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Rebecca Hass (Nitaawegiizhigok/ Singing Sky Woman) is a Canadian born artist of settler (English, French, German) and is a citizen of the Ontario Métis Nation, of Georgian Bay Métis ancestry. She lives her culture as a song carrier and creator, through drum song, takeovers of traditional classical repertoire and storytelling through her evolving compositional practice rooted in land and matriarchal wisdom. Rebecca was the inaugural winner of the 2022 Nada Ristich Changemaker Ruby Award from Opera Canada and is becoming internationally recognized for her passionate advocacy of reclamation of ancestral voice as a means to tell stories. Sparks and Wiry Cries recently announced Rebecca as the inaugural songCIRCLE *salonniere* and the recipient of the Sorel Foundation Award supporting the curation, writing and producing of *The Song Blanket*, scheduled for its debut in NYC in 2026. Rebecca recently completed a Leighton Studio Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity, which allowed her to continue her compositional explorations in singing the land as a solo artist and through composition for choral voices. Projects for the 2024.25 season include a residency at Bard College, creative coaching sessions at the Manhattan School of Music, Julliard and the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble. Chosen for the Soundstreams RBC Emerging Composer program, Rebecca's composition for choir, *Ki Kishkishin- Michif for Do you Remember?*, will be performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir in February of 2025. Rebecca is the Director of Engagement and New Work for Pacific Opera Victoria in British Columbia where she lives with her loved ones and rescue pooch, RyeRye.

### **Original shows, performer, curator, composer, storyteller**

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|------|---|
| 2026 | <u><i>The Song Blanket</i></u> – Commissioned by <i>Sparks and Wiry Cries</i> , Sorel Foundation Grant. NYC, USA              |
| 2026 | <u><i>The Newcombe Singers Concert</i></u> – Victoria, British Columbia , Canada  |
| 2025 | <u><i>Ki Kishkishin-Do you remember?</i></u> Composer. Soundstreams and the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| 2025 | <u><i>Scientific and Artistic Summit on Planetary Health</i></u> - Global Pax Collective, La Paz Baja California Sur, Mexico  |

- 2025      Loon Calls- NuMus, Kitchener Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- 2024      *With sick and famish'd eyes* -Winnipeg Art Gallery with Jonathon Adams, special guest recitations: Rebecca Hass. Virtuosi Concerts, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- 2024      The Song Blanket- preview- Bard College Conservatory of Music, ReThinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck
- 2023      New France -Curated and performed by Jonathon Adams, with Rebecca Hass composer, storyteller, mezzo-soprano. Bard College Conservatory of Music, Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck
- 2023      Manaadjia (to take care of our people for a long time) Pacific Opera Victoria, Victoria, Canada

Other shows created include: Wanna Sing a Showtune, Emily Carr-her Life, The Ring in Ten, His Kiss.

Performance: Operatic and symphony highlights include Carmen with Newfoundland Symphony, Gaia in Daphne with Pacific Opera Victoria, Mrs. Herring in Albert Herring with Vancouver Opera and the Alto soloist for Afghanistan: Requiem for a Generation by Jeffery Ryan with Calgary and Vancouver Symphonies and the Verdi Requiem for the Victoria Symphony. Past performance resume available upon request.

### **Residencies**

- 2025      RBC Emerging Composer Residency, Soundstreams, Mentor: Tarik O'Regan Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2024      Leighton Studio, Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity: composition practice aligning with cultural practice, Banff, Alberta, Canada
- 2024      Bard College Conservatory of Music, Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck

## **Creative Living Life Coaching Classes, Identity and Whole Artist work- Recent Highlights**

2025      *Private sessions* with Ensemble members, four times a year. Canadian Opera company, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Workshop : *Make a life and a living: tools for thriving as a whole human in the arts* Julliard School of Music, New York, New York, USA

2024      Workshop: *Make a life and a living: tools for thriving as a whole human in the arts*, Manhattan School of Music, New York, New York, USA

Workshops classes: *Singing the land* Bard College Conservatory of Music, Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck, New York, USA

Workshop: *Connecting to the Wisdom of Energy as Creatives*, Marigold Music Program, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Workshops: *Creative Living*, Digital Emerging Artist Program, Manitoba Opera, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

*Private sessions* with Ensemble members, four times a year. Canadian Opera company, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Workshops: *Creative Living and identity*, Opera Nuova, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Workshop and performance sharing, *Balanced Living in the Arts*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Previous creative coaching work: Calgary Opera Emerging Artists; Pacific Opera Victoria Young Artists; Association for Opera in Canada Mentorship program; University of McGill, Victoria, British Columbia, Toronto, Manitoba, Ottawa, Wilfrid Laurier; Opera Nuova,

St. Andrews by the Sea Summer Opera Intensive; Highland Opera Studio; National Association of Music Teachers, Ontario Division; Actors Fund of Canada.

Digital content: Created and produced a seven -part series for Mass Culture focused on Indigenous world view, wellness and a civically engaged practice for artists.

### **Boards and Committee's**

Dream Big Collective, Manitoba Opera- Mentor, Book Club Host, Artistic Circle Member; Racial Justice Opera Network; OA communications Council and Editorial Board for Opera America magazine; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Reconciliation Committee, Pacific Opera Victoria; Indigenous Committee, Canadian Actors Equity; Voices in Circle- Indigenous planning committee concert series, University of Victoria;

### **Selected Community Engagement**

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|-------------|---|
| 2024        | Memorial Potlatch, Bobby Sault  |
|             | ReNaissance Opera Cultural Consultant and New Work Facilitator, OperaFest         |
|             | Organizer, performer, Truth and Reconciliation Day, Royal British Columbia Museum |
| 2022-23     | Performer, National Indigenous People's Day, Royal Roads University               |
| 2017 - 2023 | <u>ANSWER Drum Group</u> Member. Co-Director from 2021 to 2023.                   |
| 2021        | Answer Potlatch   |
| 2014 - 2018 | Unity Drummers  |

### **Media**

#### **Podcast**

What's Up with Opera- Creator, writer, producer and host. In our third season

#### **CBC Radio One and Two**

- Guest host, writer, assistant producer for 8 years Saturday Afternoon at the Opera and In Concert

- Writer, producer for radio documentaries for national radio shows the Sunday Edition, Tapestry, The Current, Now or Never, The Doc Project
- Life Coach Columnist for North by North West, CBC Vancouver, two seasons
- Regular life coach appearances on various CBC shows across Canada as a Life Coach, ongoing

### **Pacific Opera Victoria, Arts Administration**

**Director of Community Engagement (2017 to 2019)**

**Director of Engagement Programs and Partnerships (2017 to 2024)**

**Director of Engagement and New Work (2024 to present)**

Portfolio includes:

- Envisioned and administered all elements of an 8- week singer artist training program focused on civic engagement and self-produced digital media projects
- Creator, host and producer of the very successful podcast ‘What’s Up with Opera ‘ now entering its third season, featuring the people who make opera today in connection with the art forms evolution into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Conceived of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion space through the development of a platform for artists who identify as Indigenous, Black and/or People of colour, curating content, and mentoring artists in a digital realization of material for the series “For All to Hear”.
- Found in Translation: community initiative focused on authentic relationships with Elders and Knowledge Keepers with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, translating European Art songs into Indigenous languages
- Music and storytelling with community partners in Raising our Voices, two performances each season
- Created and manages the newly announced Opera Sprouts Initiative a program for composer/librettist teams to create new opera works for middle schools across BC. This program is in partnership with Vancouver Opera.

### **Awards**

- Sorel Foundation, Claudette Sorel SongCIRCLE, Inaugural recipient 2024, \$20,000
- Leighton Studio Residency, September 2024 Banff Centre for Creativity and the Arts
- BC Arts Council Professional Development funding – with ReNnaissance Opera/ Indiefest

- First People's Cultural Council – Project Development Funding – writing, composition storytelling performance project. “Manaadjia”
- Ruby Award, The Inaugural Nada Ristich Change Maker Award, Opera Canada 2022
- Creative Builder Award for the City of Victoria 2021
- Victoria Community Leadership Award for Arts and Culture Leadership 2019

### **Education, Training**

- Honors Bachelor of Music – Major in Vocal Performance, Wilfrid Laurier University 1983 – 1987
- Canadian Opera Co. Ensemble Member-1987 – 1991. National tours of Tales of Hoffman, The Marriage of Figaro, The Coronation of Poppea
- San Francisco Opera – Merola Opera Program-1991
- Life Coach – Coaches Training Institute of San Francisco 2007 – received certification in 2009
- Opera America Leadership Intensive 2018
- Intermediate Wise Practices in Indigenous Leadership, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity 2022