

Philip Glass

1937 - Present



Early life

- Born 1937 in Baltimore, Maryland
- Father owned a radio store
- Listened to western classical records
- Began learning flute & violin
- Enrolled early at University of Chicago to study mathematics and philosophy

Beginnings

- Became interested in atonal music
- Atonality- absence of a functional harmony
- Inspired to study composition at New York's Juilliard school.
- At 23, moved to Paris to study under Nadia Boulanger
- Inspired by non-western music in India and Africa
- 1976, released Einstein on the Beach
- Returned to New York and formed the Philip Glass Ensemble
- Worked various jobs, including taxi driving, to support himself while creating music

EINSTEIN
ON
THE
BEACH
PHILIP
GLASS
ROBERT
WILSON



THE PHILIP GLASS ENSEMBLE

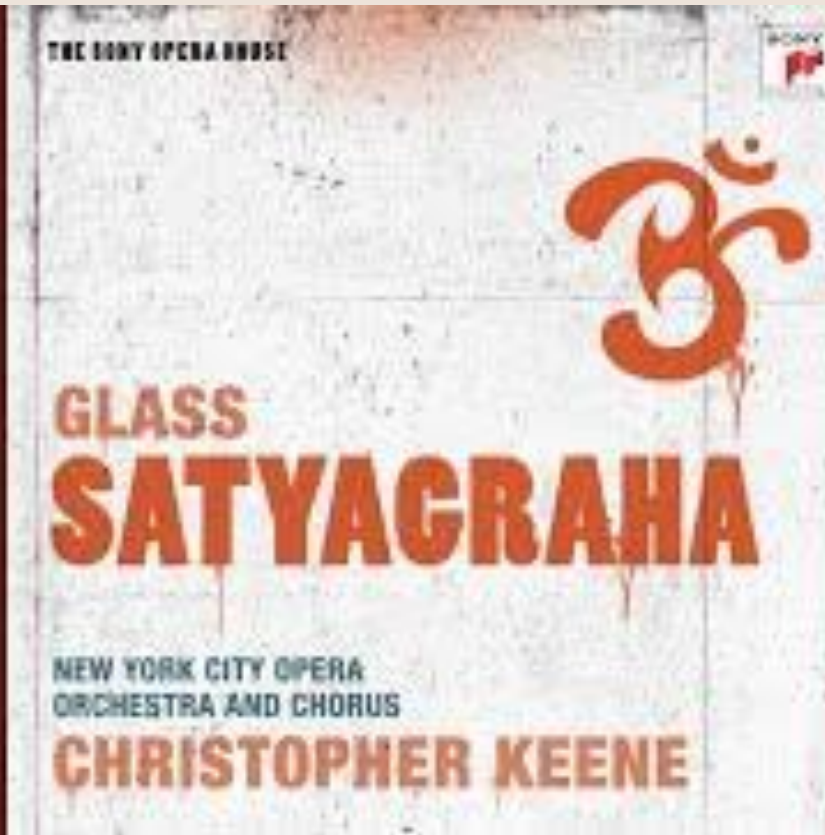
Einstein on the Beach

Film and Operas

- Didn't like being called a minimalist
- First film Koyaanisqatsi (1982)
- Composed "The Voyage" for the Columbus quinquacentennial, commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera
- Composed for the Atlanta Olympic games
- "Portrait Operas" trilogy, focusing on historical figures

Music style

- Repetitive and hypnotic sounding
- Less focus on harmony, tempo, and melody
- Didn't see music having a beginning, middle, and end, he saw it as a process
- Composed Satyagraha, inspired by the structure of Indian music and used Sanskrit vocals
- Also his first major work that used the traditional orchestral line-up



Satyagraha

Significance

- One of the first composers to start his own record label
- Creative use of repetition in compositions and operas
- Elevated minimalist style of composition
- Operas have been produced by some of the worlds greatest opera houses

Activity: Name the film
the song came from



Truman show



Leviathan



Candyman