

Massimo Guida (He/Him/His), D.M.A. – Composer & Copyist

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Languages

English: Native Proficiency; Italian: Native Proficiency; French: Fluent; Spanish: Fluent; Portuguese: Conversational

Education

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – Toronto, ON GPA: 4.0/4.0

Doctor of Musical Arts, Composition – (September 2014–November 2019)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – Toronto, ON GPA: 4.0/4.0

M.Mus., in Music Composition – (September 2012–June 2014)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – Toronto, ON (High Distinction) GPA: 3.98/4.0

B.Mus. (Hons.), Major in Music Composition, Minor in Spanish – (September 2008–June 2012)

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC EXAMINATIONS – London, UK GPA: 3.8/4.0

Grade 8 Advanced Guitar, First Class Honours; Graduated with Merit – (2007)

Professional Affiliations

- **Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra Composer Fellow** 2024–2025
- **American Musicological Society** 2024–present
- **Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra New Generation Affiliate Composer** 2020–2021
- **Canadian Music Centre (CMC), Associate Composer** 2020–present
- **Canadian League of Composers (CLC), Professional Member** 2019–present
- **Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)** 2020–present
- **Society for Music Theory (SMT)** 2019–present
- **Screen Composers' Guild of Canada (SCGC), Associate Membership** 2010–present

Music Festivals, Composition Workshops, and Professional Development

- Participated in the 2025 “Screen Music Program,” in Pavia, Italy
- Participated in the 2025 “Opera Creation Forum,” a co-production of Musique 3 Femmes and Opera Montreal
- Completed the “Indigenous Canada” course offered online by the University of Alberta, 2020
- Participated in the “Orford Music Academy,” 2020 (Online)
- Participated in the “Scarborough Philharmonic’s New Generation Composer’s Workshop,” 2020
- Completed “Logic Pro” training course offered through Witz Education, 2011

Published Compositions

Guida, Massimo, and Augustine. 2015. *Confessions: A Song Cycle for Voice and Piano: Based on The Confessions of St. Augustine: 2014.*

Discography

Guida, Massimo. “Fantasia Sopra Sei Temi di Puccini.” Track 11 on *Everything Waits for the Lilacs*. Akashic Classics, 2024, Spotify audio.

Awards

- Recipient of the *Ontario Graduate Scholarship*, 2016–17, 2017–18
- Winner of the *Mississauga Festival Choir Competition*, 2015
- Winner of the *Violet Archer Composition Award*, 2015
- Recipient of the *University of Toronto Fellowship* (Awarded to an outstanding doctoral student), 2014–15
- Recipient of the *Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Program: SSHRC Master’s Scholarship*, 2013–14
- Recipient of the *Lothar Klein Fellowship*, University of Toronto (Awarded to an outstanding Master’s student), 2012
- Recipient of the *Music Alumni Graduating Award*, University of Toronto, 2012
- Recipient of the Smart Abacus Summer School and Camp Teaching Award, 2011 & 2012
- Screen Composer’s Guild of Canada *Mentorship Bursary Program Finalist*, 2011
- Recipient of the *Ben McPeck Scholarship* and *Arthur Plettner Scholarship*, University of Toronto, 2011

Other Professional Activities & Significant Achievements

- Mentor for the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra’s “New Generation Film Composer’s Project,” 2024–25
- Jury member and CLC representative for the selection panel of PIVOT, 2020
- Participated at the “Form Forum,” University of Toronto, 2013
- Composed the music for the “Boundless Impact” Promotional Video, University of Toronto, 2013
- Composed the music for the Faculty of Music “Newsroom,” University of Toronto, 2013
- Composed “The Fanfare of Illumination” for the University College “Alumni of Influence Gala,” 2012

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Biography

Toronto-based Italian-Canadian composer, theorist, educator, and copyist Massimo Guida was born in Modena, Italy, and has lived in Canada since 2008. He completed his doctorate in composition at the University of Toronto in 2019. Described by *La Scena Musicale* in 2012 as a composer who writes with “a particularly strong melodic inspiration,” Massimo seeks to combine his fondness for Italian melodic lyricism and storytelling with a contemporary musical language in his works. A multi-award-winning composer, in 2015 he won the *Violet Archer Prize*, for his song cycle *Confessions* (2014), as well as the *Mississauga Festival Choir Competition* for his choral work *Infant Joy* (2013). Massimo’s works have been performed in Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, and South Korea, by artists including the Hamilton Philharmonic, Scarborough Philharmonic, Brantford Symphony, and North York Concert Orchestras, Fawn Chamber Creative, the Odin Quartet, Slow Rise Music, the Mississauga Festival Choir, and pianist Alexander Panizza. His piano work, *Fantasia Sopra Sei Temi di Puccini* (2021), features on Panizza’s album *Everything Waits for the Lilacs*, which was released in 2024. Massimo served as the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra New Generation Affiliate Composer during the 2020–21 season. He was a Composer Fellow for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra’s 2024–25 season. An advocate for contemporary music in Canada, Massimo also sat on the board of the Canadian League of Composers from 2020 to 2022. Outside of composition, Massimo is passionate about music theory and music education, and works as a copyist.

Conference Presentations

Guida, Massimo. 2020. “Drama and Tonal Procedure in Giacomo Puccini’s ‘Turandot’ (1926).” Paper presented at the Spring Meeting of the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society, in conjunction with the West Coast Conference for Music Theory and Analysis, at University of California, Irvine, CA, May 18, 2024.

Guida, Massimo. 2020. “Drama and Tonal Procedure in Giacomo Puccini’s ‘Turandot’ (1926).” Paper presented at the Graduate Music Conference, at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, March 7, 2020.

Examples of Engraving Work

Moortele, Steven Vande, Julie Pedneault-Deslauriers, and Nathan John Martin, eds. *Formal Functions in Perspective: Essays on Musical Form from Haydn to Adorno*. NED-New edition. Boydell & Brewer, 2015.

Beach, David. *Schubert’s Mature Instrumental Music: A Theorist’s Perspective*. NED-New edition. Boydell & Brewer, 2017.

Major Teachers

Composition Advisors:

D.M.A. (University of Toronto):

Dr. Christos Hatzis (2015–19)
Gary Kulesha (2014–15)

MMus. (University of Toronto):

Dr. Norbert Palej (2013–14)
Gary Kulesha (2012–13)

BMus. (University of Toronto):

Dr. Chan Ka Nin (2011)
Dr. Alexander Rapoport (2010–12)
Dr. Norbert Palej (2009–10)

Research Supervisors:

D.M.A. (University of Toronto):

Dr. Steven Vande Moortele (2016–19)

MMus. (University of Toronto):

Dr. Alexander Rapoport (2012–13)
Dr. Steven Vande Moortele (2011–12)

Classical Guitar:

BMus. (University of Toronto):

Eli Kassner (2008–11)

List of References Available Upon Request

Selected List of Works

Instrumental Chamber Music:

Trenodia per Violino, for Solo Violin – 10 minutes (2022 – arranged 2025)

Trenodia per Viola, for Solo Viola – 10 minutes (2022 – arranged 2023)

The Burning Cove, for String Quartet – 5 minutes, 35 seconds (2022)

Performed 4 October 2024, Scarborough Bluffs United Church, Scarborough, by The Odin String Quartet

Trenodia per Violoncello, for Solo Violoncello – 10 minutes (2022)

Scheduled Performance: Spring 2026, Location TBC, by Emma Schmiedecke (Violoncello)

Fantasia Sopra Sei Temi di Puccini, for Solo Piano – 7 minutes (2021)

Performed Virtually on YouTube 26th May 2023, by Alexander Panizza (Piano)

Miniature no. 1, for Solo Flute – 2 minutes (2020)

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Lamento per Sassofono, for Solo Tenor or Alto Saxophone – 5 minutes (2020)

Performed 7 August 2020, Orford Virtual Music Academy, by Matthew Koester (Alto Saxophone)

Rondo–Allegro, for Piano Trio – 17 minutes (2018)

Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Virginie Laliberté (Violin), Miso Mok (Cello), Jack Zhao (Piano)

Invenzione per Pianoforte, for Solo Piano – 5 minutes (2016)

Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Amy Seulky Lee (Piano)

Sonatina per Quintetto da Camera, for Flute, Clarinet, Marimba, Violin, and Cello – 7 minutes (2015)

Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Tristan Durie (Flute), Bahar Tavasoli (Clarinet), Jonny Smith (Marimba), Steve Koh (Violin), Amahl Arulanandam (Cello), Patrick Murray (Conductor)

Performed 9th December 2015, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Sarah Yunji Moon (Flute), Juan Olivares (Clarinet), Jonny Smith (Marimba), Adam Despinic (Violin), Andrew Ascenzo (Cello), Gary Kulesha (Conductor)

Three Compositional Studies in Gesture, for Two Violins – 8 minutes (2015)

Performed 23 June 2024, at the Canadian Music Centre, by Alessia Disimino and Hen Hang Hou (Violins)

Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Eric Kim–Fujita and Steve Koh (Violins)

Suite Ottatonica Neobarocca, for Solo Piano – 8 minutes (2012)

Performed 18 March 2013, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Valentina Sadowski (Piano)

Ilusões do Carnaval, Study for Two Marimbas – 6 minutes (2012)

Performed 27 November 2012, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Étienne Levesque and Joël Cormier (Marimba)

Preludio per Chitarra, for Solo Classical Guitar – 6 minutes (2011)

Performed 14 February 2012, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Patrick Power (Classical Guitar)

The Elves and the Shoemaker, a Ballet for Chamber Ensemble – 40 minutes (2010)

Chamber Vocal & Choral Music:

Opera Creation Forum Projects 1–4: 1. *L'opéra brûle*, 2. *Queen Vashti*, 3. *All of the Following*, 4. *La dernière nuit*, (Libretti by Étienne Lepage, Blessing Nwodo, Meghan Kemp–Gee, and Nathalie Boisvert, respectively) – 20 minutes (2025)

Projects 4 Scheduled Performance 27 January 2027, at 9e Grande Salle, Montreal, by Ellen Wieser (soprano), Jean-Christophe Lizotte (cello), and Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe (piano)

Projects 2 & 4 Performed 21 October 2025, at 9e Grande Salle, Montreal, by Bruno Roy (baritone), Ellen Wieser (soprano), Mishael Eusebio (tenor), and Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe (piano)

Performed 16 February 2025, at Place des Arts, Montreal, by Bruno Roy (baritone), Ellen Wieser (soprano), Mishael Eusebio (tenor), Kristin Hoff (mezzo-soprano), Tony Stauffer (piano), and Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe (piano)

Frosted Promise, (Text by Kathryn Knowles), for Bass–Baritone and Fixed Media, for Slow Rise Music – 8 minutes (2022)

Performed 10th September 2022, at the Native Earth Performing Arts Centre, by Tristan Zaba (Bass–Baritone)

A Shropshire Lad, (Based on A.E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*), A Song Cycle for Soprano and Piano – 25 minutes (2016)

Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Gwenna Fairchild–Taylor (Soprano), Markéta Ornova (Piano)

Performed 1 March 2016, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Gwenna Fairchild–Taylor (Soprano), Ivan Jovanovic (Piano)

Confessions, A Song Cycle for Soprano and Piano (Based on “The Confessions of St. Augustine”) – 35 minutes (2014)

Performed 4 May 2015, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Eliza–Jane Cassey (Soprano), Blair Salter (Piano)

Performed 24 April 2014, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Eliza–Jane Cassey (Soprano), Blair Salter (Piano)

Infant Joy, for SATB Choir (*Written for the Birth of my Nephew, Luca*) – 5 minutes, 30 seconds (2013)

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Performed 9 March 2019, in Walter Hall, Toronto, by Chelsea Van Pelt, Gwendolyn Yearwood (Sopranos), Gwenna Fairchild–Taylor, Victoria Borg (Altos), Ross Mortimer, Kevin Mulligan (Tenors), Michael Broder, Nicholas Borg (Basses), Patrick Murray (Conductor)

Performed 5 December 2015, Hammerson Hall, Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, by the Mississauga Festival Choir

In the Bleak Mid-Winter, for SSA Children’s Choir and SATB Choir – 6 minutes (2012)

Missa Brevis (i. Kyrie, ii. Gloria, iii. Sanctus, iv. Agnus Dei), for SATB Choir, Percussion, Harp, and Organ – 15 minutes (2009)

Psalm 73: 23–26, for Voice & Piano or Chamber Ensemble – 4 minutes (2008)

Performed 2 November 2011, University of Toronto, by Mahi Raptis (Soprano), Peter Grant–Mackechnie (Piano)

Performed 9 July 2010, at Holy Rosary Church, Toronto, by Alisson Angelo (Soprano), Zachary Moss (Flute), Emily Hau (Violin), George Fung (Piano)

Performed 8 December 2008, at 90 Wellesley, Toronto, by Adanya Dunn (Soprano), Tristan Durie (Flute), Kishan Couhan (Clarinet), Rafael Ponciano (Percussion), Peter Grant–Mackechnie (Piano), Coco Chen (Violin), Samantha McLellan (Double Bass), Massimo Guida (Conductor)

Ave Maria, for Voice & Organ – 5 minutes (2008)

Performed 9 July 2010, at Holy Rosary Church, Toronto, by Alisson Angelo (Soprano), George Fung (Organ)

Vocal & Instrumental Music for Large Ensemble:

At Wits’ End, for Orchestra – 7 minutes 30 seconds (2025)

Hope is the Last Goddess, for Orchestra – 7 minutes (2025)

Performed 3 May 2025, FirstOntario Concert Hall, Hamilton, by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra

In Search of Spring, for String Orchestra – 5 minutes (2024)

Performed 21 June 2025, St. Paul’s United Church, Dundas, by the Cricket Chamber Orchestra

Elegy, for Chamber Ensemble – 5 minutes (2020)

Performed 12 December 2021, at the Price Ball-Room, Pan-Pacific, Toronto, by the North York Concert Orchestra

[Performed virtually on YouTube](#) 12 March 2021, by the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

Stelle, a Symphony in three continuous movements (i. *Inferno*, ii. *Purgatorio*, iii. *Paradiso*) for Orchestra – 30 minutes (2019)

Three Mystical Orchestral Miniatures, for Orchestra – 6 minutes 30 seconds (2014 – revised 2024)

Confessions (Songs 2, 5, 6 & 7), A Song Cycle for Soprano and Orchestra (Based on “The Confessions of St. Augustine”) – 20 minutes (2014)

The Fanfare of Illumination, for Brass Ensemble and Percussion (Written for the first annual “Alumni of Influence” Gala, Honouring 100 Alumni of University College, University of Toronto) – 3 minutes, 30 seconds (2012)

Performed 15 November 2012, at the Eglinton Grand Theatre, Toronto, by the University of Toronto Brass Ensemble (Performed annually since the inception of the University College “Alumni of Influence Gala,” in 2012)

Rob Ford: The Opera, for Singers and Chamber Orchestra (Composed Scenes 1 & 2 of the Opera. Libretto by Michael Albano; Scenes 3 & 4 by Adam Scime, Scene 5 by Anna Höstman, and Scene 6 by Saman Shahi) – 20 minutes (2011)

Performed 22 January 2012, at MacMillan Theatre, Toronto, by Fabián Arciniegas (Baritone), Eliza Johnson (Soprano), Andrew Haji (Tenor), the GamUT Ensemble

Selected Arrangements (For Large and Chamber Ensembles Only):

Songs for Joy and Peace: a Christmas Medley, for Small Orchestra – 5 minutes (2021); Various Traditional Carols

Performed 10th December 2022 & 11th December 2021 at the Sanderson Centre, by the Brantford Symphony Orchestra

Performed 3rd December 2022, at the Salvation Army Citadel, by the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra

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Music for Film and Other Media:

Lost for Words, [Music](#) for a Word-trivia Game released by OMG! Brews Games for iPhone, iPad, and Android (2015)

Newsroom, [Music](#) for the Newsroom Web App. for the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music (2014)

Memory Worked by Mirrors, Music, for Soprano and Chamber Ensemble (Short Film by Stephen Broomer) – 2 minutes (2014)

Performed 3rd May 2014, at Brockton Studio, Toronto, by Jessica Tse (Clarinet), Patrick Power (Guitar), Eric Woolston (Percussion), Adanya Dunn (Soprano), Brenton Chan (Cello), Patrick Murray (Conductor)

“Boundless Impact,” University of Toronto, Music; Additional Music by Mike MacMillan; Drum beats by Andrew Kilgour – 3 minutes (2013)

Premiered 18th October 2013, at Corus Quay, Toronto

Inauguration Video for President Gertler, University of Toronto, Music – 2 minutes (2013)

Premiered 18th October 2013, at Corus Quay, Toronto

Lost Flower, Music; A Short Classically Animated Film by Adisra “Peach” Promthep, Sheridan College – 2 minutes (2012)

Premiered 26th April 2012, at Sheridan College Industry Day, Oakville

Little Icarus, Music; A Short Digitally Animated Film by Dylan Kurp, Sheridan College – 2 minutes (2011)

Premiered 28th April 2011, at Sheridan College Industry Day, Oakville

Pistol Shrimp, Music; A Short Classically Animated Film by Derek Spencer, Sheridan College – 2 minutes (2011)

Premiered 28th April 2011, at Sheridan College Industry Day, Oakville

In a Blue Moon, Music; A Short Classically Animated Film by Nicole Gagnon, Sheridan College – 2 minutes (2011)

Premiered 28th April 2011, at Sheridan College Industry Day, Oakville

Silent Night, Music. A Short Digitally Animated Film by Ajith Vasu, Sheridan College – 2 minutes (2011)

Premiered 28th April 2011, at Sheridan College Industry Day, Oakville