

Simon Farintosh

Simon Farintosh is an award-winning guitarist, composer, and educator based in Toronto, ON. Named one of CBC's '30 Under 30 Classical Musicians' in 2023, he is known for his unconventional programming choices, connecting with audiences by integrating the classical guitar with more contemporary musical forms such as electronica and jazz.

Simon studied with Dr. Alexander Dunn at the University of Victoria, where he earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in 2018. Simon's musical pursuits later took him to Milwaukee, WI, where he completed a Master's Degree at *The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee* in 2020. Here, he was a student and teaching assistant to Rene Izquierdo, a renowned Cuban virtuoso and revered pedagogue. Currently, Simon is pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto, where he is a student of Jorge Caballero and Dr. Jeffrey McFadden.

Simon's performances have garnered him top awards in various national and international competitions, including 1st Prize at the *2018 Northwest Guitar Festival in Spokane, WA*. As a composer, he was recently awarded *First Prize* in the *2022 Ottawa Guitar Society Composition Competition* for his original piece 'Distant Light.' He is a six-time recipient of the *British Columbia Arts Council Award*, and has been a featured performer for organizations such as the Vancouver Classical Guitar Festival, Victoria Conservatory of Music Summer Guitar Intensive, The Classical Guitar Society of Tri-Cities, Madison Classical Guitar Society, Victoria Guitar Society, Ottawa Guitar Society, Guitar Society of Toronto, and Higher Ground Music Festival.