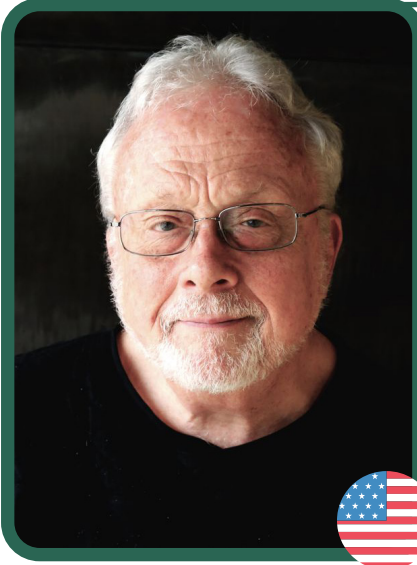




## COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**WILLIAM BOLCOM**

BORN: May 26, 1938      ERA/STYLE: Contemporary

HOMETOWN: Seattle, Washington

William Bolcom is an American pianist and composer of chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music.

Born in Seattle, Washington, Mr. Bolcom began composition studies at the age of 11 at the University of Washington while continuing piano lessons with his childhood teacher, Madame Berthe Poncy Jacobson.

During his university career, he studied with a number of important composers, including Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatoire, where he received the Second Prize in Composition. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan's School of Music in 1973, and retired in 2008, after 35 years.

As a pianist, Mr. Bolcom has performed and recorded frequently in collaboration with his wife, singer Joan Morris, whom he married in 1975. He and Ms. Morris have recorded more than two dozen albums together, beginning with the Grammy-nominated *After the Ball*, a collection of popular songs from around the turn of the 20th century. Their primary specialties in both concerts and recordings are show tunes, parlor, and popular songs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Mr. Bolcom has composed well over 100 works across a career that spans over 60 years. In 2018, nine simultaneous world premieres of his compositions took place to commemorate his 80th birthday. He has won the National Medal of Arts, Pulitzer Prize, and multiple Grammy Awards, and remains one of the most well-known and respected living composers in the world today.