

## Jack Perla, Composer & Pianist

Jack Perla was recently commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera to create ***Courtside***, a one-act opera scheduled for premiere in 2011. He is also developing ***Love/Hate***, commissioned by ODC Theater (San Francisco), Urban Arias (Arlington) and American Opera Projects (NY). ***Love/Hate*** was presented in development at the 2010 Philadelphia Fringe Festival; the opera is scheduled for premiere performances in 2012 in New York, Arlington, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Houston. Another project in development is ***Pretty Boy***, for tenor Thomas Glenn, commissioned by the Paul Drescher Ensemble. Jack is also at work on an all-vocal disc produced by Grammy Award-winner Judith Sherman. ***On a Train Heading South***, commissioned by ODC Dance (San Francisco), toured the U.S. in 2005, culminating in performances at the Joyce Theater (NY). Following this, Jack was Artist-in-Residence at ODC Theater from 2006-09. Jack has received awards and fellowships from the American Composers Forum, James Irvine Foundation, Argosy Foundation, American Music Center, Meet the Composer, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the MacDowell Colony. His work has been performed and presented by the Louisiana and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestras, Oakland Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Absolute Ensemble (New York City), New Music Chicago, and MATA (NY). In 1997 Jack received the *Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Composers Award*. Subsequently he performed at the Texaco New York Jazz Festival, Knitting Factory (NY), Tampere Jazz Festival (Finland), the Big Sur, Monterey and Pacifica Jazz Festivals, the Millennium Festival (England), and throughout Japan. Jack has also appeared with Zakir Hussain and Aashish Khan, with whom he is featured on George Brook's 1999 recording "Night Spinner". He earned his DMA from the Yale School of Music and his BM from the Manhattan School of Music, and joined the Music faculty of Santa Clara University in 2007, where he teaches Composition, Jazz Piano and Music Technology.