

Janice Isabel Jackson | Biography

Soprano, Contemporary Music Specialist, Vocal Instructor, Producer

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Janice Isabel Jackson has sung over 200 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, 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), 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 many new works including: *Vonda de Ville in Temporal Follies* (2008) by Lukas Pearse, a melodrama in which she sang and acted the role of Vonda de Ville, a jazz opera by New York's D.D. Jackson entitled *Trudeau: Long March / Shining Path* (2009) singing the role of Margaret Trudeau, 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, as well as Tim Brady's new opera *Ghost Tango* (2015) for 2 singers and electric guitar.

"Jackson has daring and exceptional talent and as a singer alone is top class."
Brabants Dagblad, Netherlands

During the 2010 – 2011 Season she premiered 2 works written by Montreal's Tim Brady: a melodrama entitled "15 Stages in the Search for Radium and Love" about the life of Marie Curie with Victoria's Aventa Ensemble and 7 songs entitled "We're Hardcore" based on texts by the Tragically Hip's Gordon

Downie with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. During Oscillations 2012, she premiered a mini opera by Anna Pidgorna entitled *Mirror Mirror* for voice and electronics as well as Jerome Blais' *Dremlen feygl* with Montreal's Orchestre Métropolitain and reprised her performance of Tim Brady's "We're Hardcore" during the Scotia Festival of Music. In 2015 she premiered Jerome Blais' *Songs for Milena* with the 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 Concours Collégien de musique contemporaine) by Jerome Blais.

Janice has been the recipient of many grants through Arts Nova Scotia and The Canada Council. She has received recognition for her contribution Nova Scotian culture from The Honorable Myra A. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor, as well as an Established Artist Award through Arts Nova Scotia. She recently spent 5 weeks at the Banff Arts Centre as a musician in residence

Future projects include: The role of Mona Parsons in Sandy Moore's new opera *Escape to Freedom*; 3 new solo programs including *PROTEST*, a program of 4 pieces with voice and electronics and / or sound score highlighting various protests and social / environmental issues around the globe; a solo program entitled *Show Off* featuring some of the most challenging works of contemporary music, highlighting the vast array sounds which the voice is capable of and the deep emotional connection which sound elicits; and a program of 4 mini operas entitled *Echoes of Time - Saga, Tales and Myth*, which encompasses 4 decades of music, most written for Jackson, and include mythological tales from Japan, Greece, Mexico, and Denmark.

Her performances bring out the beauty of contemporary vocal repertoire. *Music Weekly, Beijing, China*

Music can move you. Listening to the singing of Janice Jackson brought to me a sense of sorrow. Sadness that came from the realization that such intense music making is seldom experienced and so very worthwhile. *De Limburger, Netherlands*

Soprano Janice Jackson gave a literally breathtaking performance of Luciano Berio's *Sequenze III*. In a few minutes time we not only heard a vast array of possibilities of the human voice, but also of emotions. *Stad Amersfoort, Netherlands*

Jackson's performance was extraordinary - there were a couple of occasions when I would have sworn there were two people singing - and totally mesmerizing. *Music in Victoria, Deryk Barker*

... a tour-de-force of the highest order. I doubt there is another singer in Canada who can for so long grip our attention in a chemical-like bond as Jackson does. *The Halifax Chronicle Herald*