Biography -

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Lauridsen worked as a *Forest Service firefighter* and lookout on an isolated tower near *Mount St. Helens*. He attended *Whitman College* for 2 years, before traveling south to study composition at the *University of Southern California*. He began teaching at USC in 1967.

In 2006, Lauridsen was named an "American Choral Master" by the *National Endowment for the Arts*. In 2007, he received the *National Medal of Arts* from the president in a White House ceremony,

His works have been recorded on more than 200 CDs, five of which have received *Grammy Award* nominations, including *O Magnum Mysterium* by the Tiffany Consort, *A Company of Voices* by *Conspirare*, *Sound The Bells* by The Bay Brass, and two all-Lauridsen discs entitled *Lux Aeterna* by the Los Angeles Master Chorale led by *Paul Salamunovich* and *Nocturnes* with the Polyphony choir and the *Britten Sinfonia* conducted by *Stephen Layton*.

Lauridsen chaired the composition department at the *USC Thornton School of Music* from 1990 to 2002 and founded the school's advanced studies program in film scoring. He has held residencies as guest composer/lecturer at over 100 universities and has received honorary doctorates from five prestigious colleges through the years.

In 2014 he was invited to be honorary artistic president of Interkultur/World Choir Games. In 2016 he was awarded the *ASCAP Foundation* Life in Music Award.

In February 2020, Lauridsen revealed he had retired from the Thornton School of Music in the spring of 2019, after having taught classes there for over 50 years.

Lauridsen divides his time between Los Angeles and his home in the *San Juan Archipelago* off the northern coast of Washington State.