



## Biography

Violinist and violist Miranda Cuckson is highly acclaimed for her performances of a wide range of repertoire, from early eras to the most current creations. In demand as a soloist and chamber musician, she leads a busily active life as a performer in major concert venues, as well as at universities, galleries and informal spaces. She performs at such venues as the Berlin Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall (Stern, Zankel and Weill Halls), the Library of Congress, Miller Theatre, the 92nd Street Y, Guggenheim Museum, Austrian Cultural Forum, Bargemusic, Museum of Modern Art, Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles, and the Marlboro, Bard, Lincoln Center, Bridgehampton, Portland and Bodensee festivals.

She has made lauded appearances as soloist with orchestras in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Her first CD recording was a disk of concertos by Erich Korngold and Manuel Ponce with the Czech National Symphony, on Centaur Records. She subsequently made four recital CDs of 20th-century American music for Centaur: disks of music by Ralph Shapey (a two-CD set), Donald Martino and Ross Lee Finney. These projects were awarded grants from the Copland Fund for Music and the Ditson Fund. In 2010, Vanguard Classics released her CD “the wreckage of flowers”, comprising violin and violin/piano music by Michael Hersch, with pianist Blair McMillen. Upcoming releases include solo and duo works by Anna Weesner (on Albany Records), and a disk of microtonal solo violin pieces by Xenakis, Haas, Scelsi, Aperghis and others (New Spectrum Records).

A passionate champion of contemporary music, she has in recent years been a greatly sought-after advocate in the area of new-music performance. She has given numerous premieres of solo and chamber pieces, and has worked with composers such as Henri Dutilleux, Elliott Carter, Salvatore Sciarrino, John Adams, Helmut Lachenmann, Mario Davidovsky and Georg Friedrich Haas. In 2012, she will perform a new work by Harold Meltzer that was commissioned for her by the McKim Fund, at the Library of Congress in honor of Fritz Kreisler. She is active with many ensembles and organizations in New York City, including counter)induction, Sequitur, ACME, the Astoria Music Society, Argento Chamber Ensemble, the ISCM, and others, and she directs the concert series Transit Circle, which she founded in 2007. She has curated and performed in a concert of Ralph Shapey’s music in Miller Theatre’s Composer Portraits series.

Miranda Cuckson’s diverse, recent and current projects include performing Walter Piston’s Violin Concerto No. 1 at Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra; a three-concert traversal of the Sonatas for violin and piano by Beethoven with pianist Thomas Bagwell; solo recitals juxtaposing works by Bach and Ysaÿe with contemporary pieces; the world premiere of “through a stillness brightening”, a work for violin and ensemble written for her by Jeffrey Mumford; and performing Luigi Nono’s hour-long work “La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura” for violin and electronics.

At the age of nine, Miranda Cuckson began her studies at The Juilliard School, and went on at Juilliard to receive her BM, MM and DMA degrees. As winner of Juilliard’s Presser Music Award, she made her recital debut at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall. She graduated with the Richard F. French Prize for best doctoral dissertation. Her teachers included Robert Mann, Dorothy DeLay, Felix Galimir and Shirley Givens, and for chamber music, Fred Sherry and members of the Juilliard String Quartet. She teaches violin at Mannes College the New School for Music in New York. A United States citizen, she was born to musician parents in Sydney, Australia, and is of Austrian, English and Taiwanese descent.