

## JOSEPH CORMIER



Joseph Cormier is a retired Instrumental music teacher from The Halifax Regional Centre for Education after 41 years in instrumental music and band. He continues to work part time as a Band and Brass Clinician for Halifax Regional Arts, Dartmouth Campus, as well as a supply teaching the for Halifax Regional Centre of Education. His past works include, Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble, Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble, Various Nova Scotia High School Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, and Chamber Music Ensembles. Over the years, his work also included the Acadia University Summer Music Academy, various summer band camps and clinics, as well as dozens of high school musicals and concert band tours in Canada and The United States.

He is often sought after as a band and chamber clinician and adjudicator throughout the province, including, The Atlantic Band Festival, The Nova Scotia Kiwanis Music Festival, and music festivals in Truro, New Glasgow, Queens Liverpool, Bridgewater and Lunenburg. He is also a very active past presenter at The Nova Scotia Music Educators Association Conventions.

Mr. Cormier is a graduate of Dalhousie University School of Music in Halifax in 1980, where he performed with the Dalhousie Concert Band and Brass Ensemble. Over the next twenty years, he performed with The Saint Mary's Basilica Choir, The Chebucto Singers and The Chebucto Symphony Orchestra. He presently continues to perform on trumpet with the Sackville Community Band.

Mr. Cormier is the recipient of numerous music and education awards including several Outstanding Band Director and Conductor awards from The Nova Scotia Kiwanis Music Festival, MusicFest Canada, Ovations Music Festivals in Toronto, and The Heritage International Music Festivals in both New York City, and Boston. Many of his students have gone on to the National Youth Band of Canada and the Orchestra of the Americas. In 2012, he was recipient of The Prime Minister's Award of Excellence and Innovation in Teaching. In 2013, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nova Scotia Music Educators Association. His passion to work with all music students continues.

## CHANTAL DIONNE



Prizewinner at the Montreal International Music Competition in 2005, the Canadian soprano distinguished herself in Italy the same year winning 1st prize, the public prize and the best foreign singer at the 56th Gian Battista Viotti International Competition. Her first recording of Rachmaninoff and Liszt songs entitled « Romances » with the pianist Louise-Andrée Baril has received international acclaim.

Recent performances for the soprano include Verdi's Requiem in Montreal and in Ottawa, Brahms's Requiem in Montréal and also Brückner's Mass no. 3 with the Montréal Philharmonic Orchestra. She also sang the soprano solo in the oratorio Elijah by Mendelssohn as well as in Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the Montreal Philharmonic Orchestra – the reviewer wrote : « *From the Kyrie to the Agnus Dei, the Canadian soprano demonstrated agility and remarkable vocal sensibility.* »

In Europe, she sang in France, in Italy, in England and in Austria.

Whether in concert or recital, Ms. Dionne demonstrates her vocal abilities in repertoire ranging from songs to lieder and opera to oratorio. She has performed with many symphony orchestras such as The Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Orchestra, Trois-Rivières Symphony Orchestra, New Brunswick Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta del Nuevo Mundo (Mexico), Moscow Symphony Orchestra and Teatro Regio de Turin Orchestra.

At the opera, Ms. Dionne has received much acclaim for her performances in roles such as *Micaëla* in *Carmen* by Bizet (France), as *Pamina* in *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart (Vienna), of *Véronique* in *Véronique* by Messager (France), of *Donna Anna* in *Don Giovanni* by Mozart (Italy) and *Marguerite* in *Faust* by Gounod (U.S.). Closer to home, we heard the soprano in the title role of *Adina* in Donizetti's *Elisir d'amore*, a *Flower Girl* in Wagner's opera *Parsifal* under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Festival Lanaudière as well as the role of *Françoise* in the lyric version of André Gagnon's *Nelligan* at Québec Opera. The reviewer wrote about her performance « *she plays her role to perfection, the voice is powerful and she brings a touch of emotion to this dramatic piece* ».

In 2019, Ms. Dionne was part of the worldwide premier of the new opera *Rabbi* by the composer Normand Gasnier in the title role *Marie* in Montréal. Recently, she was awarded the Best North American Singer by the World Folk Vision 2020 competition. Upcoming performances include the creation and premier of the opera *Albertine en 5 temps* by the author Michel Tremblay composed by Catherine Major. This production will be taking part of a national tour starting in October of 2022.

## CHRISTINE GALE HARRISON



Christine enjoys an eclectic musical career. Her first love was the piano, starting lessons at the age of five and achieving her performance ARCT in her early teens. Elementary school group violin lessons began a love affair with all things strings that endures today. After violin studies with Leo Wigdorichik in Toronto, she spent two seasons with the Regina Symphony. Moving back to Ontario, she began a freelance career that runs the gamut from symphonic, opera, and chamber music to theatre and popular music performance.

Orchestral work could see her playing with organizations such as the Hamilton Philharmonic and Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, or sitting as professional Concertmaster or Principal Second violin in several community orchestras. Much of her performing experience has been playing in the pit for performances ranging from Opera Hamilton and the

Canadian Opera Company, to the Bolshoi Ballet's "Swan Lake" performances in Toronto, to theatre shows like "Phantom of the Opera", "Showboat" and more. She has shared the stage with such popular artists as Anne Murray, Diana Krall and Justin Bieber and plays regularly with the Casino Rama orchestra. Christine's most cherished chamber orchestra experiences are from a western Canada tour with the Amadeus Ensemble and her time spent as a member of Lyra Borealis under the direction of a very young Paavo Järvi. String quartet playing is a particular passion, which led her to spend a year in New Brunswick as second violin of the Saint John String Quartet. She later established the now highly acclaimed "Basically Quartets" quartet courses held annually in Wales. Although Christine is an ensemble player at heart, some of her most rewarding performances have been solo violin concerts that she has designed specifically for people living with dementia.

Performing has always gone hand in hand with Christine's love of teaching. She has decades of experience as a teacher and maintains an active private studio. She is much in demand as a clinician, coach and adjudicator and also examines for the Royal Conservatory.

She is co-author of "The Athletic Musician - a guide to playing without Pain" and lectures internationally on the subject of musicians' injuries. Other publications include co-authoring the 2013 RCM Violin syllabus and co-editing the 2013 Violin Series. Christine is currently working on completing a comprehensive violin sight reading method and composing a volume of pedagogical violin études, three of which are published in the 2021 RCM Violin Series.

## JARED HARTT



Jared C. Hartt is the Margaret W. and David H. Barker Professor of Music at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he has taught for the past fifteen years. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Acadia University, an A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D in Music Theory from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jared has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in several cities throughout Canada and the United States. In addition to adjudicating at numerous festivals and competitions, he has been a senior piano examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music for the past twenty years. He is also an active music theorist, presenting his research on music of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries at several regional, national, and international conferences. In the past four years, Jared has had three books published, the last of which involves reconstructing the music notated on a damaged rotulus – a roll of music – from about 1300 that was discovered only in 2019 at the bottom of a trunk in a small manor house in England.

Born in Fredericton, Jared was named both Junior Star (1990) and Senior Star (1998) of the Fredericton Music Festival. He is both excited and grateful to be returning to his hometown to adjudicate this year.



## TARA SCOTT

Tara Scott is one of Atlantic Canada's most renowned collaborative pianists. Her love of teaching and performing has led her to pursue staff accompanist positions at Western, Dalhousie, Acadia, and Mount Allison Universities. She has performed extensively with singers, instrumentalists and choirs across Canada.

Tara has been music director and pianist for twenty full-length operas with Maritime Concert Opera. She co-founded, with Nina Scott-Stoddart, Halifax Summer Opera Workshop, an opera training program with fully staged productions, now in its sixteenth season. She has worked as Music Director for Eastern Front Theatre, Essential Opera, Acadia's Singing Theatre and has performed with Opera Nova Scotia, Opera New Brunswick and Halifax Theatre for Young People.

Tara maintains a busy private piano studio in Dartmouth NS and is on faculty at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts. She has adjudicated extensively for music festivals throughout the Maritimes and has worked as piano examiner for Mount Allison and the Maritime Conservatory. She is also the accompanist for Dalhousie's Collegium Cantorum, directed by Gary Ewer.

Tara received a Bachelor of Music Degree in piano performance from Mount Allison University, under the tutelage of Dr Janet Hammock. She studied with Dr John Hess at Western University, receiving a Master's degree of literature and performance in collaborative piano. Originally from Grand Bay-Westfield NB, Tara now resides in Dartmouth with her husband and three children. She is delighted to be adjudicating in Fredericton this year!

## **SARAH SHARPE**



Praised for the “warmth and depth” of her voice (The Argosy), Canadian Soprano, Sarah Sharpe, has a passion for music, which has led to experiences in performance, teaching, and choral conducting.

Well versed in vocal pedagogy, Sarah holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Mount Allison University, and a Master's of Music degree in Literature and Performance from the University of Western Ontario. She has also obtained several certificates in voice and piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Experience with solo, ensemble and choral music has led to a diverse background in music styles and genres, including jazz, pop, contemporary, musical theatre and classical music. Sarah's performance experience includes recitals, opera productions, choral concerts and music ensembles. Past opera roles include Ottavia in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, La Zelatrice in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, and Armelinde in Viardot's *Cendrillon*.

Most recently, Sarah has enjoyed growing her own music studio, teaching voice and piano in her hometown, Woodstock, New Brunswick.