

The Composer Is Dead* (2006)*Nathaniel Stookey** (b. 1970)

Nathaniel Stookey, narrator

Text by Lemony Snicket

(Daniel Handler)

I hope I'm not giving away too much by saying that *The Composer Is Dead* ends with a funeral march. Classical composers have always had a preoccupation with death, partly because we are human, like you, partly because we grapple with the mysteries of the universe, partly because death sells records and always has. Someday you'll be able to tell your grandchildren that you appreciated a living composer before that living composer became, like all composers, dead.

—Nathaniel Stookey

I have been asked if I might say a word or two about the text of *The Composer Is Dead*, and the one or two words are "Boo hoo." The story—which, as far as I know, is absolutely true—is so heartbreakingly glum that I cannot imagine that you will be able to listen to it without dabbing at your tears with a nearby handkerchief.

—Lemony Snicket

The Composer Is Dead was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony and was premiered on July 8, 2006, at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, conducted by Edwin Outwater, narrated by Lemony Snicket (AKA Daniel Handler).

Recommended Recording: San Francisco Symphony conducted by Edwin Outwater. Included with the book published by HarperCollins.

