Shea International Piano Competition (First Prize, Chamber Music prize, Audience Prize), 2022 Maria Canals International Piano Competition (First Prize, and Audience Prize), 2022 Hilton Head International Piano Competition (First Prize), 2018 Hilton Head International Junior Piano Competition (Second Prize, and prize for Best Classical Sonata Performance), Seattle International Piano Festival (Professional Prize, College Prize), 2022 and 2021 Architecture of Music International Piano Competition (Grand Prize, Senior Prize, Classical Prize, Bach Prize, Chopin Prize), 2019 Stepping Stones Competition (First Prize), Shean Piano Competition (2024 Second Prize, 2022 First Prize, 2022 Second Prize, 2022/2018 Prize for Best Performance of the Required Work), Canadian Music Competition (Second Prizes 2023, Third Prize 2023, First Prize 2021), Robert and Ellen Silverman Piano Concerto Competition (First Prize 2024, 2022, 2018), UBC multi-division Concerto Competition (many years), 2015 National Music Competition (Grand Prize, and First Prize), 2015 RMTA National Competition (First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize, and Prize for Best Performance of a Canadian Work). His students have been accepted for graduate and undergraduate studies at such prestigious institutions as Juilliard, Indiana University, NYU, Columbia University, Cornell, Mannes, Manhattan School of Music, Eastman, Royal Academy of Music, Mozarteum, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Conservatory, Boston University, Berklee College, New England Conservatory, Glenn Gould School, McGill University, Hong Kong Baptist University, University of Toronto, University of Texas at Austin, among others.