

C.F. KIP WINGER - Classical Biography

Musician/composer C.F. Kip Winger discovered his passion for music at an early age. His parents were jazz musicians and he began studying piano at age six. Two years later, he began playing professionally with his two older brothers. He began studying classical guitar and composition with Sam Guarnaccia, director of the nationally recognized guitar program at Denver University, when he was still in his teens. Mr. Winger's study of baroque music inspired his pursuit of classical music composition.



Mr. Winger's performance and compositional skills brought him considerable success as a singer and songwriter of popular music. In the early 1990s with his band, Winger, he released the platinum recordings *Winger*, *In the Heart of the Young* and *Pull* and led the quartet on sold-out world tours. London's *Classic Rock Magazine* called him "one of the most gifted composers and arrangers in the rock genre" and praised his "compulsion to experiment." While topping the charts, he continued to pursue his interest in composition. He patterned his course of study after the intensive one-on-one relationships favored by many composers.

His desire for such intensive study prompted him to seek out such masters as Edgar Grana, who holds a Masters from Juilliard, and currently teaches composition at the School of Visual Arts in New York City; University of New Mexico Professor of Theory and Composition, Richard Hermann; and Professor Michael Kurek from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Professor Kurek has praised Mr. Winger for his "great ear and innate musical sensitivity" resulting in "beautifully crafted phrases and nuance."

The Tucson Symphony Orchestra will become the first orchestra to perform a C.F. Winger composition with the world premiere of *Ghosts* on the MasterWorks Chamber Orchestra Series in the 2009/10 season. The symphony performance is being followed closely by the San Francisco Ballet's debut of *Ghosts* in February, 2010. A recording of *Ghosts* conducted by Lynn Bingham, Assistant Conductor of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, featuring New York Philharmonic Associate Principal Lisa Kim, violin, drew the attention of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra's Composer-in residence, Dan Coleman and top choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, the creator of the ballet. Performances of Mr. Winger's compositions are being finalized for the 2010/11 season.