



Janice Isabel Jackson | Biography

Soprano, Contemporary Music Specialist, Vocal Instructor, Producer

Janice Isabel Jackson has a Bachelor of Performance from the University of Victoria where she studied with well-known baritone Bernard Turgeon and 4 years running received the St. Jude vocal scholarship. She then received a full scholarship to study at the Utrecht Conservatory in the Netherlands (where she lived for 13 years) and received a performance certificate as well as a Masters in chamber music, specifically for her interpretation of contemporary music. She then went on to premiere many new works throughout Europe by both emerging and established composers.

Since then, Janice has sung over 230 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), and *Escape to Freedom* (2019) by Halifax's Sandy Moore concerning the 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.

Her current activities include 3 lecture performances entitled *Uncaged*, centered on the music of John Cage at the Halifax Central Library as well as a program of Canadian vocal solos with New Music Concerts in Toronto. Her company Vocalypse Productions is producing Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum* (the first morality play) together with a new work by Canadian composer James Rolfe, inspired by the Bingen. *Newfangled* (her duo with Barbara Pritchard) has commissioned a new work from Montreal composer Marie Pelletier entitled *Supra Sopra* which touches on new technology and man made energy sources. Future plans include a new opera by Vancouver's Bob Pritchard centered around spiritualism in Canada at the turn of the 20th century. She is also planning a 2nd MINT conference which focuses on new technologies and the voice. She is also composing her 3rd solo vocal work entitled *Oh Death*, based on a suite of poetry by visual artist Annie Martin. *Oh Death* will be premiered and presented as part of an experimental audio visual installation presentation in 2020/21.

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 recently received the *Friend of Canadian Music Award* from the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Music Centre.