

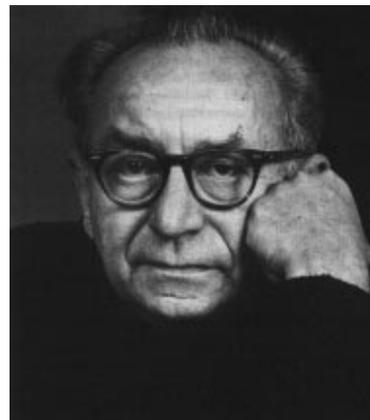
# Composers of Great Band Works

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## Vincent Ludwig Persichetti (1915 - 1987)

### Lifeline

- born in Philadelphia (June 6).
- was the oldest of three children.
- began piano lessons at age 5.
- started college classes in music theory at age 9.
- at 14, gave his first public performance of his own original work.
- played tuba and double bass, earning first chair in the Philadelphia All High School Orchestra.
- at 20, received a Bachelor of Music degree from Combs Conservatory in Philadelphia, then joined its faculty as orchestra conductor.
- at 25, earned his Master's degree from the Philadelphia Conservatory as a piano scholarship student.
- married at age 25, having met his wife (Dorothea) as a graduate student.
- first child (daughter Lauren) was born two years later; son Garth came two years after her.
- at age 27, became head of the composition department at the Philadelphia Conservatory.
- his compositions began earning recognition and prizes before he reached the age of 30.
- at 47, became head of the composition department at Julliard.
- received numerous commissions for works, more than 8 honorary degrees, three Guggenheim Fellowships, two grants from the National Foundations on the Arts and Humanities, and a grant from the National Institute of Arts and Letters.
- around the age of 71, he was diagnosed with lung cancer.
- died at home in Philadelphia, aged 72 years (August 14).



### Anecdotes and Trivia

- neither parents were musicians.
- his mother (Martha) was from Bonn, Germany.
- his father (Vincent Roger) was from Italy.
- the young Vincent was named Ludwig after his grandfather, who owned a saloon in New Jersey.
- was rather small in stature with a slightly oversized head.
- enjoyed teaching and guest lecturing at colleges around the country.
- two of his many composition students were Philip Glass and Peter Schickele (PDQ Bach).
- often described his music as a combination of "grit" and "grazioso."
- enjoyed driving and claimed that his car was a good place to compose music, often taping staff paper to the steering wheel.
- hobbies included sailing, gardening, and sculpting.
- wrote more than 166 works, including 8 symphonies and an opera.
- considered by many to be one of the leading American composers of the twentieth century.



### Works for Band

Divertimento (1950), Psalm for Band (1952), Pageant (1953), Symphony for Band (1956), Serenade for Band (1960), Bagatelles (1961), Chorale Prelude: So Pure the Star (1962), Masquerade (1965), Chorale Prelude: Turn Not Thy Face (1966), O Cool is the Valley (1971), Parable IX for Band (1972), Chorale Prelude: O God Unseen (1984).

### Source

*Vincent Persichetti: A Bio-Bibliography* by D. & J. Patterson (1988)