

Kendra Harder

Composer, Arranger, Guitarist, and Feminist Musicologist

1 – 238 Main St | Saskatoon, SK S7N 0B5 | (306) 716-5187

kendraharder@outlook.com

COMPOSITIONS

Current and Upcoming Projects:

Newly Out (March 2023 – October 2023)

Libretto by Kendra Harder

Art songs for contralto/flex* and piano exploring my experience being newly out

*contralto/flex is a range I'm exploring of a low AFAB voice range with optional higher and lower extensions to create room for a larger variety of voice types

Feministory (February – April 2023)

Collating and expanding research from “Musical Herstory” to include gender diverse composers, and BIPOC composers of *any* gender; Creation of online platform that will function as a growing library of resources on composers from historically marginalized demographics

Sponsored by SK Arts

Orchestral work celebrating life after the patriarchy (TBD 2023 – 2025)

Commission will feature movements written by different composers from underrepresented demographics

Commissioned by Carol Edwards through the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

Past Compositions

OPERA & ART SONG

Message in the Snow, Libretto by Kendra Harder (2020, 2023) – contralto and piano

Developed at two separate 24-hour Compose-a-thons

But Réamann, Libretto by Kendra Harder (2022) (*first draft*) – mezzo-soprano and piano

Developed at the Fresh Squeezed Opera Vocal Lab 2022

Silver Linings, Libretto by Christine Parcells (2021) – soprano and piano

PWYC Commission Consortium led by Danielle Strong and Matthew Praksas

Orpheus & Eurydice: Nox, Libretto by Michelle K. Telford, Dramaturgy by Cori Ellison (2021 – 2022). *Unfinished*.

Principals: contralto/flex*, mezzo-soprano, soprano, and baritone; Chorus; Piano and violin
Funded through SK Arts, Canada Council for the Arts, and a crowdfunding campaign on Ko-Fi; and has been workshopped thanks to the in-kind donations of Musique 3 Femmes, Dan School of Drama & Music, and the University of Saskatchewan

**this is a flex-role with alternate lower and higher notes to create space for transgender opera singers*

É Amore un ladroncello (re-imagined) (2020) – mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble
Commissioned by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Saskatoon Opera, Free Flow Dance Company and Collectif for *Mozart Re-Reimagined* directed by Danika Loren

Book of Faces, Libretto by Michelle K. Telford (2018 – 2019) – soprano, mezzo-soprano and piano

Winner of the 2018 Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes – English Language Prize

Orpheus and Eurydice...ish, Libretto by Michelle K. Telford and Kendra Harder (2017) – 2 soprani, flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, horn, bassoon, and piano
Commissioned by the Strata Festival of New Music in collaboration with Little Opera on the Prairie

Myriads, Text by Kendra Harder (2014 – 2017) – mezzo-soprano, piano and guitar

SOLO

Sea of Dead White Men (2019 – 2022) – classical guitar and video
Commentary on the programming of operas as reflected in a local library's collection of operatic DVDs – all works available were composed by white men who have long since died

Babbitt (2016) – classical guitar

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Scandalous (Homage to Chiquinha Gonzaga) (2023) – guitar and flute duo
Commissioned by the Azuline Duo

Middle of the Road (Nathan Coppens), **We're Gonna Do This Thing** (2021) – violin, cello and piano
Commission for the processional and recessional for a private wedding

All the Different Parts (2021) – wind quintet
Workshopped with Mistral 5 thanks to the in-kind donation of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra
Project was funded by the SK Arts Independent Artist Grant

Time Loop Trio (2020) – contrabassoon, pipe organ and double bass
Commissioned by the Strata Festival of New Music

Sore Thumbs (2020) – Multi-composer composition tag with Emmett Fortosky, Jane Waddell, Kyle Rausch, Emma Kramer-Roger, Spencer Krips, Rory Lynch, Kirsten Ewart and Tiess McKenzie. Organized and led by Kendra Harder.

Verboden te Storten (2020) – saxophone quartet
Created at the 24-Hour Composition Extravaganza

Sketches of Saskatoon (2019) – baritone/alto saxophone, violin, cello and percussion

Cat Fight (2018) – clarinet and percussion
Commissioned by the Goodchild Grady Duo

Carrot Sandwich (2018) – oboe, soprano, mezzo-soprano, and piano
Created at the 24-Hour Composition Extravaganza

Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Double Bass (2017) – oboe, bassoon and double bass

It Won't Be Ready Next Week (2017) – cello and piano
Commissioned by the family of Charmaine and Joseph Taylor

LARGE ENSEMBLE

When You Accidentally Wish Upon a Satellite (2022) – Big Band
PWYC Commission Consortium led by the Footnotes Jazz Collective

Oostende (2020) – Level 3+ High School Wind Band
PWYC Commission Consortium

ARRANGEMENTS

How Can He Live Without His Euridice? (from my opera *Orpheus & Eurydice...ish*)
(2022) – soprano and wind octet
Commissioned by Steven D. Davis and Anya Pogorelova supported by the UMKC Martha Jane Starr Library Research Award

Mozart Re-imagined (Mozart) (2021) – reduction of orchestra parts of various Mozart arias for COVID-sized orchestra
Commissioned by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

Schlafendes Jesuskind (Hugo Wolf) (2020) – COVID-sized string orchestra
Commissioned by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

Julia Florida (Agustín Barrios) (2018) – wind quintet

Can She Excuse (John Dowland) (2018) – soprano, ATB, guitar, violin, and double bass

Opus 64 (Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64*) (2017) – big band

PERFORMANCES OF WORKS

*denotes premiere

Upcoming Performances

- March 2023 – Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Double Bass – Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Saskatoon, SK
- TBD [Postponed cause of COVID] – All the Different Parts, Blythwood Winds, *Ontario premiere*, Toronto ON
- TBD [Postpone cause of COVID] – All the Different Parts, Fifth Wind, *Nova Scotia Premiere*, Halifax, NS

Past Performances

- October 2022 – How Can He Live Without His Euridice (*Orpheus & Eurydice...ish*), Conducted by Anya Pogorelova at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri
- September 2022 – But Réamann* – Fresh Squeezed Opera sung by Stephanie Feigenbaum, Online
- June 2022 – *Oostende**, St. Joseph High School under the baton of Shaun Bzdel, Saskatoon, SK

- May 2022 – *When You Accidentally Wish Upon a Satellite**, Footnotes Jazz Collective under the baton of Paul Suchan, Strata Festival of New Music, Saskatoon, SK
- March 2022 – *Sea of Dead White Men*, Kendra Harder, online
- May 2021 – *All the Different Parts**, Mistral 5, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Mother's Day Concert, Saskatoon, SK and online
- March 2021 – *Babbit*, Emma Rush, International 21st Century Guitar Festival Virtual Concert, Hamilton, ON
- June 2021 – *Time Loop Trio**, Strata Festival of New Music under the baton of Spencer Krips, Lowest Instruments in Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- June 2021 – *É Amore un ladroncello (reimagined)*, Saskatoon Opera and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maria Fuller, sung by Oli Guselle, Mozart Re-Imagined, online
- January 2021 – *Message in the Snow*, 24-Hour Composition Extravaganza, Saskatoon, SK
- December 2020 – *Schlafendes Jesuskind* (arr. Hugo Wolf), Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra under the baton of William Rowson, sung by Casey Peden, A Candlelight Christmas, online
- September 2020 – *Book of Faces*, Ensemble Vocal arts Quebec, Sans Souvlaki Voice Series, Montreal QC
- February 2020 – *Cat Fight*, Goodchild Grady Duo, Message Exchange, Victoria, BC
- January 2020 – *Verboden te Storten*, 24-Hour Composition Extravaganza, Saskatoon, SK
- August 2019 – *Book of Faces*, Highland's Opera Studio 2019 Summer Season, Women in Music: Then & Now, Halliburton, ON
- June 2019 – *Sketches of Saskatoon**, Strata Festival of New Music under the baton of Paul Suchan, Saskatoon, SK
- May 2019 – *Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Double Bass**, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players, Mother's Day Celebration, Saskatoon, SK
- March 2019 – *Book of Faces**, Musique 3 Femmes, The Next Wave, Toronto, ON
- March 2019 – *Take it to Tumblr (Book of Faces)*, Musique 3 Femmes, Canadian Opera Company's Free Concert Series: The Next Wave, Toronto, ON
- March 2019 – *Take it to Tumblr (Book of Faces)*, Suzanne Rigden, Sunday Music in the Garden Room, Wolfville, NS
- September 2018 – *Take it to Tumblr (Book of Faces)*, Musique 3 Femmes, Opera.ca Changing Worlds Summit, Montreal, QC
- September 2018 – *Take it to Tumblr (Book of Faces)*, Musique 3 Femmes, Prix 3 Femmes Winners in Concert, Montreal, QC
- September 2018 – *Cat Fight*, Goodchild Grady Duo, From Far and Wide, Toronto, ON
- July 2018 – *Cat Fight* (European premiere), Goodchild Grady Duo, ClarinetFest2018, Oostende, Belgium
- June 2018 – *Cat Fight**, Goodchild Grady Duo, Strata Festival of New Music, Saskatoon, SK
- March 2018 – *Can She Excuse* (arr. John Dowland), Kendra Harder and Ensemble, Fourth Year Guitar Recital, Saskatoon, SK
- February 2018 – *Opus 64* (arr. Felix Mendelssohn), University of Saskatchewan Jazz Ensemble under the baton of Dean McNeill, The Bassment, Saskatoon, SK
- January 2018 – *Carrot Sandwich*, 24-Hour Composition Extravaganza, Saskatoon, SK

- July 2017 – *Opus 64* (arr. Felix Mendelssohn), University of Saskatchewan Summer Jazz Ensemble under the baton of Dean McNeill, Sasktel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, Saskatoon, SK
- June 2017 – *Orpheus and Eurydice...ish**, Little Opera on the Prairie under the baton of Paul Suchan, Strata Festival of New Music, Saskatoon, SK
- June 2016 – *Myriads**, Erica McFadden, Matthew Praksas, and Kendra Harder, Strata Festival of New Music Emerging Composers Masterclass, Saskatoon, SK
- February 2016 – *Babbit**, Kendra Harder, Second Year Guitar Recital, Saskatoon, SK

PRESENTATIONS AND PROJECTS

February 2023 – Onwards – Feministory

Researcher & Organizer

Sponsored by SK Arts

- Collating and expanding research from “Musical Herstory” to include gender diverse composers, and BIPOC composers of *any* gender
- Creation of online platform that will function as a growing library of resources on composers from historically marginalized demographics

February 2023 - Telling Story Through Music

Visiting Artist Workshop

Listen to 'Dis

- Creating and leading an online music class about creating music for stories aimed at pupils with varying music experience

May 2022 – Orpheus & Eurydice: Nox

Composer-in-residence

University of Saskatchewan

Sponsored by Musique 3 Femmes

- 3-day music workshop of my opera-in-progress, *Nox*, culminating in a semi-staged performance for future collaborators, Opera Q

February 2022 – Opera, as in: Writing One

Co-panelist with librettist Michelle K. Telford, and music director Jennifer Szeto

University of Saskatchewan, Department of Music

- Fine Arts Lecture and Recital Series (FARLS) hosted via Zoom

February 2022 – Orpheus & Eurydice: Nox

University of Saskatchewan

- Due to COVID, the original workshop planned with Musique 3 Femmes was postponed
- In lieu of original 3-day workshop, together with Cori Ellison over Zoom, I spent the afternoon with vocal students and alumni of the U of S who workshopped the music of Act I of opera-in-progress *Nox* under the coaching of Kathy Gable

October 2021 – Music in Canada

Guest Speaker

University of Saskatchewan

- Spoke about my work and experiences as a composer living and working in Canada today in Dr. Amanda Lalonde's online class

June 2021 – Trans and Non-Binary Composer and Musicians Panel

Moderator and co-organizer

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

- A panel highlighting trans and non-binary composers and musicians where they could talk about their work and the issues they face from their perspective
- On the panel were inti figgis-vizueta, iT Boy, Dr. CN Lester, respectfulchild, Camille Rogers

May – June 2021 – Herstory 2.0

Researcher and teacher

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

- Six-week online course about female composers looking at how historical and living women have been kicking ass in the “sacred male” genres

September – October 2020 – Musical Herstory

Researcher and teacher

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

- Six-week online course about female composers and the historical reasons behind why their music has been intentionally forgotten

BOARD EXPERIENCES

Canadian League of Composers

Advisory Council – Advocacy (co-chair), and Equity

2022 – Present

Strata Festival of New Music

Board Member

2019 - Present

PERFORMANCE

Saskatoon Summer Players

- 2022 – *9 to 5* (guitar)
- 2019 – *Sweeney Todd* (Assistant Music Director)
- 2017 – *Spamalot* (guitar)
- 2016 – *Grease* (guitar)
- 2015 – *Cabaret* (banjo)
- 2015 – *Shrek – the Musical!* (guitar)
- 2013 – *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (chorus)
- 2013 – *Broadway Bash X* (vocalist & chorus)

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- 2016 – *The Last Five Years* (guitar)

Chamber & Solo performance

- 2018 – Saskatoon Guitar Society – An Evening with the Guitar (solo guitar)
- 2018 – Saskatoon Public Library – Music in the Gallery (solo guitar)
- 2018 – The Galliard Foundation – Classical Variety Night (solo guitar)
- 2017 – Strata Festival of New Music – Emerging Composer’s Master Class (guitar)

- 2013 – University of Saskatchewan Community Chorus – *Magnificat* (J.S. Bach) (alto soloist & chorister)
- 2013 – University of Saskatchewan Community Chorus – *Gloria* (Antonio Vivaldi) (alto soloist & chorister)

Choir performance

- 2022 – Saskatoon Symphony Chorus – *Dixit Dominus* (Marianna Martines)
- 2017 – University of Saskatchewan Community Chorus with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra – *Golden Harvest* (Larysa Kuzmenko)
- 2015 – University of Saskatchewan Community Chorus with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra – *A Sea Symphony* (Ralph Vaughan Williams)
- 2014 – University of Saskatchewan Community Chorus with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra – *Requiem* (Gabriel Fauré)
- 2005 – Briercrest Community Chorus – *Requiem* (W.A. Mozart)
- 2004 – Briercrest Community Chorus – *Gloria* (Antonio Vivaldi)

GRANTS, AWARDS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- 2022 – Fresh Squeezed Opera Digital Vocal Lab – *Fresh Squeezed Opera* (New York)
- 2022 & 2018 – Microgrant – *SK Arts*
- 2021 – One-on-One Mentorship with Vel Omazic (CMI Co-founder and Executive Director) – *Canada's Music Incubator and Creative Saskatchewan*
- 2021 – Explore & Create – Research & Creation – *Canada Council for the Arts*
- 2022, 2020 & 2019 – Independent Artist – *SK Arts*
- 2019 (x2) – Arts Across Canada – *Canada Council for the Arts*
- 2018 – Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes (English Language) – *Musique 3 Femmes*

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Music, Individualized: Classical Guitar
University of Saskatchewan

2013 – 2018

Business Office Specialist
Records Information Analysis
Saskatoon Business College

2012

Associate of Arts in Music
Private Saskatchewan College

2004 – 2006

Teachers & Mentors

Niloufar Nourbakhsh (*composition*)
New York, NY | Composer, Pianist, Educator
2021 – 2022

Alexandra Gardner (*composition and entrepreneurship*)
Baltimore, Maryland | Composer
2020 – 2021

James Rolfe (*composition*)
Toronto, ON | Composer
2019

Paul Suchan (*composition*)
Saskatoon, SK | Composer, Performer, Educator
2018

Shelley Marwood (*composition*)
Toronto, ON | Composer
2018

Walter Hofmeister (*classical guitar at the University of Saskatchewan*)
Saskatoon, SK | Guitarist, Performer, Educator
2014 – 2018

Chris Kelly (*voice at the University of Saskatchewan*)
Saskatoon, SK | Baritone, Performer, Educator
2013 – 2014

Laurien Gibson (*voice*)
Saskatoon, SK | Soprano, Performer
2013

Master Classes & Seminars

- August 2022 – Make Your Website Work for You (Alexandra Gardner, International Alliance of Women in Music)
- June 2022 – Fresh Squeezed Opera Vocal Lab (Daniel Klein, Sunny Knable, Whitney George, Jillian Fettner)
- September 2021 – Managing Your Music Business (Creative Saskatchewan & Canada's Music Incubator)
- April 2021 – Collaboration, Best Practices (American Lyric Theatre)
- April 2021 – Opera and the Law (American Lyric Theatre)
- March 2021 – Architecture of Opera (American Lyric Theatre)
- December 2020 – Composer Street Smarts (Alexandra Gardner)
- June 2017 – Emerging Composer Masterclass (Allan Gilliland, Strata Festival of New Music)
- May 2017 – Composer Masterclass (Shelley Marwood, Goodchild Grady Duo)