

## Véronique Drożdż

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A remarkably proficient and audacious performer, Véronique is quickly becoming one of Canada's top harpists. Véronique is an active soloist, orchestral and chamber musician and has received awards for both musical and academic excellence. Her goal now, as a professional harpist, is to be able to share the passion and knowledge gained from years of extensive work and practice on the instrument. As a recent graduate of the University of Toronto Faculty of Music with a specialization in performance, Véronique is currently working towards expanding her teaching studio, and orchestra work.

Motivated by a passion for music from a young age, Véronique started playing the harp privately at the age of nine with Julie Umbrico, and later moved on to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music with Maureen McKay, where she won several annual scholarships. She went on to major in harp at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, and was a finalist for the concerto competition, for which she performed the prestigious *Concerto in B-Flat Major* by Handel. She graduated with honours, and received the Lian Thomson Award of Music. Véronique is the recipient of Boston Conservatory's entrance scholarship, the David and Marcia Beach Summer Study Award, and is currently studying a master's on full tuition scholarship in Music Performance and Literature at the University of Western Ontario's Music Faculty. Recently, she will be performing a concerto as the concerto competition winner with Hart House Orchestra (2014).

A finalist in the Young Artist's Harp Competition in Georgia, USA, and cited in the international harp magazine *Harp Column*, Véronique Drożdż has completed a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance at the eminent University of Toronto, under the tutelage of the world-renowned harpist Judy Loman. She performed regularly with the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Opera, and the GamUT Contemporary Music Ensemble. Véronique also plays with several orchestras in the GTA. Important performances include Debussy's *Nuages*, Borodin's *Symphony No.2*, and Baczewicz's *Trio for Flute, Percussion, and Harp*. Another notable performance includes a recording for the background music for Darren Fung's *Let the Daylight into the Swamp*, performed in TIFF (2012).

She has been invited to perform with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, Hart House Orchestra, Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra, North York Concert Orchestra, and Toronto Chinese Orchestra. Véronique also has gained international recognition, having performed with the Orchestre de Gargillesse, in France.

Véronique frequently participates in many masterclasses with esteemed harpists, such as Mariko Anraku, Sébastien Lipman, and Alice Giles. She also dynamically partook in many of the diverse ensembles at the University of Toronto; for instance: jazz, contemporary music, Klezmer, Latin American Percussion. She adores collaborating with many versatile musicians, and performing works by emerging contemporary composers, such as Luminova's Mike Dell's *Conception*, and Sean King's *Riots and Whispers*.

Véronique is also very interested in early childhood education of music, and I was introduced to this concept in August 2011 when she started working at Klaudia's Music School in Oakville and sharing her love for the harp with children as young as three years old. In Toronto, Oakville, and London, Véronique is a private music teacher, and is always welcoming new students.