

Mehrdad Jafari Raad

Curriculum vitae

Composer | Media artist | Performer |
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EDUCATION & TRAINING

Degrees

2025 **Doctor of Musical Arts - Composition**; University of Toronto
2018 **Master of Arts - Composition**; Art University of Tehran
2013 **Bachelor of Science – Engineering**; Isfahan University of Technology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Composer, Sound Designer, and Media Artist

2015-25 Composed original scores, created sound design, and contributed to video production and editing for feature films, short films, documentaries, and audiovisual works. Collaborated with filmmakers and visual artists on award-winning projects featured at major international festivals including TIFF, VIFF, and San Sebastián.

Teaching Assistantship

2024-25 Teaching Assistant, Various Courses in Composition and Music Theory; Delivered lectures, performed student compositions, provided audio-visual support, University of Toronto, Toronto
2024 Teaching Assistant for Reading sessions, Organized reading sessions and performance materials; coordinated with ensemble directors and provided visual support for Student Composer Concerts, University of Toronto, Toronto
2018–19 Assistant Supervisor, Undergraduate Composition Theses; Provided academic and creative guidance to undergraduate students in the completion of their final composition theses, Art University of Tehran, Tehran

Festival and Concert Curator

2024-25 Curated the UTMNF New Music Festival; managed video and audio recording of performances, including editing and production of the final video. Designed promotional materials (posters and programs), managed social media, University of Toronto, Toronto.
2020–22 Curating Student Composer Concerts; Coordinated the Student Composers' Concert Series, recorded studio performances, edit and broadcast the final performance, University of Toronto, Toronto

Guest Lecturer and Mentorship

2025 Tradition Reimagined, Iranian Contemporary Music Symposium, University of Toronto New

2025	Music Festival, University of Toronto, Toronto Advanced Composition (Stephen Morris), Provided critique and mentorship on student works and delivered a lecture on tradition and creativity in contemporary composition, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
2023	World Music (Anton Vishio) Delivered Lecture on Iranian Traditional Music, Theory, History and Practice, University of Toronto, Toronto

OTHER TEACHING, CURATING, AND JURY ACTIVITIES

2024-25	Jury Member, CASMA Awards - Screen Composers Guild of Canada (SCGC)
2025	Curating University of Toronto New Music Festival, Toronto
2021-23	Curating University of Toronto Student Composer Concert, Toronto
2021	Jury Member, Black Box Film Festival, Tehran, Iran
2019	Curating Saba Music Festival, Composition Section, Tehran, Iran
2014-16	Private lesson in Harmony, Counterpoint and Form. Tehran, Iran
2011-13	Director of Music Center at Isfahan University, Isfahan, Iran

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Finalist Composer, Hamilton Contemporary International Music Festival, Hamilton, 2026
- Nominated Best Documentary Score for *"Light Through the Blindfold"* LEO AWARDS Vancouver, 2026
- Film Scores featured in International Film Festivals, including Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF), San Sebastian International Film Festival (SSIFF), 2020-2024, among others
- Nominated Best Experimental short and Best Original Score for *"Expo Pandemic"* 11th Iranian Short Film Association (ISFA) Awards, Tehran, 2020
- Nominated Best Original Score for *"Hatch"* (by Alireza Kazemipour) at Officine Social Movie, Italy, 2025
- Nikos Evdemon Graduate Scholarship (valued at \$25,000 CAD) for the 2023–2024 academic session, University of Toronto, 2023
- Awarded Best Film Score for *"Achilles"* at the Cyrus Film Festival, Toronto, 2023
- Nominated Best Short Film Score for *"Split Ends"* (by Alireza Kazemipour) 25th LEO AWARDS Vancouver, 2022
- Iranian Student Memorial Award (valued at \$10,000) for the 2020–2021 academic session, University of Toronto, 2020
- Awarded 1st prize in Duet Composition Competition for composing *"Shur"* hosted by the University of Tehran, Tehran, 2018
- Awarded 2nd prize winner in Saba Music Festival Composition Competition for composing *"Saqinameh"*, Tehran, 2017
- Awarded 1st prize in Student Photography Competition, University of Isfahan, 2016

COMMISSIONS

2026	Commissioned by Hasht Cello Octet for Red is Not a Color for cello octet, premiered March 2026 at Eglinton St. George's United Church, Toronto, ON
2024	Commissioned by the Brooklyn Chamber Orchestra in collaboration with Harvard University's Theater, Dance & Media (TDM) to arrange Richard Strauss's <i>Dance of the Seven Veils</i> for Chamber Orchestra. New York

- 2023 Commissioned by the Iranian Canadian Composers of Toronto (ICOT) to compose a duet, *Toccata for Violin and Piano*, to be performed during a series of concerts by Rogue Duo. Toronto
- 2022-24 Commissioned for Solo Marimba pieces by Theodor Milkov (Marimbaist) for the currently in-progress "The Theodor Milkov – Domenico Scarlatti Project" Toronto, Greece

EXPERTIES, RELATED SKILLS, AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong Background in Electronic Music and Sound Designing.
- Music Software Knowledge: Sibelius, Finale, Reaper, Ableton Live, MaxMSP, Spear, Cubase, Native Instrument/Kontakt/Reaktor.
- Experienced in photography, videography, and video art production.
- Proficient in Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects and Lightroom.
- Skilled in Recording, Mixing, Mastering.
- Video recording, Video editing (Experienced with video editing software adobe premiere)
- Extensive Performance Background with expertise in Tar, Setar, Kurdish Tanbur, and Iranian Vocal Style (Avaz).
- Extensive portfolio in working with visual artists, art galleries, filmmakers.

SELECTED PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

- 2026 **The City Rises (Piano Trio)**. Composer, 918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media and Education, Toronto — [link](#)
- 2026 **Red is Not a Color (Cello Octet)**. Composer, Richard Bradshaw Amphitheater at the Four Seasons Center, Toronto — [link](#)
- 2026 **A Vertical Dream (For Eight Performers)**. Hamilton International Contemporary Music Festival, The Gasworks, Hamilton — [video](#)
- 2025 **Upcycling Projects (electronics)**. Composer, Canadian Music Center, Toronto — [link](#)
- 2025 **Toccata for Violin and Piano**. Composer, Saint John's in the Village, New York — [video](#)
- 2025 **Labyrinth Makam Nights (Dissonant Times)**. Performer, Vocalist, Tranzac, Toronto
- 2024 **At the gate of sleep (Guitar Ensemble & Setar)**. Performer, Walter Hall, Toronto — [video](#)
- 2023 **Toccata for Violin and Piano**. Composer, Canadian Opera Company, Toronto
- 2023 **Toccata for Violin and Piano**. Composer, Von Kuster Hall, Toronto — [link](#)
- 2020 **Expo pandemic (electronics)**. Composer, Media Artist, Akademie der Künste, Berlin — [video](#)
- 2019 **Shur (duet)**. Composer, Heliconian Hall, Toronto
- 2017 **Shur (duet)**. Composer, Tehran University Concert Hall, Tehran — [link](#)
- 2016 **Saqinameh (Percussion Ensemble)**. Composer, Roudaki Hall, Tehran

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS & PEER REVIEWS

- 2023 *Peer Reviewer for the paper "Khele: The Sign of the Talesh People's Awareness of Nature and Its Sounds", published in AAWM Music and Nature, Volume 2, 2023*
- 2022 *Research Presentation "Toru Takemitsu – In an Autumn Garden, Tradition and Innovation", University of Toronto, Toronto, 2022*
- 2022 *Research Presentation "Exploring the Concept of Circle in Dastgah Music", University of Toronto, 2022*
- 2021 *Research Presentation "Mediating the Act of Composition - The role of technology in musical creation", University of Toronto, 2021*
- 2017 *Research Presentation "Modality in Toru Takemitsu's Orchestral works", Art University of Tehran, 2017*