

Curriculum Vitae

Saman Shahi

BaMus, MaMus University of Toronto, Composition, *Faculty of Music '10, '12*
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Qualifications:

- Juno-Nominated Composer, Conductor and Pianist.
- Master's degree from the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto in Composition.
- Co-founder and Executive Director of ICOT since 2011.
- Music Director at Peterborough Concert Band
- Contract Teaching Faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University
- Teaching Artist at the Canadian Opera Company

Composition:

- **“Karavan”** for small orchestra and vocalist commissioned by Golha Orchestra – Performance 2025 (Ontario Tour)
- **“Amber”** Viola concerto co-commissioned by Stratford Symphony Orchestra and the Obiora Ensemble for Sharon Wei – Performances 2025- 2026
- **“Misshapen”** for a low wind quartet commissioned by The Happenstancers – Performance January 2025
- **“Vanishing Lanterns”** for Small Orchestra commissioned by the Danubia Orchestra in Hungary – Performance September 2024
- **“Blooming in Murk”** an Open Score piece for Artemis Music Society – Performance May 2024
- **“Fragments”** For SATB choir and String Quartet – Commissioned by Cantabile Chamber Singer – Performance May 2024
- **“I could not See to See”** for Acepalla SATB choir - Commissioned by the Nyíregyházi Cantemus Kórus in Hungary – Performance June 2023 *Repeat Performance TUTTI Festival March 2024 Ohio, Cantabile Chamber Singers November 2025*
- **“Streams of the Unconscious”** for Percussion Quartet and Electric Guitar – Commissioned by Soundstreams – Co-composed by ICOT - Performed April 2023
- **“Eroded”** for Chamber ensemble – Commissioned by ICOT orchestra as part of the “Recurrence” album. Slated for release Fall 2023
- **“Before the Last Meter”** Opera- Commissioned by Atlanta Opera (96 Hour Opera Project). Premiered in Atlanta, June 2022.
- **“Oasis I”** for String Quartet. Commissioned by Scarborough Philharmonic and Odin Quartet. Recorded 2022 for a 2023 commercial release.
- **“Beneath the Purple Sky”** for SATB choir- Commissioned by University of Regina Chorus Three performances in Regina and Winnipeg in 2022 and 2023.
- **“Microlocking III”** For Solo Accordion and electronics – Recorded to be released in 2021
- **“Wavered”** For Solo Alto Saxophone – 1:2:1 Residency – May 2021 - Virtual
- **“Microlocking II”** For Electric Guitar Solo- 21C Guitar festival- February 2021- Virtual
- **“Bagatelle”** for players of Scarborough philharmonic- Performance-September 2022

- **“Chained”** for large orchestra 2020 - Performed by National Arts Orchestra through American Composers Orchestra's Earshot Readings, October 2024
- **“Suspended Doorways”** commissioned by Whispering River orchestra-September 2020 *Selected for Toronto Symphony's 2021 Explore The Score – Repeat Performance Sinfonia Toronto and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra*
- **“Caravan Rhapsody”** Commissioned by Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra and Canadian Sinfonietta- February 2020
- **“Songs of a Wandering Soul”** For Voice and chamber ensemble. *Finalist for the Kaleidoscope Orchestra's international Call for Scores 2021*
- **“Dance of the Majnoon”** commissioned by Trioanfang, May and September 2019, and February 2020 Switzerland. Repeat Performance: Ottawa 2022 (Ottawa Pops Orchestra)
- **“In Search of”** commissioned by Spectrum Music for Choir and Jazz trio, February 2019 Toronto, Hamilton.
- **“New Horizon”** for Scarborough Philharmonic Winds, March 2019
- **“The Journey: Notes of Hope”** an Opera by ICOT. November 2018, Toronto
- **“Rumi Fables”** Ladom Ensemble, Agha Khan Museum, September 2018, Nuit Blanche, Ottawa Chamberfest 2019.
- **“Etude No.1”** Piano Solo, performed 8 times in Canada, Iran and USA 2017-2022
- **“Smog”** Commissioned and performed multiple times by the West Buck Choir in USA.
- **“Microlocking”** Commissioned by junctQin keyboard collective. March 2018, Waterloo.
- **“Orbit”** for voice and piano- Commissioned by Fabian Arcinegas-Toronto February 2018.
- **“Breathing in the Shadows”** Song cycle performed in Toronto, Halifax, Philadelphia in 2018. Commissioned by Maureen Batt. *JUNO-NOMINATED in 2022 FOR Classical COMPOSITION OF THE YEAR Category.*
- **“Rhythmicization”** for Windsor Youth Symphony February 2016- Windsor, repeat performance by Windsor Symphony Orchestra April 2017

Piano:

Solo:

- In Search of Polarity (Ontario tour, 3 performances) 2019.
- Borrowed Tunes, 2017
- An Evening with Fikret Amirov, 2013

Concert Series / Festivals:

- Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 100th Anniversary Open House 2022, Toronto Summer Music Festival 2022, Canadian Opera Company's Noon Hour Series, Western University's Noon Hour Series, Watershed Music theatre Symposium 2021/2022, Wilfrid Laurier Noon Hour Concert Series 2022, Princess Margaret Hospital Music in the Atrium Series 2021, Tirgan Festival 2015-2019, St. Anne's “Spring” Music series 2021, Hamilton Philharmonic “What Next” festival 2016, Nuite Blanche 2015.

Conducting:

- Music Director at Peterborough Concert band (2020-Present)
- Guest Conductor with Danubia Orchestra (Hungary) 2024, Northumberland Symphony Orchestra 2024, Atlanta Opera (96 Hour Opera Project) 2022, Canadian Amateur Musicians' Association 2022, Whispering river orchestra 2020, Cultural Interchange 360 “Window to a Dream” 2022-2023, Array Music 2022, Loose Tea Music Theatre 2021-2022, Tirgan Nowruz Festival (opening concert) 2018.

Professional and Media Involvements:

- Member of the Canadian League of Composers, SOCAN and the Canadian music centre
- Executive Director and Co-Founder at the ICOT
- Featured on CBC, BBC Farsi, PBS (Georgia), Radio Télévision Suisse, VOA Farsi, Iran International.
- Jury member at Juno Awards, East Coast Music Awards, FACTOR, Ontario Arts Council, SOCAN Foundation Young Composers Award 2022, and Friends of Canadian Music 2022
- Mentor composer: Scarborough Philharmonic, Toronto Strings Composition Workshops, Wilfrid Laurier University, Claude Watson Art School
- Published in the University of West London's Conservatory Hand book, Grade 5 piano
- Inclusion in the Royal Conservatory of Music's 2022 Piano Syllabus with three pieces in Grades 7,9, ARCT
- Board member at Alliance of Canadian New Music (ACNMP) and Musicworks magazine

Awards and Recognitions :

- Selected composer for American Composer's Orchestra's Earshot readings with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in 2024
- Finalist for Atlanta Opera's "96 Hour Opera Project" Competition in 2022
- 2022 JUNO-Nominated for "Classical Composition of the Year" Category for "Breathing in the Shadows (Leaf Music 2020)
- Selected composer for Ottawa Pops Orchestra's Call for scores in 2022
- Selected composer for Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 2021 Explore the Score – (Suspended Doorways)
- Finalist for the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra's international call for scores 2021 (Songs of a Wandering Soul)
- Whispering River Orchestra 2020- Riversong commission Award
- 2019 Second prize winner at the Canadian Amateur Musicians' Association (CAMMAC) Call for scores for song cycle "Orbit"

Teaching:

- Contract Teaching Faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University's Music Faculty
- Canadian Opera Company- Teaching Artist- 2019-Present
- Two time guest lecturer at the University of Tehran in 2017 and 2019 at the Faculty of Music for seminars and workshops and performances.

Discography:

- "Recurrence" - Composition Album, 2023 – ICOT's Second commercial album - Leaf Music - Roles: Composer/Pianist
- "Microlocking" - Composition Album, 2021-People|Places|Records-Roles: Composer
- "Breathing in the Shadows"- Debut Composition Album, 2020- Leaf Music-Roles: Composer/Pianist [**JUNO-Nominated Song Cycle**]
- "My Unfaltering Memories of You"- Works of Dr. Amin Honarmand, 2019- Mahoor Records- Role: Pianist
- "Bushes and Bombshells"- Works of Ivana Popovic, 2019- LPR- Roles: Pianist
- "Persian Piano Night"- ICOT's Debut album, 2018- Pardis Records- Roles: Composer/Pianist