

George Crumb (b. 1929) George Crumb taught at the University of Pennsylvania for more than 30 years. He retired and continues to live in Pennsylvania where he lives with his wife of more than 60 years, and where they raised their three children. His music combines Western music with music from all around the world. Much of his music is programmatic, symbolic, mystical, and theatrical. He manipulates instruments to create new sounds from traditional instruments. He sometimes amplifies instruments, but does not compose electronic music. As his music is very precise, the scores can be difficult to read and often include instructions and new symbols.

Steve Reich (b. 1936) Steve Reich was born in New York and was raised there and in California. He is known as one of the first and most important composers of minimalist music. He popularized a musical technique called “phasing,” where two parts have different tempos, and they gradually synchronize and gradually alternate beats. This can be done by turning on two metronomes with different tempos. The closer the tempos are to each other, the longer it takes to complete a phase.

Philip Glass (b. 1937) Philip Glass is one of the most popular composers today. His music is considered to be minimalist, where he uses only a few notes but repeats them as they gradually change pitch or harmony. He writes film music for many movies, and three his film scores have been nominated for Academy Awards. He writes music for the Philip Glass Ensemble, which he founded, and still plays keyboards in that ensemble.

David Lang (b. 1957) David Lang was born in Los Angeles, California, and lives in New York City. His music is inspired by minimalism but takes it to another level with “totalism,” creating new layers and textures for more complexity. He co-founded “Bang on a Can” with Julia Wolfe and Michael Gordon. He was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Music for *The Little Match Girl Passion*. He currently teaches at Yale.

Julia Wolfe (b. 1958) Julia Wolfe is part of the composition faculty at New York University. She is married to Michael Gordon. Her music is inspired by all kinds of music ranging from folk, classical, rock, and pop. She co-founded the organization “Bang on a Can” with David Lang and Michael Gordon. Bang on a Can is based in New York and promotes new classical music throughout the country and around the world.

Michael Gordon (b. 1956) Michael Gordon was born in Florida and grew up in Nicaragua. His music combines his experiences with underground rock bands in New York City as well as his formal training at Yale where he studied with Martin Bresnick. He is married to Julia Wolfe.

Martin Bresnick (b. 1946) Martin Bresnick was born in New York City. He composes film score music and experimental music as well as contemporary classical music. Most of his compositions are for chamber music. He studied composition with Gyorgy Ligeti. He teaches at Yale and is married to the pianist Lisa Moore.

John Luther Adams (b. 1953) He was born in Mississippi and also grew up in the suburbs of New York City. His primary instrument was the drums. At age 25, he moved to Alaska where he became inspired to write music that reflected the beautiful landscapes there. His music is reflective, atmospheric, and minimalist, and much of it reflects Alaskan nature.

Pierre Boulez (b. 1925) Pierre Boulez is a conductor, pianist, and a writer as well as a composer. He is a 12-tone serialist composer (where all 12 pitches are treated equally and are organized under mathematic formulae), like Anton Webern, and promotes music by Messiaen. Much of his music is atonal. He is French.

John Adams (b. 1947) Known as the “Californian John Adams” (as opposed to the “Alaskan John Luther Adams), he was a pioneer of minimalist music. He is most famous for his operas, but also writes for a variety of ensembles. His most famous solo piano piece is “Phrygian Gates,” which is one piece about 25 minutes long.

Nik Baertsch (b. 1971) Nik Baertsch is a Swiss pianist, composer, and producer. He currently lives in Zurich and Berlin. He started studying piano and percussion at the age of 8. He performs his own compositions on prepared piano with percussion. He also performs with a group called “Mobile,” which plays in long rituals that include lighting and room design, and “Ronin,” which contains jazz, funk, and acoustic rock.

Philippe LeRoux (b. 1959) Philippe LeRoux was born in France. In 1978 he entered the Paris conservatory. His works include symphonic, vocal, electronic, acousmatic and chamber music. He has composed about 70 works and continues to compose today. He is currently composer-in-residence at Ensemble MEITAR in Tel-Aviv.

Ted Hearne (b. 1982) Ted Hearne was born in Chicago. His teachers include Martin Bresnick, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe. He attended the Manhattan School of Music and the Yale School of Music. He currently lives in Brooklyn, and will be joining the faculty of University of Southern California as a professor of composition in the Fall of 2014.

Terry Riley (b. 1935) Born in California, he is famous for his minimalist music. He worked with tape loops in the 1950s like Steve Reich did. He is deeply influenced by jazz and Indian classical music. Riley is currently performing and teaching both as an Indian raga vocalist and as a solo pianist. He is married to Anne Riley. He has a son named Gyan Riley, who is a guitarist.

Frederic Rzewski (b. 1938) Rzewski was born in Massachusetts. He is an excellent pianist as well as a composer. He is deeply influenced by Beethoven, and he loves to improvise, too. Much of his music reflects historical political and sociological themes, and includes folk melodies, like “Down by the Riverside” from his “North American Ballads,” and “The People United Will Never Be Defeated!”