

Jeffery Cotton (April 4, 1957 - February 4, 2013) was the first composer-in-residence of St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble from 1992 through 1996, during which time he created *Second Helpings*, a hosted series of contemporary chamber music performances in the galleries of the Guggenheim Museum SoHo. The series was hailed by the New York Times as "something truly different." He was also composer-in-residence with the Boston-based Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra from 1999 through 2003. His first new work for Metamorphosen, *Lyra*, was praised by the Boston Globe as "a gentle, confessional hymn to music of great beauty."

A native of Los Angeles, Cotton began his musical studies at California State University at Northridge, where he studied clarinet with Charles Bay and composition with Frank Campo and Daniel Kessner. In 1983 Cotton received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct a two-year course of study with Hans Werner Henze at the Academy of Music in Cologne, Germany. During this time Cotton traveled extensively with Henze, attending among other events the Santa Fe Opera and the Edinburgh Festival, where Henze conducted the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in the premiere of Cotton's *Abendland*. Returning to the United States in 1985, Cotton then studied with George Crumb, Jay Reise, Chinariy Ung and Richard Wernick at the University of Pennsylvania as an Annenberg Fellow, receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. in 1989.

In 1990 Jeffery Cotton returned to Germany as a Guggenheim Fellow, and lived in Berlin during the German Reunification. During this time he began composing his ballet *Pyramus and Thisbe* (a work which was premiered some twelve years later in an orchestral suite version, April 2002). In 1991 he returned to the United States, settled in New York and began his long and productive relationship with St. Luke's. He composed the *Quartet for Low Strings, Trio, Five Runic Songs* and *Lydian Sonata* for the ensemble.

In 1995 a Meet the Composer/Reader's Digest consortium comprised of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra commissioned Jeffery Cotton to compose *CityMusic* for narrator and orchestra, a theater piece for young audiences. The Cleveland Plain Dealer describes the work as "an affectionate and humorous urban tone painting." The work was premiered by the Philadelphia Orchestra in October 1995, and has subsequently been performed over a dozen times by the Cleveland Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and the Indianapolis Symphony.

It was in March of 1999 that Metamorphosen and soloist Alexis Pia Gerlach, under music director Scott Yoo, offered the world premiere of Cotton's *Serenade* (1993) for cello and chamber orchestra, prior to naming him composer-in-residence. The Boston Globe says the *Serenade* is "all at once luscious and logical, elegantly orchestrated with some super fire-and-ice wind chording."

Jeffery Cotton has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including most recently the 2004 Camargo Foundation Fellowship for a five-month residency at the Foundation's facilities in Cassis, France; a 2003 grant from the Fromm Foundation for a new trumpet concerto for Jeffrey Curnow, associate principal of the Philadelphia Orchestra;; the 2003 Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship to work at the Liguria Study Center in Bogliasco, Italy; and the 2002 Aaron Copland Prize for a two-month residency at Aaron Copland's home in New York. Cotton was also a featured composer on the Tage für Neue Musik 2003 in Darmstadt, Germany. He was commissioned to compose multiple works for the Cypress String Quartet in San Francisco, and a new work for violin and percussion for the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music.

A talented software and database engineer, Jeffery worked in the IT departments of various companies, including Music Choice, Deutsche Bank, and the University of Pennsylvania. He founded a website design and hosting firm specializing in the needs of professional musicians.

Proceeds from the sale, rental, and performance of his work support the Jeffery Cotton Fund for Reprise Performances, a grant program of the BMI Foundation.