

300 word composer bio:

Indian-American composer Reena Esmail enjoys working in both the Western and Hindustani (North Indian) classical music idioms.

Esmail holds a bachelors degree in composition from The Juilliard School, and a masters degree from the Yale School of Music. Her primary teachers have included Susan Botti, Aaron Jay Kernis, Christopher Theofanidis and Martin Bresnick, Christopher Rouse and Samuel Adler. She has won numerous awards, including the Walter Hinrichsen Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (with forthcoming publication of a work by C.F. Peters) and two ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. She is currently a Post-Residential doctoral candidate at the Yale School of Music.

Esmail was a recipient of a Fulbright-Nehru grant for the 2011-2012 year and studied Hindustani vocal music in New Delhi, India. She was selected as a 2011 INK Fellow to speak about her work at the INK Conference (in association with TED) in Jaipur, with additional speaking engagements in Chennai, Delhi and Goa. For the 2010-11 season, she was the conductor and arranger for Yale's Hindi a cappella group, Sur et Veritaal. Esmail's doctoral thesis, entitled Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers. Her most recent Hindustani vocal studies have been with Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Saili Kalyanpur in Los Angeles, CA.

Recent commissions include: *Teen Murti*, for string orchestra, commissioned by the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Mei-Ann Chen; *Curiosity* for the Pasadena Master Chorale, *Tuttarana* for Mount Holyoke Glee Club, and *Vishwas* for the Albany Symphony and bharatanatyam dancer Sisira Gorthala. Her recent film work includes scores for *Kali Juger Kumbh*, a Bengali film by Ashish Avikunthak and *Radha*, by Rupeshi Shah.

Esmail currently lives in Los Angeles, California.