

## Sarah Hagen

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### Sarah Hagen - short biography

Awarded as Artist of the Year by both Ontario Contact (2017) and the BC Touring Council (2015), and mentioned by The Guardian (Charlottetown) as the Best Classical Performance of 2014, pianist Sarah Hagen's interpretations have been described as "outstandingly inventive" [University of Waterloo Gazette], "played flawlessly" [ReviewVancouver]. Her extensive touring has taken her across Canada, to Sweden, France, Germany and Italy, and twice to New York City's Carnegie Hall. Sarah released an album of Goldberg Variations in 2021. Her third album, *Women of Note*, highlights two forgotten female composers of the 18th century, and garnered the 2021 Music PEI Instrumental Recording of the Year as well as two ECMA nominations. Sarah's debut solo album, *Glass House Dancing*, was nominated for Classical Recording of the Year at the 2009 Western Canadian Music Awards. Her second album, *Devoted: Music of Robert & Clara Schumann*, features solo piano works and Clara Schumann's Romances, Opus 22 with violinist Martin Chalifour, concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition to writing wine reviews for her blog, "ARTIST WINES! - Uncorking musician-priced cellar secrets," Sarah tours a one-woman musical comedy show called "Perk up, pianist!" of which the Edmonton Journal wrote, "Her comic timing is as solid as her musical meter."

#### Select Reviews:

*"...the level of passion that Hagen possesses - when it comes to experiencing, interpreting and expressing art - is something quite extraordinary. It does seem to be this deep level of artistic understanding, and ability to communicate on this level - either through words or through artistic expression - that truly sets her apart as a pianist and musical artist. ...it was immediately apparent that this would be a piano concert beyond the norm. ...Hagen is one of the most expressive piano players that I have ever seen perform."* - The Guardian (Charlottetown)

*"If all you wanted was a marvellously handled piece of difficult piano music, it would be hard to ask for more. Hagen did much more than just hit the notes in the right spots. [...] I'll have to admit I'm not usually a fan of such Russian works, but Hagen's performance has made me reconsider my classical music likes and dislikes."* - Smithers Interior News

Mozart's D minor Fantasy K. 397, *"played flawlessly by Sarah Hagen"* - Review Vancouver

Hagen played *"with great sensitivity and heart."* - Vernon Morning Star

*"Her Bach and Haydn were outstandingly inventive"* - University of Waterloo Gazette

## Sarah Hagen - long biography

Canadian pianist Sarah Hagen's extensive touring has taken her across Canada, to Sweden, France, Germany and Italy, and twice to New York City's Carnegie Hall. Awarded as Artist of the Year by both Ontario Contact (2017) and the BC Touring Council (2015), and mentioned by The Guardian (Charlottetown) as the Best Classical Performance of 2014, her interpretations have been described as "outstandingly inventive" [University of Waterloo Gazette], "played flawlessly" [ReviewVancouver].

A visionary and an idealist, Sarah's performances are conceptually innovative, involving photography, dance, and theatre. She is Artistic Director for Pro'ject Sound, a performance project involving live piano with large-scale projected images.

An avid collaborator, Sarah has performed with cellist Ariel Barnes, violist Nicolò Eugelmi, cellist Phillip Hansen, violinist Robert Uchida, tenor Benjamin Butterfield, horn player Oto Carrillo, soprano Barbara Livingston, Trio Accord, Ballet Victoria, the Emily Carr String Quartet, the Bergmann Piano Duo, jazz pianist Søren Bebe, clarinetist Keith MacLeod, among many others. Sarah has appeared as soloist with the Victoria Symphony under the baton of Mei-Ann Chen, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony conducted by Mark Skazinetzky, the West Coast Symphony Orchestra with conductor Bujar Llapaj, and the Symphony Orchestra of the Pacific with conductor Arthur Arnold.

As a First Prize Winner in the 2013 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, Sarah was awarded the opportunity to perform solo at New York City's Carnegie Hall in May 2013. Sarah released an album of Goldberg Variations in 2021. Her third album, *Women of Note*, highlights two forgotten female composers of the 18th century, and garnered the 2021 Music PEI Instrumental Recording of the Year as well as two ECMA nominations. Sarah's debut solo album, *Glass House Dancing*, was nominated for Classical Recording of the Year at the 2009 Western Canadian Music Awards. Her second album, *Devoted: Music of Robert & Clara Schumann*, features solo piano works and Clara Schumann's Romances, Opus 22 with violinist Martin Chalifour, concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Sarah has been heard nationally on CBC Radio 2's In Concert in a live recording with violinist Joan Blackman and cellist Ariel Barnes. She was also featured in a live recording and discussion of Schumann's Papillons on CBC Radio One's North by Northwest with host Sheryl MacKay. In Helsingborg, Sweden in 2006 she recorded with Swedish cellist Marit Sjödin, creating *Concealed Diamonds*, an album of masterworks for cello and piano.

Sarah's primary teachers and mentors have been Jamie Parker, Gregory Chavardian, Christine Purvis and Glen Montgomery. She has completed five residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts and enjoyed two terms there as collaborative pianist.

During her years on the west coast of Canada, Sarah founded nine concert series, curating each one individually, and inviting artists from across Canada and around the world to share the stage with her. She has toured throughout Sweden numerous times with cellist Marit Sjödin, violinist Ian Peaston, and Per Johansson, principal clarinet of the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra. Other international concerts of note include a recital at DePaul University with Oto Carrillo, hornist in the Chicago Symphony, Schumann Piano Quintet in Darmstadt with members of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, and a performance at Carnegie Hall with Polish flautist Krzysztof Kaczka.

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