

# Tracy Silverman

## Bio

Redefining the role of the violin in contemporary music, **Tracy Silverman** has contributed significantly to the repertoire and development of the 6-string electric violin and to progressive string playing. "String playing must reflect our popular musical culture or risk becoming old-fashioned and irrelevant," says Silverman.

Lauded by **BBC Radio** as "the greatest living exponent of the electric violin", Silverman's groundbreaking work with the 6-string electric violin defies musical boundaries. Formerly first violinist with the innovative **Turtle Island String Quartet**, Silverman was named one of 100 distinguished alumni by **The Juilliard School**. He made his professional debut as soloist with the **Chicago Symphony** at the age of 13.

Bringing the 6-string electric violin to the concert stage, Silverman is the subject of several new electric violin concertos composed specifically for him, including Pulitzer winner **John Adams'** "The Dharma at Big Sur", premiered with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic** at the opening of **Walt Disney Concert Hall** in 2003 and recorded with the **BBC Symphony** on **Nonesuch Records**; legendary "Father of Minimalism" **Terry Riley's** "The Palmian Chord Ryddle", premiered by Silverman with the **Nashville Symphony** in **Carnegie Hall** in 2012 and recorded on **Naxos Records**; **Kenji Bunch's** "Embrace" concerto, co-commissioned by 9 orchestras and premiered by Silverman in 2013 at **Avery Fisher Hall**; and **Nico Muhly's** "Seeing Is Believing," co-commissioned by 5 orchestras and premiered by Silverman in 2015 with the American Symphony at **Carnegie Hall**.

Also a composer, Silverman's 3rd electric violin concerto, a multi-media work called "Love Song to the Sun", was co-commissioned by 4 orchestras and premiered in 2017 with the **Anchorage Symphony**. His 2<sup>nd</sup> electric violin concerto, "Between the Kiss and the Chaos," commissioned by the **Wichita Symphony**, was recorded as a string quartet & solo violin reduction by **The Calder Quartet** on **Delos/Naxos Records**. 2 of Silverman's chamber works were recorded by the Grammy nominated **Alias Ensemble's** Rhythms, Rivers and Roads CD, and Silverman's original works have been performed by orchestras and chamber music groups internationally. His scoring work has been used in many episodes of **PBS's NOVA**.

Performing on custom-made instruments which he designs himself, Silverman's eclectic career has taken him to the world's foremost concert halls to work with many leading symphonies and conductors including, in addition to those cited above, the **Detroit Symphony**, **Montreal Symphony**, **Adelaide Festival Orchestra**, **Cabrillo Festival**; with conductors **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, **Marin Alsop**, **Neeme Jarvi**; at **Royal Albert Hall**, **Linz's Brucknerhaus**, **Vienna's Musikverein**, the **Hollywood Bowl** and **Sao Paulo's Auditorio Ibirapuera** among many others. A true eclectic, Silverman has also recorded with the rock band **Guster**, contemporary music's **Paul Dresher Ensemble**, and jazz legend **Billy Taylor**. Tracy appears on many of **Jim Brickman's** CD's and DVD's and has orchestrated much of Jim's music for full symphony. Silverman's work as a producer includes CD's by **Jim Brickman**, **Anne Cochran** and "On a Starry Night" for **Windham Hill Records**.

Tracy has appeared on numerous national TV and radio programs, including a solo **Tiny Desk Concert** on **NPR**, on **Performance Today**, **St. Paul Sunday**, several appearances on **A Prairie Home Companion** and was profiled on **CBS News Sunday Morning** with **Charles Osgood**.

In the liner notes to "The Dharma at Big Sur", **John Adams** writes, "Tracy has developed his own unique style of violin playing—a marvel of expressiveness." At the premier, **Mark Swed** of the **LA Times** enthused, "Inspiring. Silverman is in a class of his own." **The Chicago Tribune's** **John von Rhein** raved, "Blazing virtuosity. You will be astonished that anybody can play a fiddle like that" and **Anthony Tommasini**, **New York Times**, wrote, "Fleet agility and tangy expressivity with wailing hints of **Jimi Hendrix**."

Tracy tours internationally as a soloist with orchestras, with his duo **Futureman**|Silverman with 5-time Grammy winner **Roy "Futureman" Wooten**, as a collaborator with the chamber groups, and with his one-man performances.

A long-standing advocate for music education, Silverman's instructional book, **The Strum Bowing Method: How to Groove on Strings** is a seminal treatise on the subject of post-classical string technique. He is an in-demand clinician and on the string faculty at **Belmont University** in Nashville, TN.

[www.TracySilverman.com](http://www.TracySilverman.com)