

Guitar Adjudicator – Silas Chinsen

Silas Chinsen is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, composer, and arranger based in Guelph, Ontario. He holds a M.Mus and B.Mus in classical guitar and voice performance, and has work featured on Naxos Records. Silas creates music for choirs, solo guitar, and ambient scores for audio-visual collaborations.

Silas graduated with the highest distinction from the University of Ottawa on full scholarship and was twice the recipient of the Ed Honeywell Scholarship for Classical Guitar. He studied guitar with Patrick Roux and voice with Dillon Parmer, in addition to conducting with David Curry and Laurence Ewashko. Silas won the Ottawa Guitar Society's *Call for Scores* composition competition with his piece *Different Expectations*, and has received various grants for his compositions, including the Guelph Arts Council Research and Renewal Award, the City of Guelph Artist In Residence Grant, and a TACTICS grant.

Silas has performed as a soloist at venues such as the Scotiabank Arena, the Shaw Centre, and the Rideau Club, and with ensembles such as The Edison Singers, the Ewashko Singers, the National Arts Centre Choir, and the Ontario Youth A capella Choir. Silas was the acting director of LHVOX, an a capella community choir of 60+ members, and has composed and recorded a full-length musical theatre production *One Small (Mis)Step*. His music has been featured on local radio stations, professional art exhibitions, and advertisements for small businesses in Guelph. Silas is proficient in classical, jazz, pop, rock, and mo-town genres, among others.

Silas creates music to illicit a unique and visceral emotional experience, with interests in extended harmonic and uncommon sonic textures. From modern classical compositions and arrangements to producing ambient soundscapes using recordings of the sounds of nature, Silas treats each project as a new opportunity to push his own musical and creative boundaries to continue to develop his unique sound and skillset.