CLEVELAND BALLET

MEET THE COMPOSER OF *DRACULA* AND *THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH*: J. MARK SCEARCE



"I was approached [by Carolina Ballet] to create a Halloween show and wrote Poe's Masque of the Red Death with Robert Weiss and Dracula with Lynne Taylor-Corbett as a pair... Artistic Director Timour Bourtasenkov danced a handful of my twelve ballets when he was with Carolina Ballet and now is bringing this tried and true pair of ballets to trick and treat Cleveland audiences this Halloween."

J. Mark Scearce is composer of 12 ballets including Dracula and The Masque of the Red Death. In addition, he has composed full-evening ballets for Macbeth and Orpheus & Eurydice, both with choreographer Robert Weiss.

Known for his musical settings of more than 200 texts by 40 poets, Scearce has worked with some of the greatest living poets of his time. His song cycles on Whitman, cummings, Arden, and Keats are sung the world over.

Scearce has achieved an international career in music over 40 years with a catalogue of more than a thousand performances of 60 works, including seven commercial recordings on the Delos, Warner Bros, Capstone, and Centaur labels.

Scearce has received five advanced degrees in music and philosophy including the doctorate from Indiana University. His music has garnered six international awards including the largest annual prize in his field—all awarded him by the age of 50.