Dr. Michael Donovan

Canadian Composer of opera, art song, oratorio, and film

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LANGUAGES

Complete fluency, written and spoken

- English
- French
- German

Extensive working knowledge

- Italian

COMPOSER (SELECTIONS)

2026:

- *Oh Grand Breath of Us All,* a secular oratorio with poet Sue Goyette
- World Premiere: *Songs By Animals*, Cecilia Concerts, Nova Scotia
- World Premiere: *Caroline's Sweeper,* a chamber opera, Open Waters Festival, Nova Scotia

2025:

- *Memories Beyond The Grave*, a chamber opera, Open Ears Festival, Ontario

2024:

- Juno Fest: Classical Nominees Showcase, CBC Music, Jennifer King performing *Vertical* (piano/voice).

2023:

- *Vertical,* Jennifer King, piano, voice, Nova Scotia Music Days, Nova Scotia
- World Premiere: *Memories Beyond The Grave,* a chamber opera, Nova Scotia
- *Caroline's Time Machine,* a chamber opera based on the life of astronomer Caroline Herschel

2022:

- *Vertical,* for solo piano and voice, Open Waters Festival, Nova Scotia

2020 and earlier:

- *Trio in C* (piano, cello, flute) premiered by Trio D'Argento
- *The Human Seasons* (solo piano) Open Waters Festival
- *Ode to a Nightingale* (Song cycle for baritone, flute, Bassoon and piano)
- *Schubert Now: The Journey Outward*

SINGER (SELECTIONS)

2010s:

- World Premiere, *Schubert Now: The journey Outward* (Toronto)
- Soloist, *Bach St-John Passion* (York University Concert Choir)
- World Premiere, *En Amour en Hiver*, Laval Symphony, (Quebec)

2000s:

- Scrianno, *Quaderno die Strada*, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (CBC radio, Montreal)
- World Premiere, *Three Cities in the Life of Dr.Norman Bethune* (Radio Canada, Montreal)
- J.S.Bach, *Ich Habe Genug*, Guest Soloist with Symphony Nova Scotia (Halifax)
- F.Schubert, *Die Winterreise*, Chapelle Historique du Bon Pasteur (Montreal)
- G.Bizet *Carmen* (Morales), Edmonton Opera (Edmonton)
- G.F.Handel, *Messiah*, Quebec Symphony (Quebec)

MUSIC DIRECTING & CONDUCTING

2023: *Memories Beyond The Grave*
2019: *Le nozze di Figaro, Mozart*, Long Reach Opera Workshop
2018: *L'Etoile*, E. Chabrier, Dalhousie University Opera

RECENT AWARDS & GRANTS

2024-2027: Canada Council, Composite grant (3 years)
2025: Production Grant, Arts Nova Scotia
2023: Production Grant, Canada Council
2022/23: Creation Grant, Canada Council
2021: Workshop Grant (chamber opera), Canada Council
2020: Creation Grant, Arts Nova Scotia

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

PhD Musicology, York University
Opern Diplom, Hochschule für Musik, Munich, Germany
Licentiate in Music Performance, McGill University

Additional Musical Studies

- Composition, Linda Catlin Smith
- Graduate Studies in Voice Performance (Lieder Interpretation), Hochschule der Künste, Berlin, with Prof. Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
- Graduate Studies in Voice Performance, Hochschule für Musik, Munich, with Prof. Brigitte Fassbaender