

Carmen Braden – Professional and Artistic Resume

4216 49A Avenue, Yellowknife NT, X1A 1B4

+1 867-445-8607

carmen@blackicesound.com

www.carmenbraden.com

Carmen Braden is an award-winning composer and songwriter from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Her creative work draws on aesthetic observations in the sub-Arctic. Carmen is an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre, and is signed to Magnum Opus Management. She is actively engaged as a contemporary classical composer as well as a performer of her original quirky songs throughout Canada. Her company Black Ice Sound hosts a performance series as well as the Longshadow Music Festival.

Recognitions, awards and grants

- Recipient - Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Composer of the Year 2020
- Nominee - East Coast Music Award for Classical Album of the Year 2020
- Recipient - Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Composer of the Year 2019
- Nominee - Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Artist of the Year 2019
- Nominee - Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Composition of the Year 2018
- Canada Council
 - Explore and Create - awarded 2021, recommended 2018. Travel grants - 5 since 2017. Digital Originals 2020.
- NWT Arts Council - 12 grants since 2009
- FACTOR - Juried Sound Recording 2020
- Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Mentorship Program 2011-2015
- SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council)

2019-22 Achievements, awards and upcoming events

Commissions, Notable Premieres and Performances of compositions works

Large Ensemble

- TorQ Percussion Quartet and the Elora Singers *Domino Domino Domino* commission: choir and percussion quartet. Premiere planned for July 2022
- Orchestre Classique de Montreal - *She Rides Her Bike with a Cello on Her Back and a Baby in the Basket* - commission: percussion and string orchestra. Premiere planned for May 2022
- Toronto Symphony Orchestra - *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars* - Toronto, November 2019.

Chamber Ensemble / Solo

- Megumi Masaki - *See the Freeze, Hear the Thaw* - commission: piano and media. Premiere Italy 2022.
- Gillian Smith - commission: solo violin. Premiere recording planned for 2022.
- Tristan DaBorba - commission: solo saxophone. Premiere planned for Oklahoma (NASA) 2022.
- Robert Uchida (Ed. Sym. Orchestra concertmaster) commission for solo violin, premiered August 2021
- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra - *Raven Conspiracy* string quartet live / online, Oct 2020 to April 2021
- Duo Beija Flor - commission for guitar and flute, online premiere, Nov. 2020
- Duo Concertante - *The Seed Knows*. Commission for violin and piano, online premiere as part of the Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival, August 2020.

Releases

- *Seed Songs* - Album of songwriter material, self-released Oct 2021
- *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars* - Album of chamber compositions, released on Centrediscs CMC Label, 2019, nominated for ECMA Classical Album of the Year 2020

Choir:

- Brock University Choir - commission for SATB, collaborative process *Return to the Blur*. Premiere March 2022
- Elektra Women's Choir - commission as part of *The Lost Words* project. Premiere 2022/23
- Greystone Singers - commission *The Mind is Wild* - online premiere March 2022
- Aeolian Singers - *Aviva Swims* - commission for treble choir, online premiere, March 2021

- Canzona - *And this is all? What one poor kiss?* Winnipeg, March 2020
- Luminous Voices - *Crooked by Nature*. Calgary February 2020.
- Canadian Chamber Choir - *Where Waters Meet*. Yellowknife / Edmonton, October 2019.

Live Performances

- Folk on the Rocks - Yellowknife music festival - Main Stage featured performer July 2021
- Northern Arts and Cultural Centre - featured performer - online streamed concert August 2021
- University of New Brunswick Concert Series - February 2020, Fredericton NB.
- Acadia University Concert Credit - February 2020, Wolfville NS.
- Banff Centre - Guest artist performance November 2019, Banff.
- Snowking's Winter Festival - March 2019, Yellowknife.
- Pacific Contact - April 2019, Vancouver.
- House Concert series - May 2019, Yellowknife.
- Ramble and Ride Festival - August 2019, Yellowknife.
- BreakOut West / WCMA Awards - October 2019, Whitehorse.

Teaching:

- Brock University Singers - University ensemble collaborative workshops and commissions - Fall 2021
- Acadia Sax Studio - 2021 - University ensemble collaborative workshops and commissions - Fall 2021
- Ottawa Choral Society - guest artist lecture April 2021
- Songwriting workshops - Music Interchange - Yellowknife winter 2020-2021
- Banff Centre for the Arts - Guest Faculty Artist - Music Residency - Nov 2020
- Prairie Debut / NACC Composition workshops - Yellowknife Spring 2020
- Faculty Member, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. November 2019.
- Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations - composition adjudicator, 2019.
- Music Improvisation - Adult Songwriting Workshops - MusicSpace YK. Yellowknife 2019
- Songwriting Camp for youth - MusicSpace YK. Yellowknife 2019.

Discography

- *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars*. (2019) Centrediscs. Producer Mark Adam. Engineer John D.S. Adams. Chamber works. Nominated for ECMA Classical Album of the Year.
- *Ravens*. (2017) Centrediscs. Producer Mark Adam. Chamber works and songs.
- *Electroacoustic Emergence*. (2012) Self-produced album of electroacoustic works.
- *I am Betty*. (2012) Single track "Let me in" included on northern compilation album.

Education

Masters of Music in Composition, University of Calgary, 2015

- Recipient of a Graduate Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Scholarship
- Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, Alberta Graduate Student Scholarship, University of Calgary Teaching Academy Member, Graduate Student Teaching Award

Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, Mentorship Program. 2011 - 2015. Yellowknife NT.

- Business development as an artist, peer mentorship, community engagement.

Bachelor of Music in Composition, Acadia University, 2009

- University Scholar Distinction, 2 years Dean's List, received various scholarships and awards

International Baccalaureate Diploma, 2004

- Lester B. Person United World College of the Pacific, British Columbia (2002-2004)
- One of 200 international students selected on full scholarship for outstanding school performance, community involvement, and demonstrated leadership ability.

Prior Major Achievements

Commissions, Premieres and Performances of classical works

- Toronto Symphony Orchestra - commission and premiere - *Blood Echo*. Toronto, Yellowknife.
- Toronto Summer Music - *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars*. TSO Chamber Soloists.
- Stratford Festival sound design for nationally -acclaimed new play *The Breathing Hole*.
- Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition commissioned - *Foxy Fox's Musical Games* May, Brandon MB.
- National Arts Centre Orchestra - *The Raven Conspiracy* - Wolfgang Sessions. January, Ottawa.
- Western Arctic Moving Pictures - *Changes 360* video. New Chapter Canada 150. January, Yellowknife.
- *Yenene Yati /Arnat Oqaussiit / Women's Words* - sound design. February, Yellowknife.
- Fifth Wind - *What Happens When We Move* - New Chapter Canada 150, Montreal premiere Sept 2018.
- France Benoit - *Three Drops* - soundtrack.
- *Ravens* - solo studio album Nominated WCMA Classical Composition of the Year for *Magnetic North*.
- Land's End Ensemble commission and premiere - *In the Marrow Lives a Woman* - June, Calgary 2018
- Longest Night Society / Problematic Orchestra - *Every Freeze is Different* (Whitehorse). 2018
- National Arts Centre Orchestra members - *The Raven Conspiracy* - performances Yellowknife and Iqaluit 2017
- Premiered by the Problematic Orchestra, *Every Freeze is Different*. Whitehorse YK, December 2017.
- Premiered by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, *Blood Echo*. Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto ON, October 2018. Repeat performance by Table For Five, Yellowknife NT, November 2018.
- Premiered by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Chamber Soloists, *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars*. Toronto Summer Music Festival, August 2017,
- Premiered by the Cheng² Duo, *Frost Under Fire*. National Art Gallery, Ottawa ON, June 2017.
- Premiered by Spiritus Chamber Choir + string ensemble, *The Ice Seasons*. Calgary AB, March 2017. Repeat performance Yellowknife NT.
- Premiered by Gryphon Trio and Patricia O'Callaghan, *Sky Eyes*. Norman Wells, NWT, December 2016.
- Performed by James Ehnes and Andrew Armstrong, *Magnetic North*. Koerner Hall, Toronto, RCM 21C Music Festival May 2016. Repeat performances in Yellowknife, Whitehorse, Stratford ON.
- Premiered by Carmen Braden at ArtArctica, *SoundTelling*. Helsinki Finland, February 2016.
- Premiered by Gryphon Trio, *Candle Ice*. Yellowknife NT, November 2013. Repeat performances at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival 2014 and University of Toronto New Music Festival 2016.
- Premiered by GroundSwell, *Rest of Night*. Winnipeg MB, January 2015.
- Premiered by Land's End Ensemble, *The Bedrock Cycles*. Land's End Ensemble Composer Competition, audience prize, Calgary AB, 2016.
- Premiered by the University of Calgary Orchestra, *Parhelio*. Calgary AB, January 2014.
- Premiered by Elmer Iseler Singers. *Lake Skin*. NWT tour 2012, repeat performances including at the Elmer Iseler Singers 35th Anniversary Concert, Toronto 2014.
- Premiered by Penderecki Quartet, *The Raven Conspiracy*. Yellowknife NT, September 2013.

Major solo/group performances and collaborations

- Atlin Arts and Music Festival, Solo artist, Atlin BC, July 2018.
- Folk on the Rocks, Solo artist, Yellowknife NT, July 2018
- Bentway Conservancy Grand Opening, Solo artist, Toronto, January 2018.
- Stratford Summer Music Festival Cabaret Series, Solo artist,(Stratford Sept 2017)
- Collaboration artist - New North Collective tour including Koerner Hall, Toronto; National Arts centre, Ottawa; NACC, Yellowknife; Horizon Stage, Spruce Grove AB; Alumni Hall, Vermillion AB.
- James Ehnes - accompanist. Stratford Summer Music Festival August 2017.
- New North Collective member (2015 to present). Performances in Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Ontario.
- Moxi Zishi, renowned Chinese Yi artist. Collaboration for Destination Canada, December 2016.
- Jazz Festivals Canada Showcase. Victoria, November 2016.
- Folk on the Rocks. Yellowknife. collaboration participant 2012, 2013. Collaboration leader, 2014.
- Atlin Arts and Music Festival. With the Borderless Art Movement. July 2013.
- Northern Scene. Ottawa. 2012.
- *Electroacoustic Emergence*. Solo electroacoustic show, May 2012.
- National Youth Choir. NWT representative. May 2012.
- Vancouver Olympics 2010. NWT Performer Collective - composer and performer.
- *Shattering the Silence*. Acadia University New Music Festival 2009.

Community Participation - Music outreach and community engagement

- Stratford Summer Music Festival - songwriting camp director August - Stratford, ON. 2017
- *Listen Up!* Music youth outreach program - Gryphon Trio and Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Saskatoon 2017-2018, and NWT (Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Simpson) 2014-2015.
- Private music teacher, Yellowknife 2012 - present.
- NWTTA Workshop Instructor. Yellowknife 2018.
- *DreamCatchers150*. Youth engagement and arts workshop with national theatre and arts project, Canada150. Yellowknife 2017.
- *Music Morphosis*. Music youth outreach program - Gryphon Trio and Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Inuvik, Fort Smith, Yellowknife 2016.
- Canadian Association of Sound Ecology board member - Chair 2016-present, Vice Chair 2013-2016.
- Music workshops - Foster Family Coalition of the NWT. Yellowknife 2016.
- University of Calgary Teaching Academy Member 2014 - 2017.
- Stanton Hospital Extended Care - volunteers to play music for seniors and people with dementia. 2010-2017.
- Yellowknife Choral Society- conductor, performer, accompanist 2009-2013
- Borderless Art Movement board member - Secretary - 2011-2013. Project leader for performances, community artist development programs.
- Defining Moments Youth Workshop Leader - Taking IT Global - Yellowknife NT and Arviat Nunavut 2012.

List of Compositions

Chamber Ensemble / Solo

- *The Seed Knows*. Violin and piano. Commissioned and premiered by Duo Concertante. Aug 12 2020, online.
- *Ghost of a Giant in the Ground*. Trombone and percussion. Commissioned and premiered by Dale Sorensen. Jan 2020, Mount Allison University, Sackville NB.
- *Foxy Fox's Musical Games*. Commissioned by the Eckhardt-Gramatée Competition. 2018.
- *What Happens When We Move*. Wind Quintet. Commissioned by Fifth Wind, Canada 150. Premiere Sept 2018 by Choros, Montreal QC.
- *Every Freeze is Different. Flexible instrumentation, 9 parts*. Premiered by the Problematic Orchestra, Whitehorse YK. Commissioned by the Longest Night Society. December 2018.
- *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars*. String Quartet, Horn, Flute, Oboe. Premiered by the TSO Chamber Soloists. Commissioned by Toronto Summer Music. Toronto, ON, August 2017.
- *Bend, Willow Branch*. Clarinet, Cello, Violin. Commissioned by Classics On Stage Yellowknife. Premiered June 2017
- *Frost over Fire*. Piano and Cello. Premiered June 2017 by the Cheng² Duo, Ottawa ON.
- *Sky Eyes*. Piano Trio and voice. Premiered by the Gryphon Trio and Patricia O'Callaghan, Yellowknife NT, December 2016. Repeat Performances in Inuvik, Fort Smith, Fort Providence NWT.
- *Magnetic North*. Violin and Piano. Premiered by James Ehnes and Andrew Armstrong, Yellowknife NT, May 2016. Repeat performances at Koerner Hall, Toronto 21C Festival May 2016; Whitehorse December 2016, Stratford Summer Music Festival, Stratford ON July 2017.
- *The Rest of Night*. Clarinet and Contrabass. Premiered by GroundSwell, Winnipeg, December 2015.
- *Candle Ice*. Piano Trio and electroacoustic track. Premiere by the Gryphon Trio, Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival August 2014.
- *The Bedrock Cycles*. Piano Trio. Calgary, 2014. Premiered by the Land's End Ensemble. Finalist in the Land's End Ensemble Composer Competition, recipient of the Audience Prize.
- *The Raven Conspiracy*. String Quartet premiered by the Penderecki Quartet, Yellowknife NT. September 2013.
- *First Frost*. Piano Trio premiered by the Gryphon Trio, Yellowknife NT, January 2013.
- *Splitting Wood*. Solo Marimba. Premiered by Anthony Savidge, Wolfville NS, March 2005

Large Ensemble

- *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars - chamber orchestra version*. Chamber Orchestra. Premiered by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Toronto, ON, November 2019.
- *The Blood Echo*. Premiere planned for October 2017 by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toronto, ON.
- *Parhelia*. Orchestra. Premiered by the University of Calgary Orchestra, Calgary January 2014.
- *End of the Road*. Commissioned by the Northwest Territories Performing Collective to compose, arrange and direct the finale of the NWT Showcase performed at a medal ceremony and several large venues at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

Vocal / Choral

- *Aviva Swims*. SSAA+ Accompaniment. Premiere by Aeolian Singers, Halifax NS June 2020.
- *And this is all? What one poor kiss?* SATB+Accompaniment. Premiere by Canzona, Winnipeg MB, March 2020.
- *Crooked by Nature*. SSAATTBB. Premiered by Luminous Voices, Calgary AB, February 2020
- *Where Waters Meet*. SSAATTBB. Premiered by The Canadian Chamber Choir, Yellowknife NT, October 2019.
- *The Raven Translations*. Soprano, Bass Clarinet, Piano, Violin. Premiered by Ensemble Resonance, Calgary AB, April 2019.
- *The Ice Seasons*. SSAATB, 2 Violins, 2 Violas, 2 Cellos and Soundfiles. Premiered by Spiritus Chamber Choir, Calgary AB, March 2017. Repeat performance March 26 2017, Yellowknife NT.
- *In the Merry Month*. SATB and piano. Premiere by Aurora Choralis, Yellowknife, April 2016. Repeat performance Yellowknife April 2017.
- *Winter Lullaby*. Soprano and Piano. Premiered by Jennifer Humphries Micallef and Linda Wong at the University of Calgary New Music Festival, January 2014. Performed again at the University of Waterloo, and Acadia University.
- *Lake Skin*. SATB. Premiere by the Elmer Iseler Singers, Yellowknife NT February 2014. Ontario Premiere at Elmer Iseler Singers 35th Anniversary Concert, May 2014.
- *La Terre Attend*. SATB, flute, violin, cello. Commissioned by Yellowknife Choral Society and Classics On Stage Yellowknife, premiered November 2012.
- *Sparrows*. Written for the Yellowknife Choral Society, premiered 2010.

- *In a Grand Pre Garden*. Commissioned by the Canadian Music Centre to compose a work for voice and clarinet, premiered at the Acadia University Shattering the Silence New Music Festival 2010.
- *The Light Thief*. Voice and Electroacoustics. Premiered at Northern Scene, Ottawa 2012 in connection with the National Arts Centre. Alberta Premiere May 2014, University of Calgary. Finland Premiere at ArtArctica Festival, Helsinki Finland, February 2016.
- *Electroacoustic Emergence*. Solo electroacoustic music concert supported by the NWT Arts Council, premiered in Yellowknife, April 2012. Presentation of 6 original electroacoustic works as well as live-processing performance. Also involved multi-media collaboration with local visual artists.

Dance / Storytelling

- *Silver Lining*. Electroacoustic - for dance - premiered at ArtArctica Festival, Helsinki, Finland. Composition for contemporary dance *Sinking/Floating*.
- *The Character of Two*. Saxophone and Percussion - for dance - premiered at Mainstage, University of Calgary, March 2014.
- *Mad Trapper of Rat River*. Piano, voice, saxophone, drums, guitar - for interdisciplinary theatre. Premiered by the Borderless Art Movement. at the Atlin Arts and Music Festival, July 2013. Second performance at Folk on the Rocks Music Festival, Yellowknife July 2013.
- *Threads of Memory*. Solo piano - for dance - premiered by the Yellowknife Dance Collective.
- *Sedna*. 4 female voices, clarinet, flute, percussion, cello and electroacoustics - for interdisciplinary theatre. 45-minute production of electroacoustics, live performers, spoken word, live painting and dance of the Inuit legend of the sea goddess Sedna. Supported by the NWT Arts Council, and the Borderless Art Movement!, premiered Yellowknife March 2012.

Film Score

- *Beyond Expectations*, Ottawa.
- *Chasing Ninth*, Yellowknife 2013. Composer, performer, recording technician for music in a 90-minute documentary of a bicycle race across America.
- *Tundra Cowboy*, Yellowknife 2013. Composer, performer, recording technician for the music for a 17-minute documentary of a reindeer herder in Inuvik, NWT.
- *Song for the Dead*, Yellowknife 2010. Composer, performer, recording technician for the music for a 15-minute short film.
- *Wide Quietness*. Toronto 2015. Electroacoustic work *Inopa Naipo* included in a new media poem about swimming pools by Pierre Tremblay.

Sound Design

- *Yenene Yati /Arnat Oqaussiit / Women's Words*. Directed by Micheline Chevrier. Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Yellowknife. 2018.
- *The Breathing Hole*. Stratford Festival, ON. Premiered August 18, 2017. Directed by Reneltta Arluk.
- *Sedna: Goddess of the Sea*. Table D'hôte Theatre. Premiere at the Segal Centre, Montreal, Que. October 2013.
- *Inside Out*. Yellowknife Dance Collective. Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Yellowknife 2013.
- *How the Light Gets In* - Northern Scene, Ottawa ON, 2013. Electroacoustic soundscapes and spoken word performance.
- *The Odd Couple*. Director Michelle Letourneau. Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Yellowknife 2011.
- *My Brother's Keeper*. Director Heather Ross. Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Yellowknife 2010.