Richard Dubugnon

Composer  
  
French-Swiss composer Richard Dubugnon’s music is ​“driven by a playful modern sensibility” (The New York Times). Cited as the “heir of Ravel” (*Le Figaro*), Dubugnon has enjoyed commissions and performances worldwide from orchestras such as Radio France, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Dubugnon’s compositions have been regularly championed by leading soloists such as Gautier Capuçon, Marc-André Hamelin, Denis Kozhukhin, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Xavier de Maistre, Julian Rachlin, Timothy Ridout, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Janine Jansen, for whom he has composed five new works including a Violin Concerto (2008) that premiered with Orchestre de Paris and Esa-Pekka Salonen. His works have been conducted by conductors including Paavo Järvi, Ludovic Morlot, Kent Nagano, Sir Antonio Pappano, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alain Altinoglu, Fabien Gabel, Debora Waldman and Thomas Zehetmair.

The 2024/25 season brings Dubugnon’s Violin Concerto No.3, commissioned by Zürich Chamber Orchestra, which receives its world premiere by soloist Daniel Hope; and the Swiss Piano Trio premiere, a new commission for piano trio and orchestra entitled *Carmeniana*. In addition, Dubugnon’s double concerto for piano, cello and orchestra – *Eros Athanatos* – will receive its Chinese premiere with Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra at the Beijing International Music Festival with dedicatees Gautier Capuçon and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Highlights of the 2023/24 season included Concerto Héroïque for alto saxophone and orchestra, which premiered at Tokyo’s Suntory Hall by soloist Kohei Ueno and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra conducted by Naoto Otomo. Poème élégiaque for solo violin and string quintet premiered at the International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht with soloist Janine Jansen; and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Jean-Luc Tingaud premiered *Panem & Circenses*, a new work for orchestra commissioned by the famous Parisian bakery Poilâne.

Dubugnon's extensive catalogue includes over 100 orchestral and chamber works. His works have been performed at venues and festivals such as the BOZAR, Auditorium de Lyon, Musikkollegium Winterthur (where he was Composer-in-Residence from 2016-17), the BBC Proms, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, and the Verbier Festival, for whom he is a regular guest having written commissions for its 20th and 30th anniversaries.

Dubugnon is also a double bassist, performing with leading ensembles and writing frequently for his instrument. Many of his compositions have entered the standard double bass repertoire. Dubugnon toured Italy and the USA in 2023 with Festival Strings Lucerne, performing the solo part in his Caprice IV ​‘Es muss sein!’. In 2020, he wrote and performed the music to Basso Continuum, a collaboration with Béjart Ballet Lausanne choreographed by the company’s artistic director Gil Roman.

2021 saw the release of Dubugnon’s Klavieriana and Chamber Symphonies on BIS Records, performed by the Musikkollegium Winterthur conducted by Thomas Zehetmair with piano soloist Noriko Ogawa. Naxos has released two portrait recordings of Dubugnon’s music: a selection from Arcanes Symphoniques performed by Orchestre National de France (2017), and a programme of chamber works (2002).

Dubugnon turned to music at the age of 20 after studying History in Montpellier. He graduated from the Paris Conservatoire, going on to study Composition at London’s Royal Academy of Music (from which he was conferred with Associateship). Upon returning to Paris in 2002, he received the Pierre Cardin Prize from the Académie des Beaux-Arts. He was later awarded the Grand Prix for Symphonic Music from the Society of Authors, Composers, and Publishers of Music as well as the Music Prize from the Swiss Fondation Vaudoise pour la Culture. He teaches Orchestration at the Aubervilliers Conservatoire, near Paris.

Since 2022, Dubugnon has served as a legal expert for music at the Court of Appeal in Paris. He lives with his family in Oise, France and also resides part-time in his birth town of Lausanne, Switzerland.

