

GUITAR & UKULELE

BAHAH OSSAREH



“An established player to be reckoned with.” Classical Guitar Magazine

Bahar Ossareh, an Iranian-Canadian classical guitarist, is a captivating artist dedicated to sharing the enchanting world of guitar music with her audiences. Renowned for her warm sound, soulful performances, and innovative programs, she has become a prominent figure in the classical music scene. Canadian guitarist and composer William Beauvais applauds her as “A player of tremendous expressive range, who enchants listeners.”

Bahar’s repertoire spans the globe, featuring pieces from Canada, the US, Australia, Turkey, Spain, Greece, and Latin America. Notably, she is emerging as a passionate ambassador of Persian guitar music. In 2016, Bahar made Canada her home and has since graced numerous stages as both a soloist and chamber musician. She has

collaborated with esteemed organizations and orchestras such as the Guitar Society of Toronto, Classical Guitar Society of Calgary, Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra, Austin Classical Guitar, and more.

As a performer and lecturer, Bahar has participated in international festivals, including the Miami International GuitART Festival, UofT New Music Festival, Hamilton Guitar Festival, and Kiwanis Festival. One of Bahar’s recent projects is the captivating *Little Heart*, a children’s opera based on a Persian story, where she arranged and performed the guitar parts. Released in 2020 by the Canadian Music Centre/Centrediscs, the project was funded by the Toronto Council for the Arts.

Bahar Ossareh proudly holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Toronto, having undergone rigorous training under the esteemed guidance of Jeffrey McFadden and Jorge Caballero. Her academic journey is adorned with numerous achievements, highlighting her commitment to excellence. Bahar’s dedication to her craft has not gone unnoticed, earning her prestigious awards and scholarships, including the distinguished Eaton Graduate Fellowship and Eli Kassner Graduate Fellowship. These accolades stand as a testament to her exceptional talent and scholarly contributions to the field of classical guitar.

Prior to her doctoral studies, Bahar earned a Master of Music Degree in Classical Guitar Performance from the University of Art, Tehran, solidifying her foundation as an accomplished classical guitarist. In 2024, Bahar is set to unveil a highly anticipated album, featuring underrepresented Theme and Variations from around the world, including the premiere of her original composition. As an active artist and instructor with the tone base team, Bahar continues to contribute to the world’s largest community of classical guitarists.

ENGLISH & FRENCH SPEECH ARTS LISE CORMIER



Lise Cormier began singing with her parents' band Razzmatazz for Kids in her hometown of Halifax when she was 5 years old. Today, Lise is a Toronto-based bilingual actor, voice actor, singer, dancer, and creator.

For Netflix, Lise voiced several characters on the latest season of Bakugan, and acted and sang on The Umbrella Academy. For the stage, Lise is a two-time Dora Award nominee for her performances in Tale of T-Shirt with Fixt Point, as well as in Zinspirés 3D with Théâtre Français de Toronto. She also performed in the Dora-nominated production of the Barber of Seville at Soulpepper. Lise Cormier and her husband Kenton Blythe appeared in Season 2 of Canada's Got Talent, as KENTON & LISE, performing original music/choreography. The positive feedback they received inspired them to create an original show for The Toronto Fringe Festival, called Curious K Explores the Paleozoic, which won Patron's Pick, and a BroadwayWorld.com award. They are now developing Kenton & Lise Explore the Paleozoic, to tour schools.

Lise was an adjudicator for the Norfolk Musical Arts Festival in 2020, and is thrilled to be back, to share her passion for performing.

BANDS & INSTRUMENTS

JESSICA KUN



Dr. Jessica V. Kun, a native of Toronto, Canada, is Conductor and Artistic Director of the Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra. She completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at Arizona State University, where she conducted the Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds, and the Lyric Opera Theatre.

Dr. Kun holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Calgary (Canada), Master's Certificate in Conducting from the University of Calgary Wind Conducting Program, and a Master of Music degree in Musicology from the University of Manchester (England), where she conducted the Symphony Orchestra, chamber ensembles, and the New Music Ensemble, as well as civic, professional, and youth orchestras and new music ensembles across the country. She has conducted string and full orchestras, symphonic and jazz bands, chamber music, contemporary music ensembles, choirs and opera. She has taught and conducted musicians at all levels, from novice to professional, and has written articles for Canadian Music Education journals and curriculum documents for the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Dr. Kun has served as Conductor and Associate Professor of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University, where she taught conducting and orchestration. She is also the conductor of the Richmond Hill McConaghy Choir, presenting choral programs with fresh artistic vision and energy. Her research includes the development of conducting and conducting pedagogy, using digital media, and further studies into emotional contagion and effective gestural communication.

Dr. Kun is active as a conductor, adjudicator, and clinician in North America, Great Britain, Europe, and South America.

PIANO

AMELIA YATES



Amelia Yates, D.M.A., is a pianist, adjudicator, and instructor from Hamilton, Ontario. A graduate of the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Yates's research focusses on the solo piano music of Canadian composer Ann Southam. In addition to performing as a soloist, Dr. Yates also enjoys collaborating with others and is currently the pianist for Myriad Ensemble, a flourishing SSAA choir based in Burlington ON. As an in-demand adjudicator, Dr. Yates has had the pleasure of adjudicating at music festivals across Ontario.

Dr. Yates teaches piano lessons from her home studio, AGYPiano. Her goal is to help students perform, understand, and enjoy music thoughtfully, healthily, and artfully. She is also passionate about applying teaching approaches that nurture students' mental health and empower them to think critically and independently.

Dr. Yates's students have received awards for both composition and performance at the local, provincial, and national levels, and frequently achieve First Class Honours and First Class Honours with Distinction standings on their conservatory examinations. Graduates of AGYPiano have gone onto study music at the University Level.

Before receiving her doctorate, Dr. Yates also earned an ARCT diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music as well as a Bachelor of Music Honours Music Education and a Master of Music in Performance and Literature from the University of Western Ontario. She had the privilege of studying performance with Dr. Leslie Kinton, Dr. Brett Kingsbury, and John-Paul Bracey, and pedagogy with Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla and Dr. Christine Tithecott.

Dr. Yates holds positions on the board of the Hamilton/Halton Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association and the Hamilton Music Festival. She is honoured to support the Association of Canadian Women Composers as an Associate member. Dr. Yates is also a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners.

STRINGS

KELLY PARKINS-LINDSTROM



Kelly Parkins-Lindstrom is an accomplished violinist who actively pursues her passion for stringed instruments as a teacher and adjudicator exploring the link between pedagogy and performance.

As a violin and chamber teacher, she has supported students who have been recipients of the highest marks awarded at the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, the Canadian Music Competition - Stepping Stone and Rising Star Award and the prestigious Gold Medal Awards from The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM), in addition to having performed with numerous orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and National Arts Orchestra of Canada. Her students have studied and performed internationally for masterclass clinicians, including Martin Beaver, Nikki Chooi, James Ehnes, Miriam Fried, Augustin Hadelich, Brian Lewis, Rachel Barton Pine, Kurt Sassmannshaus, William van der Sloot and Mimi Zweig.

Ms. Parkins-Lindstrom has had a multi-faceted connection with the Royal Conservatory uniquely teaching in The Glenn Gould School, Phil and Eli Taylor Academy and Oscar Peterson School of Music where she is a recognized pedagogical leader with over thirty years of expertise in music education. Most recently, she compiled the Violin Series, 2021 Edition: a comprehensive collection of nine Repertoire books, two Orchestral Excerpts books, three Technique, Etudes and Musicianship books and corresponding Syllabus.

Ms. Parkins-Lindstrom played an integral role in the creation of a new curriculum for The RCM Associate Diploma (ARCT) in Violin, Pedagogy, which comprises three levels: Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced. Presently she is a subject-matter expert in the new creation of the Royal Conservatory Online Strings Teacher Course.

In addition to being a masterclass clinician and member of The RCM College of Examiners, Ms. Parkins-Lindstrom shares her passion for music by presenting lectures, workshops and teacher development on many topics including violin repertoire, pedagogy and music study across North America.

Ms. Parkins-Lindstrom is a member of the Ontario Suzuki Association, the Suzuki Association of the Americas, the American Federation of Musicians and American String Teachers Association.

VOCAL & CHORAL

RENÉE SALEWSKI



Renée is a vibrant performing arts professional with twenty-five years of diverse performing, teaching, writing, and directing experience from the stage to film and television.

Creative opportunities as a performer, teacher, and director have taken Renée all over the UK, London's West End and off West-End, Europe, Canada, Korea, Central Asia, and many other inspiring places. As a dual citizen of UK and Canada, Renée spent most of her early years as a professional performer in the UK (D'Oyly Carte, English Touring Opera, Arcola Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Canterbury Cathedral) while also maintaining a position on the voice faculty at Canterbury Christ Church University, where she taught voice on both the classical and musical theatre/CCM music degree programs.

Projects during the pandemic saw Renee remotely direct and coach singers situated across the globe in several remotely filmed operas (COSA Canada) and continue to work with her international roster of singers online. In the 2022-23 season she became an RBC Artist Mentor with the Association for Opera in Canada, continued her work as a teaching artist with the Canadian Opera Company, was a guest Choral Clinician to the Durham Girls Choir, coached and/or taught masterclasses at the National Opera Studio (London, England), Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, University of Toronto, and Hart House Theatre. Highlights of the upcoming season include coaching audition clinics in Toronto and the UK, directing the senior summer intensive of *Les Miserables* at The Singer's Theatre, returning to the to the Canadian Opera Company as a core faculty member on the Intensive for Emerging Artists, staging Catherine Likhuta's work *Scraps from a Madman's Diary* at the University of Toronto, as well as the premiere of *Echoes of Bi-sotoon* for Cultureland at Array Music, Toronto.