ROSS AVANT AEA • SAG-AFTRA • SCL

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• Ross Avant is a multitalented and autodidactic composer, musician, singer, and actor. After having seen Elton John on VH1, Avant became mesmerized with the piano and began earnestly studying the instrument. Already a seasoned cornetist and trumpeter, he made his debut performing with the world-renowned Jim Cullum Jazz Band a few years later aged fifteen at the legendary jazz club, The Landing.

• When he was twenty-four, he made his professional acting debut at The Playhouse in San Antonio, TX as Tom/Jim in the San Antonio premiere of Bruce Norris' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play, *Clybourne Park*. He has also worked on various television shows and films including HBO's *Succession, The Kitchen* starring Melissa McCarthy, *The Irishman* directed by Martin Scorsese and the forthcoming *The Trial of the Chicago 7* written and directed by Aaron Sorkin. Avant made his Carnegie Hall debut in the 2020/21 season.

• Moreover, Avant's first EP, *Dream of Surrender* (prod. Mark Sinko), was released in 2017 and his sophomore record, *Running Across America* (prod. Ted Young), was released in 2019. Furthermore, Avant's concert music is influenced by a wide array of composers including Julia Wolfe, Shubert, Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Philip Glass, Clara Schumann, Wojciech Kilar, Charles Ives, Anthony Braxton, Chopin, Allen Shawn, Schoenberg, Arvo Pärt, John Adams, and Mahler. His *Pieces for Solo Piano* album is set to be released in 2022 (St. Magnus Records).

• He is currently working on an album of pieces for strings and piano, an album dedicated to his cello partitas, an album of his piano études and he is writing his first opera. Avant has also composed music for the theatre including two productions at The City Theatre Company (Austin, TX): Cyrano de Bergerac (dir. Jeff Hinkle) and The Taming of the Shrew (dir. Levi Gore).

• Avant's academic specialty is in Asian religions and Chinese philosophy; he has degrees in religion and philosophy from Trinity University (BA) and the University of Edinburgh (MSc). He is also a proud member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, BMI, The Society of Composers and Lyricists, The Society of Composers Inc., The Ivors Academy, The Songwriters Hall of Fame, The Royal Asiatic Society, The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and the American Academy of Religion.

• <u>Recent Press</u>:

"... timelessly mesmerising compositions of sound... definitely an artist to keep on your aural radar." – Amelia Vandergast, A&R Factory

"He can deliver the goods." - Dan Weston, Divide and Conquer

•PR Materials, Music Links, & Downloads: rossavant.com