

LOUIS.W. BALLARD.  
BIO

LOUIS W. BALLARD (1931- ) IS A MAJOR AMERICAN COMPOSER WHOSE WORKS ARE PERFORMED REGULARLY BY MAJOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS, CHORAL SOCIETIES, CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES AND BALLET COMPANIES. HE HAS RECEIVED MAJOR PREMIERES AT LINCOLN CENTER, KENNEDY CENTER, WALKER ART CENTER, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, FILENE CENTER, TYRONE GUTHRIE THEATRE, BHAM-ST. LOUIS, HOLLYWOOD BOWL, TOWN HALL AND ROBERT KENNEDY STADIUM WHERE HE PRODUCED, DIRECTED AND WROTE THE MUSIC FOR THE NATION'S FIRST ALL-INDIAN HALF-TIME SHOW AT THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS VS. DALLAS COWBOYS FOOTBALL GAME. HIS COMPOSITIONS ARE REGULARLY BROADCAST OVER CBC, BBC, RADIO FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, DEUTSCHE WELLE, SAARLANDISCHE RUNDFUNK, DEUTSCHSUDWESTEN RUNDFUNK. HIS RECENT RECORDINGS WERE RELEASED BY WAKAN RECORDS, SANTA FE.

AMONG THE HONORS HE HAS EARNED ARE GRANTS, AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, THE FORD FOUNDATION, THE HARKNESS BALLET, THE AMERICAN COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA, THE ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, THE TULSA PHILHARMONIC AS WELL AS THE FIRST MARION NEVINS MACDOWELL AWARD FOR CHAMBER MUSIC. ON MAY 27, 1989, DR. BALLARD WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN COMPOSER TO HAVE A PROGRAM OF HIS WORKS PERFORMED IN THE BEETHOVEN HOUSE CHAMBER MUSIC HALL, ADJOINING THE HOUSE WHERE BEETHOVEN WAS BORN IN BONN, WEST GERMANY.

BALLARD WAS BORN IN OKLAHOMA AND STUDIED MUSIC THEORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, ATTENDED NEOA & M AND RECEIVED THE BA, BME AND MM IN COMPOSITION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA. HE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS FOR HIS MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM THE COLLEGE OF SANTA FE. AMONG HIS FOREBEARS ARE A PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA AND A MEDICINE CHIEF OF THE QUAPAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, AS WELL AS SCOTTISH, FRENCH AND ENGLISH ANTECEDENTS. AS A COMPOSER, WRITER AND EDUCATOR, BALLARD IS DEVOTED TO THE VALUES OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE. "IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AMERICAN INDIAN MUSIC IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MUSIC", HE HAS WRITTEN, "WHAT IS NEEDED IN AMERICA IS AN AWAKENING AND REORIENTING OF OUR TOTAL SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE TO EMBRACE, UNDERSTAND AND LEARN FROM THE ABORIGINAL AMERICAN WHAT MOTIVATES HIS MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC IMPULSES".

AMONG THE COMPOSER'S MOST FREQUENTLY PERFORMED WORKS ARE: *INCIDENT AT WOUNDED KNEE* FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA; *KATCINA DANCES* FOR CELLO & PIANO; *WHY THE DUCK HAS A SHORT TAIL*, FOR NARRATOR AND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; *RITMO INDIO*, FOR WOODWIND QUINTET; *CACEGA AYUWIPI* AND *MUSIC FOR THE EARTH AND THE SKY*, FOR NATIVE AMERICAN INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARD PERCUSSION; *THE GODS WILL HEAR* AND *PORTRAIT OF WILL ROGERS-TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN*, CHORAL CANTATAS.

HE CURRENTLY RESIDES IN SANTA FE, NM, WITH HIS WIFE, RUTH, A CONCERT PIANIST AND MUSIC PUBLISHER.