

Saman Shahi Bio (Long) (500 words)

Saman Shahi is a Juno-Nominated composer, and conductor based in Toronto whose music has been described as “*a combination of virtuosity and sonic power*” (PAN M 360), “*Lucid and dramatic*” (Musicworks) and “*Endlessly rewarding*” (I Care If You Listen).

Saman's compositions have been championed across North America, Europe and Asia by groups such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Windsor Youth Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Opera, National Ballet of Canada, Sinfonia Toronto, Danubia Orchestra (Hungary), Tapestry Opera, and Soundstreams. His music has also been featured in prestigious festivals such as the Lucerne Festival 2025, and TUTTI Festival 2024, and broadcast globally on CBC, PBS, Radio Télévision Suisse, BBC, and Voice of America.

In 2026, Saman's mini opera “Munch” and “Ferris Wheel” produced by Tapestry Opera, were nominated for a Dora Mavor Award. He was also a recipient of a IMAGINE Incubator Award from the Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts in Kingston in the same year.

As a conductor, Saman has been an active advocate of new music in Canada and abroad. He is the Music Director of the Peterborough Concert band, and is also an active conductor across Canada, USA, and Europe with many guest appearances.

Saman holds a Masters degree in composition from the University of Toronto, is an Affiliate Member of the Canadian League of Composers, Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre as well as a SOCAN member. He serves as a board member at the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects and Musicworks magazine. He also works as a composer and Teaching Artist with the Canadian Opera Company, and was also the Executive Director and a Co-Founder at ICOT from 2011-2025. Saman also serves as the Artist in Residence with the Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton, Alberta from 2026-2028.

In 2020 Saman's debut composition album "Breathing in the Shadows" was recorded and released by Leaf Music, which is a compilation of his vocal music. In 2022 JUNO awards, “Breathing in the Shadows” from this album was nominated in the “Classical Composition of the Year” category. His song cycle "Orbit" in this album also won the second prize in Canadian Amateur Musician's Associations' composition Competition in 2019.

Saman has been a selected composer by many competitions and programs such as the American Composers Orchestra's 2024 Earshot Readings with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Tapestry Opera's 2025 LibLab, Denison University's 2024 Tutti Music Festival, 2022 Atlanta Opera's “96 Hour Opera Project”, Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 2021 “Explore the Score”, 2021 Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra's Call for Scores, Whispering River Orchestra's 2020 Bert Weir Award, Canadian Amateur Musician's Association inaugural prize in 2019, and many more.

His second composition album, “Microlocking” was released by People|Places|Records in 2021, containing a series of his chamber works, and his collaborative chamber orchestra album with ICOT was released by Leaf Music in Fall of 2023. His choral album “Fragments” is slated for release by Redshift Records in 2026.

Saman regularly serves as a judge, and adjudicator at many competitions and awards such as the the Juno Awards, East Coast music awards, FACTOR, Kiwanis among others. He also serves as Contract Teaching Faculty at the Wilfrid Laurier University.

Saman Shahi Bio (Medium) (300 words)

Saman Shahi is a Juno-Nominated composer, and conductor based in Toronto whose music has been described as “*“a combination of virtuosity and sonic power” (PAN M 360)* and “*Lucid and dramatic*” (Musicworks).

Saman's compositions have been performed around the globe by renowned groups such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, 2025 Lucerne Festival, The Atlanta Opera, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and National Ballet of Canada, and Soundstreams to name a few. His music has also been broadcast around the world on BBC Farsi, CBC, PBS and Radio Télévision Suisse.

In 2026, Saman's operatic work was nominated for a Dora Mavor Award, and he was also a recipient of a IMAGINE Incubator Award from the Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts.

Saman holds a Master's degree in composition from the University of Toronto, is an affiliate Member of the Canadian League of Composers, Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre as well as a SOCAN member. Saman is the Music Director at of Peterborough Concert band, a Teaching Artist with the Canadian Opera Company, and the Artist in Residence with the Pro Coro Canada (2026-2028). He was also the Executive Director and a Co-Founder at ICOT from 2011-2025.

Saman's composition discography includes “Breathing in the Shadows” (Leaf Music- 2020, Juno-Nominated), “Microlocking” (People|Places|Records – 2021), “Recurrence” (Leaf Music – 2023), and “Fragments (Redshift – 2026).

Saman has been a selected composer in the American Composers Orchestra's 2024 Earshot Readings with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Tapestry Opera's 2025 LibLab, Denison University's 2024 Tutti Music Festival, 2022 Atlanta Opera's “96 Hour Opera Project”, Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 2021 “Explore the Score”, Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra's 2021 Call for Scores, and many more. He is also a Contract Teaching Faculty with Wilfrid Laurier University.

Saman Shahi Bio (Short) (175 words)

Saman Shahi is a Juno and Dora Nominated composer, and conductor based in Toronto. His compositions have been commissioned, performed, broadcast and published globally by many notable orchestras, festival, ensembles and soloists such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, 2025 Lucerne Festival, The Atlanta Opera, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and National Ballet of Canada, and Soundstreams.

Saman holds a master's degree in composition from the University of Toronto, is an affiliate Member of the Canadian League of Composers, Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre as well as a SOCAN member. He is the Music Director of the Peterborough Concert band, a Teaching Artist with the Canadian Opera Company, and the Artist in Residence with the Pro Coro Canada (2026-2028). He was also the Executive Director and a Co-Founder at ICOT from 2011-2025.

Saman's composition discography includes “Breathing in the Shadows” (Leaf Music- 2020, Juno-Nominated), “Microlocking” (People|Places|Records – 2021), “Recurrence” (Leaf Music – 2023), and with the support of Isabel Bader's 2026 IMAGINE Incubator Award “Fragments” (Redshift – 2026).

Saman Shahi Bio (elevator pitch) (100 words)

Saman Shahi is a Juno and Dora Nominated composer, and conductor based in Toronto with a global track record of notable performances, commissions, broadcasts and publications.

He is a Member of the Canadian League of Composers, the Canadian Music Centre and SOCAN. He is the Music Director of the Peterborough Concert band, a Teaching Artist with the Canadian Opera Company, and the Artist in Residence with the Pro Coro Canada (2026-2028). His composition albums, “Breathing in the Shadows” [Leaf Music – Juno Nominated], “Microlocking” [People|Places|Records], and “Fragments” [Redshift] were released in 2020, 2021 and 2026.