

Saman Shahi Bio (Medium) (275 words)

Saman Shahi is an award-winning and published composer, pianist, conductor and educator based in Toronto. His music has been described as “*Powerful and empowering*” (The Wholenote), and “*Lucid and dramatic*” (Musicworks).

Saman's compositions, including some of his short film scores have been performed across the globe.

His repertory as a composer includes 4 orchestral works, three operas (two with ICOT), two ballets works (with ICOT), and many works for choral, vocal and chamber forces.

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 also a co-founder and the Executive Director at ICOT since 2011.

In 2019, Saman was appointed as the new Music Director at the Peterborough Concert band, one of Canada's oldest and most committed community music groups. He also works as a composer and lead artist with the Canadian Opera Company as part of their after school opera program. Saman has been an active member of the Circle music band, a rock fusion group in Toronto since 2011.

In 2020 Saman's debut composition album "Breathing in the Shadows" was recorded and released by Leaf Music. This album contains three of his song cycles.

His song cycle "Orbit" in this album won the second prize in Canadian Amateur Musician's Associations' inaugural composition Competition in 2019. His other song cycle in this album was also a finalist in the Kleidoscope Chamber Orchestra's international call for scores in 2020. Saman was also named the recipient of the 2020 Riversong Commission award by Whispering River Orchestra in 2020.