

KELLY-MARIE MURPHY

With music described as “breathtaking” (Kitchener-Waterloo Record), “imaginative and expressive” (National Post), “a pulse-pounding barrage on the senses” (The Globe and Mail), and “Bartok on steroids” (Birmingham News), composer Kelly-Marie Murphy’s voice is well known on the Canadian music scene. She has created a number of memorable works for some of Canada’s leading performers and ensembles, including the Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver symphony orchestras, The Gryphon Trio, clarinetist James Campbell, cellist Cameron Crozman, violinist Kerson Leong, and harpist Judy Loman.

Kelly-Marie’s music has been performed around the world by outstanding soloists and ensembles, and interpreted by renowned conductors including Mikko Franck, Gustavo Gimeno, Alexander Shelley, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Peter Oundjian, and Gemma New. Her work has taken her to major international stages, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Auditorium Radio France in Paris, The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. In May 2025, she joined the National Arts Centre Orchestra on its tour to Korea, and in February 2026, toured Europe with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Kelly-Marie was born on a NATO base in Sardegna, Italy, and grew up on Canadian Armed Forces bases all across Canada. She began her studies in composition at the University of Calgary, and later received a Ph.D. in composition from the University of Leeds, England. After living and working for many years in the Washington D.C. area, where she was designated “an alien of extraordinary ability” by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, she is now based in Ottawa. She is the recipient of many national and international awards, including the Jules Léger Prize and the Azrieli Music Prize. She is currently Composer-in-Residence with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Biography current as of October 2026. Please do not alter without permission.