

Janice Isabel Jackson | Biography

Soprano, Contemporary Music Specialist, Vocal Instructor, Producer, Composer

Janice has sung over 240 world premieres, many works written specifically for her, and performed with contemporary music ensembles and in concert halls around the world – Beijing, Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Torino, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Berlin, Johannesburg, Cape Town and more. She has appeared in countless contemporary music festivals including the November Festival (Ghent), Wien Modern (Vienna), Ludwigs Lust (Hamburg), The Proms (Amsterdam), IRCAM (Paris), Big Torino 2000 (Turin), the Diem Festival of Electro-acoustic music (Denmark), Italian New Music Festival (Toronto), Open Waters Festival (Halifax) and the Scotia Festival of Music (Nova Scotia).



She is also the Artistic Director of the Halifax based contemporary vocal music society Vocalypse Productions, through which she has produced and performed in many new works including: Vonda de Ville in *Temporal Follies* (2008) by Lukas Pearse, a jazz opera by New York's D.D. Jackson entitled *Trudeau: Long March / Shining Path* (2009), 3 new mini operas entitled *HOWL* (2013) based on Ginsberg's famous rant, *Miss Fortune's Portmanteau* (2014), a one hour show concerning women from Victorian Halifax, Montreal Tim Brady's new opera *Ghost Tango* (2015), codirecting Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum* (2021) and James Rolfe's *O Greenest Branch* (soloist), and *Escape to Freedom* (2022) by Halifax's Sandy Moore concerning Mona Parson's escape from a Nazi work camp.

Her orchestral premieres include: 7 songs entitled *We're Hardcore* based on texts by the Tragically Hip's Gordon Downie with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Jerome Blais' *Songs for Milena* with Symphony Nova Scotia. She can be heard on many CD's, including *Live Wired* (2015), on which she premiered *(Un)Forgotten Voices* (first prize in the *Concours Collégien de musique contemporaine*) by Jerome Blais.

She has also been composing for solo voice since 2017. Her solo song cycle *Oh Death* (2020), based on a suite of poetry by visual artist Annie Martin was presented in Upstream Music Associations' *OPEN WATERS Festival 2021*. In 2022 she completed her 4th work, a mini opera entitled *Penelope: Dreamwalker* which she performed in *OPEN Waters Festival 2023*. She will also be presenting *O Death* in the *Women Composers Festival (USA)* this coming March and as part of an experimental audio-visual installation together with paintings by Annie Martin in *OBORO* in Montreal in May 2023.

Janice Isabel Jackson continues to gain support for her activities through grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and Arts Nova Scotia. In recognition of her contribution to Nova Scotia's artistic and cultural life, she has received awards from both the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and The Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council. And for her commitment to the performance of new Canadian music, she received the *Friend of Canadian Music Award* from the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Music Centre.