

Jack Perla was recently commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera (HGO) to create a one-act opera entitled **Courtside**, scheduled for premiere in 2011. He is also currently developing his first full-length chamber opera, **Love/Hate**, with writer Rob Bailis, co-commissioned by ODC Theater (San Francisco), Urban Arias (Arlington) and American Opera Projects (New York). In September 2010, Center City Opera presented scenes from **Love/Hate** as part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival of the Arts. In March 2009, **Love/Hate** was presented in early development by the Manhattan School of Music Opera Program, at the Galapagos Artspace (Brooklyn, New York). The complete work is scheduled for its premiere run in 2012, with performances in New York, Arlington, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Houston.

Another project in development is **Pretty Boy**, an electro-acoustic piece commissioned by the Paul Dresher Ensemble. The work is a song cycle based on the final capture and last moments in the life of American bank robber and folk hero Pretty Boy Floyd, and will feature tenor Thomas Glenn. Jack is at work on two recordings, due out in 2011 and 2012: one with jazz baritone Percy Howard for the English label Voiceprint; and an all vocal disc produced by Grammy Award-winner Judith Sherman and engineered by Grammy Award-winner Leslie Ann Jones, featuring Marnie Breckenridge, Thomas Glenn, Melody Moore and other beloved American opera singers. Recent performances include an all Jack Perla vocal program for the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series (May 2010) in San Francisco, and as featured performer/composer at the White Pine Festival in Minnesota (June 2010) with renowned violinist Jorja Fleezanis, trumpet virtuoso Charles Lazarus (The Minnesota Orchestra) and the Miro Quartet.

On a Train Heading South, Jack's innovative score for his collaboration with choreographer Brenda Way and visual designer Alex V. Nichols, commissioned by ODC Dance (San Francisco), toured the U.S. in 2005 - 2006, culminating in performances at the Joyce Theater in New York City. Following this, Jack was Artist-in-Residence at ODC Theater from 2006 to 2009. The James Irvine Foundation commissioned Jack in 2002 to compose **Pixels at an Exhibition**, premiered in 2003 by Patrick Summers conducting the Oakland East Bay Symphony, which also commissioned '**Trane of Thought** in 1999. Jack has received awards, grants and fellowships from the American Composers Forum, Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, American Music Center, Meet the Composer, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Yaddo, MacDowell Colony and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. His music has been performed and/or presented by the Louisiana and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestras, Oakland East Bay Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Absolute Ensemble (New York City), New Music Chicago, Music at the Anthology (New York), Yerba Buena Arts Center (San Francisco), and Merkin Concert Hall (New York).

In 1997 Jack Perla received the Thelonious Monk Institute's Jazz Composers Award, designated by Terrance Blanchard, Pat Metheny and Michael Brecker. Subsequently he performed at the Texaco New York Jazz Festival, The Knitting Factory (NY), the Tampere Jazz Festival (Finland), the Big Sur, Monterey and Pacifica Jazz Festivals, throughout California, at the Millennium Festival (England), and in Japan, including the Tokyo television program *LP Jazz Time*. Jack has also appeared with legendary Indian musicians Zakir Hussain, Aashish Khan and Ronu Majumdar. He is featured on "Night Spinner", George Brook's 1999 recording with Hussain, Sultan Khan (Sarangi) and Aashish Khan (Sarod).

Jack Perla earned his DMA in composition from the Yale School of Music, where he studied with Jacob Druckman, Martin Bresnick and Lukas Foss, and earned his BM from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with John Corigliano. He joined the Music Department faculty of Santa Clara University in the fall of 2007, where he teaches Composition, Jazz Piano, and courses in Orchestration, Music Technology and Jazz History.