

Jeanne Minahan, poet, writer, teacher, scholar

Poet Jeanne Minahan credits her lifelong passion for words to the Sunday liturgy and to hearing her parents read aloud.

Minahan won the Cross Pens/University College Galway grand prize, the Seymour Adelman Prize in Poetry, and a Whiting Foundation Grant for her writing. Her poems have appeared in *Potomac Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *The Women's Review of Books*, *Mars Hill Review* and other journals. A former poetry editor for *The Other Side* magazine, Minahan was selected to participate in a poetry masterclass at Tŷ Newydd, Wales, with Carol Ann Duffy, poet laureate of England, and Gillian Clarke, the national poet of Wales.

Collaborations with composers began when Pulitzer-prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon set six of Minahan's poems for violin, orchestra and chorus. Co-commissioned by the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, "The Singing Rooms" was recorded on the TELARC label with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Robert Spano, with violinist Jennifer Koh. It has been performed in many venues including Carnegie Hall, with David Hayes, conductor, and at L'église de la Madeleine, Paris, under the baton of William Skoog, during an international choral festival.

Higdon has also set "Telegrams," a series of short poems, for a Yale Glee Club commission that premiered at New Haven and has travelled to Spain. Together with "The Singing Rooms," it will be performed by the Rhodes College Mastersingers in Memphis.

A Lake George Music Festival commission poem, "Oars in Water," was set by composer Michael Djupstrom and performed and recorded by the Brooklyn Art Song Society. Djupstrom expanded the setting to include four poems for a commission by Lyric Fest; the piece premiered recently in Philadelphia. Additional settings of poems by composers Joseph Hallman, Andrew Hsu, Rene Orth, and Ya-Jhu Yang have been performed by Philadelphia artists and the musicians of Network for New Music.

Venues for readings have included Curtis Institute of Music, Haverford College, World Café Live, and at the invitation of the Pennsylvania Consortium of Canadian Studies, and Northeastern Modern Language Association. The Curtis Institute of Music commissioned two convocation poems, and Minahan has been a reader and collaborator on stage with musicians.

Born in Pennsylvania, Minahan earned her B.A. from Bucknell University and studied as a Rotary International Graduate Fellow at the University College Cork, National University of Ireland, where she earned an M.A., with Firsts, in Anglo-Irish Literature. She completed her Ph.D., a study of lyric poetry, at Bryn Mawr College. She has presented her scholarly work at academic conferences in Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Monaco, and throughout the United States.

Jeanne Minahan teaches creative writing and literature at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she holds the Ruth and Morris Williams Chair in the Liberal Arts. She received a Lindback Award for distinguished teaching and was named one of the top 100 Irish-American Educators by the *Irish Voice* and *Irish American Magazine*.