

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.