

## KATYA PINE: COMPOSER BIO

An affiliate composer of the Canadian Music Centre, Katya Pine's multi-racial and musical backgrounds have given her an appreciation for all styles of musical expression. As a composer, she has made it her mission to be as well-rounded and versatile as possible. Displayed on her YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@katyapinecomposer>, and also <https://www.pineproductions.ca> are her varied projects and musical styles.

Katya received her Composition degree as a Dean's List Scholar at the University of Toronto. A recipient of the prestigious Chalmers Award through the Ontario Arts Council, Katya continued her post-graduate studies in London, England with composer Charles Camilleri and continued the expansion of her compositional skills in the "Jazz and Contemporary Music" program at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta where she worked as a gigging musician for many years. Her interest in film music took her to become a member of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada and also led her to become an assistant instructor at the Toronto Film School. She has composed the music to the Documentary series, "The Moving Child" and indie sci-fi film, "The Forerunner" amongst others.

Katya enjoys writing music that connects to strong social messages. She recently received a Canada Council grant to complete composing the opera, "More Than a Queen" on a libretto by f.g. klingenberg that tells the story of Josephine Bonaparte in a powerful woman's story, told from a feminist perspective. A recent commission, "Say the Names" for acapella choir received its debut at Montreal's Maison Symphonique in January 2024. "Say the Names" is a compelling poem by Dipika Mukherjee about a gunman's shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, U.S.A. It will be released on an ATMA recording in 2025 by Ensemble ArtChoral, Montreal under the direction of Matthias Maute. "Darkness in Sarajevo" an excerpt of a podcast entitled "Rape Interrupted" still in development, is about gender violence set in war-torn Bosnia in the 1990's. A very relevant modern-day issue, it is based on a blog by Marica Jacobs who worked as a trauma counsellor in Bosnia. "Ke'ev Mil'khama: The Pain of War" is a viola solo that premiered as part of Vancouver Pro Musica's "Sonic Boom" at Vancouver's Pyatt Hall in the spring of 2024. Still awaiting its premiere is the chamber opera, "Beginning", an apocalyptic love story, on a libretto by U.S. playwright, Germaine Shames.

Katya continues to receive commissions and projects that are becoming part of the Canadian musical landscape and beyond. She has written extensively for voice. Her unique song cycle, "A Salutation to Life", for soprano, piano, sitar and tambura, was instrumentally performed by her and broadcast on CBC Radio's, Music Toronto. Her song cycles, "The Garden Going on Without Us" and "Wild Birds", for piano and mezzo soprano, with overlays of alto flute, are composed to the words of Order of Canada recipient and poet, Lorna Crozier. These 2 song cycles are featured on her CD, "Taking Flight" (<https://open.spotify.com/album/3nPj0cmCaxn47JgIVYksl5>) which includes "A Piece of Alligator Pie", a whimsical song cycle set to the words of Canadian poet, Dennis Lee.

Katya's vocal compositions were performed at "Opera Briefs" at Theatre Passe Muraille as a result of her participation in the 2011 Composer-Librettist Laboratory (LibLab) through Tapestry New Works Opera Theatre. During the LibLab, Katya composed 5 new operatic scenes in collaboration with librettists from across Canada and USA. The experience at LibLab laid the fertile groundworks for the current full-length opera, "More Than a Queen".