

Nadia Francavilla is one of Canada's leading performers and advocates of new contemporary music. The Montreal-born violinist is an accomplished recitalist and outstanding chamber musician who has performed internationally in North America, Europe, and Japan. For over a decade, she performed and recorded with two of Canada's leading string quartets, Quatuor Arthur-LeBlanc and Quatuor Bozzini.

A graduate of McGill University, she received solid musical training under the direction of Mauricio Fuks, Raphael Druian, and Joseph Silverstein. Her orchestral background includes l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and Les Violons du Roy. She was associate concertmaster for l'Orchestre Classique de Montréal for more than 20 years. Currently, her focus is on solo performance as well as exploring classical and contemporary works in mixed chamber music settings. She recently contributed to a recording of Carmen Braden's *Songs of the Invisible Summer Stars*, released by Centrediscs in April 2019.

Described by colleagues as a brilliant performer and thoughtful musician, Mrs. Francavilla's performance work marries the best of all worlds: versatile, imaginative and dynamic; yet exacting, meticulous and formidably skilled. For Mrs. Francavilla, making and performing music is more than just entertainment. Rather, music is about cooperation and about collaboration. It is about expressing ideas and asking questions. Music, for Mrs. Francavilla, is part of the search for meaning.

To this end, collaboration is a central tenet of Mrs. Francavilla's practice. Through exploration of improvised works and frequent collaborations with visual and multimedia artists, poets, actors, filmmakers, and of course other musicians, she challenges audiences, forges new artistic connections, and pushes the boundaries of music as performance art.

Indeed, Mrs. Francavilla is renowned among her contemporaries for her tireless efforts to nurture and develop audiences for new and experimental music. As a concert programmer, she aims to challenge, engage, and delight audiences. Based in Fredericton, NB, her depth of experience and extensive international network have for many years brought music to the province that is otherwise only heard in large urban centres.

Mrs. Francavilla's driving interest in new music has led her to commission and premiere new works from Canadian and international composers. She particularly enjoys working with young composers, nurturing their innovative spark. Most recently, she premiered *Carving Space, Collecting Stones* by emerging composer Emily Kennedy in Fredericton in November 2020, and *Constellation* by emerging composer Hope Salmonson in Fredericton in November 2021 alongside pianist Carl Gionet.

In 2021, Mrs. Francavilla was awarded a New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) Creation Grant to commission a new work from Quebec composer Nicole Lizée; the work will premiere in January 2023 in Sackville, NB.

The NB Contemporary Music Festival, which Mrs. Francavilla has curated each year since its inception in 2019, exclusively features music from emerging and established women composers. The 2022 festival explores the theme Humans and Machines, asking: Has technology dehumanized music? When it comes to music-making, where exactly is the boundary between human and machine?

Since 2009, Mrs. Francavilla is Musician-in-Residence at the University of New Brunswick, where she curates leading-edge concert series, develops solo projects, gives masterclasses and lectures, and mentors emerging New Brunswick artists. Coming from a family of teachers, Mrs. Francavilla is devoted to guiding newer artists toward their own unique understanding of their craft.

An experienced educator and facilitator, Mrs. Francavilla takes an interactive and exploratory approach to knowledge sharing in lectures, masterclasses and workshops. Currently, Mrs. Francavilla brings this experience to bear teaching violin at Mount Allison University and leading courses on women in music and music in film at the University of New Brunswick. She is the author of the violin syllabus for L'école préparatoire de musique at Université de Moncton, and is often asked to adjudicate at music festivals around the country.

As a producer, Mrs. Francavilla has a strong focus on highlighting women composers and emerging composers of new music. Her production company, On The Edge Productions Inc, promotes new, ground-breaking experimental music, stretching the convention of musical traditions and fostering collaboration among emerging and established musicians and multidisciplinary artists.

In 2022, Mrs. Francavilla was awarded a Documentation grant by the New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) for *Noisemakers*, a series of short documentaries chronicling and contextualizing important contributions from New Brunswick composers to contemporary music in Canada. Each documentary features new interviews and new recordings of excerpts of the composers' music performed by Mrs. Francavilla and her close colleagues.

Mrs. Francavilla's projects have received financial support from Canada Council for the Arts, the New Brunswick Arts Board, SOCAN, the Province of New Brunswick, the NB Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Fredericton Playhouse.

As a performer, producer, educator, innovator and change-maker, Mrs. Francavilla brings a collaborative spirit, a passion for new music, and a distinctly European sensibility to her work. Her aim is in all ways to foster the creation and appreciation of new music, and to open doors for the next generation of performers and composers in Canadian contemporary music.

She can be found online at www.nadiafrancavilla.com