

# **PNMF Adjudicators for 2024**

## **Kylie Thompson - Dance**

Kylie Thompson is a multi-disciplinary performer, creator and educator residing in Toronto, Ontario. She holds an honours degree in Kinesiology from McMaster University, and has trained in classical, contemporary and street dance styles with acclaimed international teachers. After having served on the CADA-East board of Directors for 5 years, she is passionate about arts advocacy and independent production. She has produced numerous works both in the theatre and on the screen; some of which include “Versus”, “33/33” and “Oh, Yes”; and she is honoured to have been part of such festivals as New Blue, Dance: Made in Canada, Toronto Fringe, Choreographer’s Ball, and more. A passionate educator; her teaching practice has spanned various disciplines but is currently focused on release-based floor work; having trained with and drawn inspiration from Alias Dance Project, Vim Vigor Dance, Elke Schroeder and many other influential dance artists.



## **Kate Hanson - Dance**

Kate was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta where she committed herself at an early age to extensive training in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, musical theatre and hip hop. She gained extensive knowledge in modern and contemporary dance while attending the School of the Performing and Visual Arts at Central Memorial High School. Upon relocating to Toronto to pursue her professional dance career she attended the George Brown Commercial Dance Studies Program where she studied dance, theatre performance, vocal, and acting. She has since deepened her understanding of contemporary dance; studying improvisation theories presented by such artists as William Forsythe, Justine Reeve, Peter Jasko and Eric Franklin. With a wide range of influencers, Kate has had the opportunity to learn and work in a variety of styles of dance under many different choreographers. She has travelled to Florence, Italy to work extensively with Joeri Dubbe (NDT) and studied under Nina Little and Inaki Azpillaga (Ultima Vez) in Vienna, Austria. She is a member of the Professional Adjudicators Alliance and has gained a reputation as a respected dancer, teacher, and adjudicator in Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto and surrounding areas. She has been involved in various film and live theatre performances in Toronto performing and choreographing. Kate has developed into an innovative choreographer, working at youth, pre-professional, and professional levels. She has created work for Toronto Original Choreographer’s Ball, New Blue Festival ’18, as well as several pre-professional programs around Toronto. Kate most recently choreographed, directed and produced a full-length dance show ‘Imminent’ which held up to her choreographic reputation. As a multi versatile teacher and choreographer Kate teaches workshops and sets work for various studios across Canada. As Kate progresses with her research and development, her enthusiasm to share with the next generation continues.



## **Christine Bissonnette - Speech Arts & Public Speaking**

Christine Bissonnette is a Speech Arts teacher, poetry writing facilitator, and certified breathexperience teacher passionate about unleashing the creativity of her students. Her Speech Arts students have won first place in speech competitions at their school, taken home medals (like ‘the outstanding acting award’ and the ‘outstanding monologue performance award’) at various festivals, and have received First Class Honours for their Speech Arts RCM Exams. The students from her poetry writing workshops have received poetry fellowships, published chapbooks, won awards in literary magazines... and on many occasions those same students arrived in her class feeling blocked and unsure of their relationship to poetry. As a performer and writer, she's performed on stages all over Vancouver including opening for Danielle LaPorte as part of the Rise Women’s Conference. Her poem ‘Rise’ (written for that conference) was later featured by Downtown Vancouver’s Poetry Phone in order to uplift Vancouver audiences at the start of the pandemic. In 2019, she wrote, featured in, and co-produced a short film (Left Opened) that combined poetry, music, and dance to explore anxiety. The film toured film festivals internationally. Most recently, she was featured in episode 1 of the STORYHIVE funded ‘Heal Through Poetry’ series. The 8 episode series was released on Telus Optic and on Youtube in September 2023.



## **Cheryl McHugh - Band & Woodwind**

Cheryl McHugh maintains a large private teaching studio and is a sought after clinician and adjudicator, having presented workshops and master classes across the country. She was the national flute instructor at the Canadian Forces School of Music for ten years in Borden, Ontario. In 1996, she relocated to Vancouver where she stepped into the role of principal flute and piccolo in the Band of the Fifteenth Field Regiment, RCA.

From 2017 to 2022, Cheryl was the Director of Music of the Band of the Fifteenth Field Regiment, RCA. In 2019, she participated in the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association International Saito Conducting Workshop with Wayne Toews. In addition, she has attended conducting seminars with Dr. Angela Schroeder and Dr. Gillian MacKay. In January of 2023, Cheryl was invited to conduct the Concert Band at Douglas College for the winter term.

Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Music degree from the University of British Columbia in Flute Performance. Cheryl also holds an independent school teacher certificate and teaches at several private schools in Metro Vancouver.



## **Jim Tempest - Band**

Jim Tempest has been active in the Vancouver music scene for more than 30 years, playing trombone in orchestras, big bands, and chamber groups and conducting community and professional wind groups.

After graduating from Western Washington University, Jim moved to London, England to study with renowned brass players and absorb the culture of one of the greatest musical cities in the world. A graduate degree at the University of British Columbia was earned soon after his return to Canada.

Jim is a busy conductor. He has been the Director of Music for the Delta Concert Band since 2006 and, from 2006 to 2017, he led the Band of the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment in Vancouver. His notoriety as a band director has led to invitations to conduct, deliver workshops and adjudicate at music festivals across Canada and in the United States.

In 2019, Jim retired from the Canadian Army after a career that began as a musician in the Fifteen Field Artillery Regiment and culminated with his appointment as the Senior Director of Music for the Canadian Army, part of National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

Jim has been a member of the faculty at the Vancouver Community College School of Music since 1995. In addition to teaching private students and holding wind and brass masterclasses, he leads the Mount Pleasant Brass Ensemble, a large group of mixed brass. Many of the arrangements the group performs are Jim's work and can be purchased from

[CherryClassics.com](http://CherryClassics.com)



## **Mark D'Angelo - Band**

Mark D'Angelo, a native of North Vancouver, holds a Master of Music Degree from the University of McGill in Montreal. Mark is currently Principal Trumpet with the Kamloops Symphony, Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, and Second Trumpet with the Vancouver Island Symphony. He has also performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver New Music, Victoria Symphony, Turning Point Ensemble, CBC Radio Orchestra, Thunder Bay Symphony, and the American Brass Quintet as an Aspen Music Festival Fellowship recipient. Mark has performed with Ben Hepner, Grammy winner Lila Downs, Lara St. John, and Tony Award winner Idina Menzel. In 2017 Mark performed the British Columbia premiere of John Estacio's Concerto for Trumpet with the Kamloops Symphony. Mark currently holds the position of head of instrumental ensembles at Douglas College, trumpet instructor at Capilano University, Trinity Western University, and is a Stomvi Performing Artist.



## **Dr. Ronald Morgan - Piano**

Dr. Ronald Morgan holds a DMA in Piano Performance and Literature, an MM in Piano Performance, and an MA in Musicology, all from the Eastman School of Music. His main piano teachers were Douglas Humpherys (Eastman) and Patricia Parr (University of Toronto). Past performances include numerous solo and collaborative recitals in Canada and the U.S., and appearances in Great Britain, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Dr. Morgan has a passion for teaching piano; he now dedicates all of his energy to teaching at his private studio in Courtenay B.C. and online after teaching for 20 years in the greater Vancouver area. His students perform frequently in music festivals and competitions; student achievements include several Royal Conservatory provincial and national gold medal awards.



Many of his students have advanced to the Performing Arts BC competition over the years, with previous Junior A and B winners, and other runner-ups and honourable mentions. His students have participated in past Canadian Music Competition auditions and finals, including a 2021 winner in the 13 year-old category. Recent student achievements include winners and awards from the 2023 IPPA Conero International Piano Competition, Gala winners at the 2022 Pacific International Youth Festival, and a first-place winner at the 2022 Tureck International Piano Competition in New York. Dr. Morgan's students have performed concerti with local orchestras in the lower mainland, and several have continued on in their musical studies at the post-secondary level to pursue careers in music. Dr. Morgan is active as a piano adjudicator for music festivals and competitions, and has extensive experience as a Senior Examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada and the U.S. Before moving to B.C., Dr. Morgan was Assistant Professor of piano at the University of Hawaii, where he also taught numerous classes, from piano pedagogy to music history.

## **Gina Oh – Vocal and Choral**

DMUS & DESS (l'Université de Montréal), MMUS (New England Conservatory), BMUS (University of British Columbia).

Vancouver born soprano, Gina Oh was honored as one of the most influential Korean Women of The World of 2008. Representing Canada, she stands out as a cultural ambassador through music and song. Gina now sits on the board for the Pacific Rim Initiative with Vancouver Opera co-producing a sell-out concert series showcasing and diversifying talent from the multi-cultures in Canada. She has been recognized for her good work by the Korean Consulate in Canada, Elite Canadian Politicians, the Canadian National Press and the Vancouver Music Communities.



Dr. Oh was a member of the Vancouver Opera OIS Touring Ensemble where she debuted the world premiere of the role Obasan in the newly commissioned opera based on Joy Kogawa's book, *Naomi's Road*. Performing the role 170 times, she received the Joe Boxer Memorial Award with a career development scholarship as most promising artist of the year.

Gina completed her doctoral studies at l'Université de Montréal where she succeeded her studies in French and was recognized there with the Cedric Ferguson Award. She holds a Master's degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston and a Bachelor's degree from her hometown at the University Of British Columbia, Canada. Alongside her studies, Gina has been recognized as a finalist for the CMC and NATS competitions. Operatic performances include Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Helena from Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mère Marie from Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites* and Dorothee from Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Other principal roles include Mrs. Nolan from Menotti's *Medium*, Mathurine from Gluck's *L'Ivrogne Corrigé* and Arminde from Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*.

Gina was a finalist for the Vancouver Star Search produced by the Mount Saint Joseph Foundation, performing in the Pacific National Exposition, broadcast by the Rogers Network. As well, Gina was a quarter-finalist on Bravo's reality TV show called *Bathroom Divas* produced by Kaleidoscope. Her personal story has been televised and released on BCTV, Global, CBC, TVKOREA and the Multicultural Network.

Dr. Gina Oh is ranked top voice teacher in the tri-cities area (Vancouver Lower Mainland) 5 years in a row and was celebrated as part of the Canada Korea 150 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa last October. Gina shares her valuable time pursuing a high level of music outreach by way of teaching and performing.

## **Joan Blackman - Strings, Harp, Guitar**

Artistic Director of Vancouver's Vetta Chamber Music Society, Ms. Blackman enjoys a vibrant and varied musical life. She served as Associate Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony for many years and has performed and recorded as soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, CBC Radio Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble and the Banff Festival Orchestra. She also teaches privately and has given masterclasses throughout BC.

Ms. Blackman is known throughout Canada and the US as a fine chamber musician and has performed with premier groups such as the Penderecki String Quartet, the Purcell String Quartet and the Gryphon Trio. Besides performing and curating the Vetta Chamber Music series in Vancouver, she works with the Canadian Music Centre in their Celebration concert series. Joan is also a member of the Sea and Sky collective which has released two CDs and performs throughout BC.

Joan has appeared on numerous series including Music in the Morning, Music Fest Vancouver, the Jeffrey Concerts in London, Ont., and the American String Project. She has also appeared at summer festivals including the Hornby Island Festival, the Pender Harbour Chamber Music Festival, Kaimera, and the Victoria Summer Music Festival.

*"Your heart would need to be made of stone not to have loved Joan Blackman's splendid solo ". "Shapelier phrases and sweeter tone would be hard to imagine", "a ravishing tone", "first rate soloist", "exchanged lines meltingly in a flawless performance" "playing with lyricism, precision, and evident joy";* are some of the accolades that have graced Joan's reviews.



## **Marnie Setka-Mooney – Choral and Classroom Music**

B.MUS, UBC (OPERA/PERFORMANCE); AVCM (TEACHING /PERFORMANCE)

On Faculty at the Victoria Conservatory of Music since 1998, Marnie has also taught at Pearson College, the Victoria School of Ideal Education and she has been on faculty at the Canadian College of Performing Arts (Musical Theatre). She has adjudicated for the VCM Lieder Competition and has taught Children's Voice for the VCM Diploma Program. Her major teachers have been Catherine Young (VCM) and French Tickner (UBC). As a performer, she enjoys premiering new compositions, especially those of the Victoria Composers Collective. Marnie has sung professionally as a recitalist in Winnipeg (Women of Note), Europe, the U.S, Vancouver (Cantata Singers), Kelowna (Philharmonic Orchestra), and Victoria (Bel Canto/Viva).

A believer in professional development, Marnie has sung in Master Classes for Richard Miller, Edith Wiens, and Cornelia Prestl. She is an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, a BC Registered Music Teacher, and she has recently begun serving as the Mid-Island representative for the BC Choral Federation.

Ms. Setka-Mooney has been awarded the Certification Level I qualification from Princeton's Music Together Center for Music and Young Children for outstanding achievement in teaching and articulating of the Music Together Program. Her interest in both the singing and speaking voice has led Marnie to conduct workshops for non-singers, i.e. business people and teachers.

A Choral Conductor for over a decade, Marnie's current conducting role is with Sing Victoria Children and Teens' Choir. Past Conducting duties have been with VIVA children's choir, St. Mary's Children's Choir (Oak Bay), Crystal Singers Women's Choir, Victoria Male Voice Choir, and the Foundation Choir (VCM).

Marnie's students have consistently won awards in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, and several have moved on to post-secondary institutions in Waterloo, Los Angeles, and Victoria.

