



COMPOSER

film • concert • radio

# MARK ORTON

[www.markortonmusic.com](http://www.markortonmusic.com)

## BIO

**Mark Orton** grew up in a musical family. The son of a conductor, he began formal study of both piano and guitar at the age of four. In high school he began his studies in both composition and theory with Danny Deutsch, later studying at The Peabody Conservatory with Jean Ivey, and at The Hartt School of Music with David MacBride and Robert Carl. After college, Orton served as one of the chief engineers at The Knitting Factory in New York City, working with Laurie Anderson, The Kronos Quartet, John Zorn, Sonic Youth, Bill Frisell, John Lurie and The Lounge Lizards, and Mr. Bungle, later touring with many of these artists.

In 1995, Orton relocated to San Francisco with the other members of Tin Hat Trio, a composer collective comprised of Orton on guitars, Carla Kihlstedt on violin, and Rob Burger on prepared piano and accordion. The group's quest to create genre-defying music that blurs the line between jazz and chamber music has produced five critically acclaimed releases and has afforded Orton the opportunity to work as an arranger and producer with some iconic singers including Tom Waits, Mike Patton, and Willie Nelson.

Outside of Tin Hat, Orton is active as an award winning film and radio composer, nominated for **Best New Composer** by *The International Film Music Critics Association* in 2006. He continues to compose concert music for a wide range of ensembles from chamber groups to full orchestra. He is a multi-instrumentalist, performing on all manner of guitars, keyboards and percussion. Orton has written and performed scores for films including "The Good Girl," "The Real Dirt on Farmer John," "Sweet Land," "The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond," "Beyond Conviction," "Comrades in Dreams," and "Orthodox Stance," and has contributed music to "Everything is Illuminated," "Mushroom Club," "A Hard Straight," "Diminished Capacity," "Remarkable Power," and the *NBC* drama *ER*.

Orton performs with two of his own groups: **Imaginary Icebergs**, an ensemble of strings and clarinets with Orton on guitar, banjo, and harmonium and **The Steel Trio**, comprised of bass clarinet, drums, and lap steel guitar. He is a member of the alt-country outfit, **The Old Joe Clarks**, as a guitarist and vocalist. He is busy as an arranger as well, working alongside producer Larry Klein arranging strings for Madeline Peyroux and Vienna Teng among others. He has written extensively for both modern dance and circus- collaborations include: Pilobolus, Donald Byrd/Spectrum Dance Theater, Lawrence Goldhuber/Big Man Arts, Do Jump, The Pickle Family Circus, and Le 7 Doigts de la Main. Additionally, he is a founding member of **Famous Last Words And Music**, an artist collective devoted to the production of experimental radio theatre. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and son.