

Tanover, for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 28 (1994)  
Benjamin Yusupov (1962 – )

Tajikistan-born Yusupov studied composition, piano, and conducting at the Tchaikovsky State conservatory under Roman Ledenyov and Dmitri Kitaenko. His compositions have been performed worldwide. In 1988 Yusupov was nominated for the conductorship of the Dushanbe (Tadzikistan) Philharmonic Orchestra. He won the Soviet composition Association prize in 1989, and in 1990 he moved to Israel.

Today, Yusupov is considered a vital part of Israel's musical life; he has collaborated as both a composer and a conductor with all the major Israeli orchestras – Israel Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, Haifa Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Tel-Aviv Soloists. He has been presented twice (1999, 2008) with the esteemed Israeli Prime Minister Prize and the prestigious Clone Prize of the Israeli Composers' League. His Violin Concerto, premièred by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra at the Israel Music Days 2001 Festival under the composer's baton, was awarded the ACUM Prize for best Israeli composition of the 2001-2002 concert season. In 2005, his Viola Tango Rock Concerto – written for the internationally-renowned violinist Maxim Vengerov – enjoyed a triumphant world première in Germany. This innovative work requires the soloist to play the viola, improvise on the electric violin, and dance a Tango with a partner.

“Tanover,” which is written in the style of a tone poem for solo flute and orchestra, was commissioned by the Israel Heritage Project that was created to promote original compositions of Jewish connection. Maestro Stephen Gunzenhauser gave the American première with the Symphony of the New World in South Beach, FL, and the work was also previously performed in September, 1995, with the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra with Carol Brown as solo flutist. The work is based on ancient Persian modes, and the flute is used like a pan flute.

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