

Sara Fraser-Raff – Strings



Sarah is a JUNO-nominated chamber violinist, a recipient of the 2024 TMA Member of the Year Award, a founding member of the Madawaska String Quartet and is the principal violinist of the CONTAQT New Music Ensemble. Her groups have performed internationally at Festival Ibero Americano, Massachusetts Institute of technology, Huddersfield New Music Festival, Bang on a Can, Museum of Modern Art, Experimental Media and Performing Arts Centre Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art LOUD weekend, and Ecstatic Music Festival at Columbia University. She has collaborated on numerous recordings, including the Juno-winning classical composition of the year Bestiary I & II by Bekah Simms, and the

Canadian Screen Music Award winner of David Attenborough documentary. The Madawaska Quartet has premiered over 30 works and presented workshops for composers across Canada.

Her formative musical training began in Japan. Studying under the acclaimed Tokyo String Quartet Koichiro Harada, she earned a BA in Music Performance from the Toho Gakuen Music School in Tokyo. She continued her studies with the late Lorand Fenyves attaining a Master of Music in Performance from University of Toronto and an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory. She joined the Royal Conservatory violin faculty and the college of examiners.

Her students have been accepted into Interlochen Centre for the Arts Summer Music Program, Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier, and York universities. Her students participate in all levels of the Royal Conservatory Certificate Program. She coaches chamber music at The Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists and U of T (Scarborough), Kincardine, and Port Milford summer schools. Sarah is a co-facilitator for the Royal Conservatory's inaugural online course - Teaching Elementary Violin.

As a freelancer, she has performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet of Canada, Tapestry New Opera, Arraymusic, Soundstreams Canada, Esprit Orchestra, and various stage musical productions appearing onstage with Jay-Z, Mary J Blige, Rod Stewart, Sarah Slean, and Seal and in music videos of K-OS and Blue Rodeo. Notably, she joined the Canadian Opera Company's 2025 production of Alban Berg's Wozzeck as a Banda musician, as part of the staged ensemble.