



Opera From Scratch

Testimonials

"A life changing experience."

"This was a fantastically rich week."

"It is programs like this which bring art to life!"

"This program is a rare and precious gem on the Canadian musical landscape!"

"Opera From Scratch is a creative and stimulating haven."

"I will always remember how I reconnected to my singing soul at Opera From Scratch."

"The Opera From Scratch workshop will provide an essential window into writing for voice for any composer."

"A very rewarding experience and successful endeavor, celebrating Nova Scotian content."

"One thing that stands out about Opera From Scratch is its emphatic focus on the collaborative process and on building the sense of a shared project. By the end of the week, I found myself deeply invested in the success of all my fellow participants' work."

"The approach to creating opera fostered in the Opera From Scratch program is totally in line with the changing needs and definitions of the genre."

"This was a tremendous program; one which I hope has a long future ahead. Thank you, truly, for letting me take part!"

"Opera from Scratch is a gem. The positive, nurturing environment helps singers and composers of all ages and experience levels explore what it means to create, and leaves no room for egos or inhibitions. It is programs like this which bring art to life!"

"Opera from Scratch was fantastic. I highly recommend it to any composers or performers interested in being part of an exciting collaboration, creating new opera."

"It's rare that a program has passion and fire that burns visibly at every level. The magic of OFS begins with Janice and continues through the mentors, classes, composers, and performers. Watching the process and culmination of the OFS Program shows the apparent passion, talents, and magic that I believe only exists at OFS. It was an honor to be a part of this process."

"Opera from Scratch is a great learning experience and I recommend it to any composer or singer interested in experiencing new opera."

"Opera From Scratch is more than just an opera program. It's a full experience, jam packed with information and supported by excellent faculty. Because of my time here, I have tangible tools to bring to everything I sing. I recommend this program to anyone who dares to be, or who wants to dare. At Opera From Scratch, you get to know every faculty member and every member, making connections internationally and proving that at this program, it's impossible to fall through the cracks."

"Opera From Scratch is a unique and powerful creation experience and I sincerely hope it continues to foster emerging voices in opera performance and composition for years to come!"

"Opera From Scratch is a creative and stimulating haven. For me, it opened multiple doors of possibility such that upon leaving, my only question was... which one do I want to go through first?"

"Opera From Scratch is a unique program in both its focus on the dramatic imperative behind opera and in its inclusiveness of all participants in every aspect leading up to the final performance."

"Thanks to Opera From Scratch for my first contemporary opera creation experience! New operas are splendid!! I am hooked!!!"

"Opera From Scratch was such an engaging adventure for a composer. Watching my piece come to life with such care, commitment and passion over the week is an experience I won't soon forget. To be immersed in new opera for a week was truly thrilling, and I felt such a strong attachment to every piece and singer – it was like the formation of a creative family."

"Well organized, thought provoking, and all the sessions of coaching, presentation, rehearsal and performance were amazingly resonant for contemporary composers and singers."

"A safe, nurturing environment to explore all creative aspects of opera production!"

"OFS means spending a week working closely with soprano Janice Jackson. She's a brilliant singer and coach with a deep understanding of drama (and the most organic mastery of extended vocal techniques I've ever seen). Watching her coach six very different 10-minute premieres was like a week-long masterclass in how to communicate with singers and bring out the best performance you can of a vocal piece on any scale."

"A wonderful and formative musical experience. I've never had such a rich sense of satisfaction – which came from this new experience of deep collaboration. What a time. I got home and played for hours too!"

"I was amazed at how much I learned in such a short time. I now have a better understanding of the instrument of the voice. I was impressed by how dedicated and supportive all of the mentors and participants were and was honored by how dedicated they were to my music. I learned things about writing music, for voice and otherwise, that I will carry with me for the rest of my career."

"As a composer to witness a work moving from the page to the stage was extraordinary and the atmosphere was perfect for this development!"

"So worthwhile to attend and to perform music composed for your own voice. Performing modern music is fun!"

“Opera From Scratch is an incredible week of creativity. The participants and mentors provide a wonderful environment to develop composition and performance skills whether at the beginning or in later stages of a career. I highly recommend it.”

"The Opera From Scratch program was inspiring, incredibly informative and artistically rewarding. Throughout the process, there was an ideal balance between learning new concepts and applying them concretely. One example among many: the fundamentals of writing for voice were brought alive by a singing lesson for composers, sitting in on the vocalist's lessons, workshopping pieces in private lessons and masterclasses, and hearing the works of the other composers.”

“Working with a team of inspiring mentors ensured we had expert instruction in a wide range of relevant topics, from singing to composing to acting to dramaturgy.”

“The emphasis on collaboration between paired composers and singers was equally rewarding. From the initial composing process to workshopping the piece to preparing for the final performance, composers and singers were able to learn from each other and create pieces that were idiomatic, collaborative and personal.”

“The program has given me a solid foundation on how to write for voice and ways to approach contemporary opera, as well as a clear direction forward. It's not often a single week bears so much creative fruit!"