

JOINT BIO (long) 690 WORDS

Lynn Ahrens and **Stephen Flaherty** are considered the foremost theatrical songwriting team of their generation. With a creative collaboration that has lasted more than thirty years, they are winners of Broadway's triple crown--Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award, as well as two Grammy nominations, for their score of the hit Broadway musical *Ragtime*. They also received two Academy Award nominations and two Golden Globe nominations for the songs and score of Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature film, *Anastasia* (Gold Record and Number One Song). In 2014 they received the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, and in 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

They are co-creators of *Once On This Island* (eight Tony Award nominations, London Olivier Award, Best Musical) which premiered on Broadway in 1990 and is currently enjoying its Broadway revival. Their stage adaptation of "Anastasia" is also running simultaneously on Broadway, and is approaching its one-year anniversary. They co-wrote *Seussical*, based on the works of Dr. Seuss, which received Grammy and Drama Desk nominations and is one of the most frequently performed shows in America, and they have premiered four new musicals at Lincoln Center Theatre: *My Favorite Year*; *A Man Of No Importance* (Winner, 2003 Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Musical); *Dessa Rose* (Audelco Award, Best Musical, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations); and *The Glorious Ones* (five Drama Desk nominations including Best Musical.) Additional theater credits include *Lucky Stiff* (Helen Hayes Award, Best Musical); *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*; *Ragtime* 2009 Broadway revival (six Tony nominations, seven Drama Desk nominations); and most recently on Broadway, *Rocky*, which won a Tony Award for scenic design and received four nominations and eight Drama Desk nominations. *Rocky* premiered in Germany in 2012. Their most recent collaboration is *Little Dancer*, an original musical with book and lyrics by Ahrens and music by Flaherty, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, which had its world premiere at the Kennedy Center in 2014.

Individually, Ms. Ahrens wrote lyrics and co-book for *A Christmas Carol*, which ran for ten years at Madison Square Garden (music by Akan Menken.) She also wrote its teleplay adaptation for NBC's Hallmark Entertainment Special. For her work in television she has received the Emmy Award and four Emmy nominations. She is a mainstay writer and singer for the renowned animated series *Schoolhouse Rock* and has contributed lyrics to the feature films *Camp* and *After the Storm*. Her short stories and essays have been published nationally, and she was nominated for the Best American Essays and Pushcart Anthologies. She recently wrote the screenplay for the independent feature film *Lucky Stiff*, directed by Christopher Ashley. She is the recipient of the Betty Comden Lilly Award for lyrics.

As a composer Mr. Flaherty's concert pieces have premiered at the Hollywood Bowl and Boston's Symphony Hall. He has received commissions from the Guggenheim Museum and Carnegie Hall, among others. He composed the score to the new dance

play *In Your Arms*, directed and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli, which featured the writing of ten noted playwrights (New York Stage & Film.) Other theatrical projects include writing the incidental music for Neil Simon's *Proposals* on Broadway and the musical score for *Loving Repeating: A Musical Of Gertrude Stein* (Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Musical.) Film scores include *Bartok the Magnificent* (Twentieth Century Fox) and the documentary *After the Storm*.

Ahrens and Flaherty's shows have been recorded by BMG/RCA Victor, Sony, Atlantic, Decca Broadway, Varese Sarabande, Universal, JAY Records and Broadway Records, and their songs have been performed and recorded by a diverse array of artists. A print anthology of their music, "The Ahrens and Flaherty Songbook," is published by Alfred Publishing, and a live double CD of their work titled "Nice Fighting You" was recently released on Broadway Records.

They serve on the governing body of the Dramatists Guild of America and are members of ASCAP, NARAS and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. They are Education Ambassadors for the New York Pops and co-founded the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program. www.ahrensandflaherty.com