



For Immediate Release

October 23, 2013

Media Contact:
Lisa A. Shenkle
VERB! Communications
410.439.4695/410.227.5899
lshenkle@att.net

Composer, Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, Awarded Prestigious
-- OUTSTANDING EMERGING ARTIST --
28th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. – Composer Brian Wilbur Grundstrom has been selected by The Commission on the Arts and Humanities in Washington, DC as ***Outstanding Emerging Artist 2013*** at the 28th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards. Grundstrom was nominated in the category along with Caitlin Teal Price, Tommy Taylor Jr. and Luis Peralta. The Mayor's Arts Awards is the highest honor conferred by the District of Columbia in recognition of artistic excellence and service among artists, arts organizations, and arts patrons in the city.

Grundstrom joined 30 finalists in 6 categories for the awards ceremony at the Warner Theatre. Artists and organizations were recognized in six categories: *Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education, Excellence in an Artistic Discipline; Innovation in the Arts; Outstanding Service to the Arts; Mayor's Arts Award for Teaching and Outstanding Emerging Artist*. The awards are limited to individuals and nonprofit organizations that reside in the District of Columbia.

In addition to honoring Howard University's Division of Fine Arts and Barbara and Jane Harman of the Harman Family Foundation, the program celebrated the District's creative industries in the arts and entertainment community with Helen Hayes Award Winner 2013 Outstanding Supporting Actress, E. Faye Butler as Mistress of Ceremony.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from the D.C. Commission of the Arts and Humanities," says Grundstrom. "As a four-time recipient of grants from the Commission, this is particularly gratifying to have my body of work acknowledged in this manner. Washington DC has been a great artistic home for me."

Grundstrom was also previously nominated in 2010 and 2011 for Outstanding Emerging Artist by the D.C. Commission of the Arts and Humanities. The song *The Bridge Club* for the musical ***Pepe! The Mail Order Monkey Musical*** received a 2009 OutMusic nomination. He has won two PEER Awards from the Television, Internet & Video Association of D.C. for his composition of ***Sadie's Waltz*** and ***Arc of Light: A Portrait of Anna Campbell Bliss***.

The composer received high praise for his original production and musical score for ***A Day at the Museum***, produced for the 2011 Capital Fringe Festival, including that from the *Washington Post*, *MD Theatre Guide*, *DCist*, *DC Theatre Scene* and *Washington City Paper*.

Grundstrom is currently creating an original score for an upcoming opera, ***For Whom the Bell Tolls***, based on the book by Ernest Hemingway with libretto by David Dorsen. Taking place during the Spanish civil war, the story roughly reflects Hemingway's own journey in the role of American Robert Jordan, who, with the help of a local band of guerrillas, is assigned to blow up a bridge as part of a communist attack against the fascists. The opera is being written for full orchestra in two acts with eight singers.

In addition to his work in film music, Grundstrom's compositions have been performed by SONOS Chamber Orchestra, North/South Consonance, Shippensburg Festival Orchestra, Trinity Chamber Orchestra, George Washington University Orchestra, NIH Philharmonia, Holyoke Civic Symphony, The Queer Urban Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia, Sunderman Woodwind Quintet, Colla Voce and The New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus, as well as on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage.

Finalists were chosen by the Mayor's Arts Awards Advisory Jury comprised of prominent members of the District's arts community with expertise in dance, music, theatre, literary arts, visual arts and arts education.

More information on Brian Wilbur and his work, sample recordings and photos can be found at www.brianwilbur.com. Press material is available for download at <http://www.brianwilbur.com/html/download/pressDownload.asp>.

###