

Michael Torke

Class of 1980

Michael Torke's first large-scale composition was for the Wauwatosa East High School Orchestra, where he was principal bassoonist. Today he is one of the world's most renowned composers, having created a substantial body of work in nearly every genre, including operas, symphonic music, chamber music, and compositions for dance. Torke studied music at the Eastman School of Music and Yale University. Critics praise his compositions for their "rhythmic energy with ravishingly beautiful melodies." In 1997 Torke was appointed the first associate composer of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Among his most frequently performed pieces are:

- *Four Seasons*, commissioned by Michael Eisner for the Walt Disney Company, a 62-minute symphonic oratorio;
- *Ecstatic Orange*, for orchestra, later choreographed for New York City Ballet; and
- *Javelin*, commissioned by the Atlantic Committee for the Olympic Games.

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