

## Saman Shahi Bio (Medium) (280 words)

Saman Shahi is a JUNO-nominated composer, pianist and conductor based in Toronto. His music has been described as “*Powerful and empowering*” (The Wholenote), 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, Sinfonia Toronto, and National Ballet of Canada to name a few. His piano music was also recently published in UK's official conservatory method book by London College of Music, and also included in the 2022 Royal Conservatory of Music's syllabus.

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 a Co-Founder and the Executive Director at ICOT.

Saman is the Music Director at the Peterborough Concert band, teaching artist with the Canadian Opera Company, and the pianist for the Rogue Duo, a violin piano duet with Bijan Sepanji.

In 2020 Saman's debut composition album "Breathing in the Shadows" was recorded and released by Leaf Music. Song cycle “Breathing in the Shadows” in this album was nominated in the 2022 JUNO awards “Classical Composition of the Year” category. Other cycles on this album also claimed awards with CAMMAC and Kaleidoscope Chamber orchestra. His chamber composition album, “Microlocking” was released by People|Places|Records in 2021.

Saman was named the recipient of the 2020 Riversong Commission award by Whispering River Orchestra in 2020. This piece also was selected by Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 2021 “Explore the Score”. In 2022, he was a finalist for the Atlanta Opera's “96 Hour Opera” Project with his latest opera “Before the Last Meter”.