

Richard DeRosa received a GRAMMY nomination for Best Instrumental Composition in 2015 for his big band composition “Neil” which is dedicated to Neil Slater, the former director of the One O’Clock Lab Band (University of North Texas). His 8-movement work titled *Life in Poetry and Music*, featuring world-renowned vocalist Kurt Elling supported by a jazz quartet, orchestra, and treble choir, was premiered at UNT in March 2022.

Since 2001 Mr. DeRosa has arranged and conducted music for Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra to feature Toots Thielemans, Annie Ross, Willie Nelson, Norah Jones, Lyle Lovett, Cassandra Wilson, and Roberta Gambarini among other notable artists. Large projects include Steven Sondheim’s *A Bed and a Chair* and an arrangement of The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea for the successful swing jazz Broadway show *After Midnight*, and arrangements for the *Wynton with Strings* concert. He conducted and arranged music for *Bernstein at 100* and *Joey Alexander with Strings*. In 2024 he created a grand finale arrangement for the JLCO and the Shenzhen Symphony to perform the Chinese folk song “Horse Race”.

In 2012 the WDR Big Band in Cologne, Germany, invited Mr. DeRosa to conduct and present his music in concert. Following that engagement, he was asked to become the ensemble’s chief conductor. After several other commissions throughout 2013, he filled the position from 2014-2016. During that time, he released three CD recordings: *My Personal Songbook* which features the music of legendary jazz bassist Ron Carter; *Rediscovered Ellington* which features longtime music partners Garry Dial & Dick Oatts - together they created unique and modern renditions of Duke's rare and unheard tunes; *Crossing Borders* featuring Richie Beirach and Gregor Huebner. Other projects with guest artists include Joshua Redman, Stefon Harris, Kurt Elling, Patti Austin, the New York Voices, Ola Onabule, Warren Vaché, Marvin Stamm & Bill Mays.

Other commissioned arrangements have been recorded by the Mel Lewis, Gerry Mulligan, and Glenn Miller big bands, the Uptown Jazz Orchestra led by Delfeayo Marsalis, the Taiwan Jazz Orchestra, vocalist Susannah McCorkle, trumpeter Dominick Farinacci on his CD *Lovers, Tales, and Dances*, acclaimed solo violinist Anne Akiko Meyers on her CD recordings *Seasons....Dreams* and *Shining Night*. Mr. DeRosa also served as co-arranger, orchestrator, and conductor for other critically acclaimed recording projects: *When Winter Comes* featuring guitarist Fred Fried; Dial & Oatts: *Brassworks*, and their double CD project *That Music Always Round Me* which Down Beat Magazine selected as one of the top recordings in 2015.

Mr. DeRosa’s arrangements for orchestra have been performed by the Kansas City Symphony with pianist Conrad Tao and also with the Bobby Watson Quintet, the Houston Symphony (with the UNT One O’Clock Lab Band), the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Pops, the Portland Maine Pops, the Metropole Orchestra in Holland, the Czech National Symphony, and the Swedish Television and Radio Orchestra in Stockholm.

Mr. DeRosa’s compositions for television, film, and theater include background music cues for *Another World*, *As the World Turns*, *The Guiding Light*, commercials for Telex, Bristol-Meyers, and Kodak, various documentaries broadcast on PBS, orchestrations for independent films *Gray Matters*, *Falling For Grace*, and *Standard Time*, and more than twenty original music scores for the national touring U.S. theater company *ArtsPower* as well as orchestrations for *Frankenstein, the Musical*. He has also composed scores for videos and hundreds of audiobooks for publishing

companies including Bantam Doubleday Dell, Random House, Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, and Prentice-Hall.

Earlier in his career as a performer, DeRosa toured and recorded with Gerry Mulligan, Bob Brookmeyer, Susannah McCorkle, Jackie Cain & Roy Kral, Chuck Wayne, and Marlene VerPlanck. Other employers include Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini, Warren Vaché, Larry Elgart, Peter Nero, and vocalist Chris Connor.

Mr. DeRosa is a full professor at the University of North Texas and the director of jazz composition and arranging. In 2017 he was the recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award for faculty. His former teaching positions were at William Paterson University and Manhattan School of Music. He also taught advanced jazz arranging for studio orchestra at The Juilliard School. He is the author of **Concepts for Improvisation: A Comprehensive Guide for Performing and Teaching** (Hal Leonard Publications) and **Acoustic and MIDI Orchestration for the Contemporary Composer** (Focal Press) co-authored with Dr. Andrea Pejrolo. The latter book has experienced worldwide success and has been translated into Chinese in a subsequent edition. A new expanded English edition was published in October of 2016.

Mr. DeRosa's publications for professional jazz bands are available through Sierra Music. His compositions and arrangements for public school jazz ensembles are available through Alfred Music (Belwin Jazz), Barnhouse Music, J.W. Pepper, and e-Jazz Lines. Mr. DeRosa remains active as an adjudicator and clinician for music festivals and workshops.

