

BEVERLEY JOHNSTON, O.C.

PERCUSSION

Beverley Johnston is one of Canada's foremost percussionists, celebrated for her artistry, innovation, and unwavering commitment to contemporary music. Over her distinguished career, she has commissioned and premiered numerous works by leading Canadian composers - many of which have become staples of the global percussion repertoire. In recognition of her exceptional advocacy for Canadian music, she was named a Canadian Music Centre Ambassador.

In 2024, Johnston was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada (O.C.), inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame, and honoured with the Toronto Musicians Association Lifetime Achievement Award. She received the 2025 Oskar Morawetz Award for Excellence in Music Performance from the Ontario Arts Council, joining past laureates such as Angela Hewitt, Russell Braun, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Johnston's career extends far beyond Canada's borders. She performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and has released eight solo albums, in addition to appearing on numerous other recordings. Her extensive touring has taken her to major percussion festivals across the United States, Europe, and Asia, including the Ivan Bilić Marimba Week (Croatia), the International Katarzyna Myćka Marimba Academy (Europe), the Shenyang International Percussion Festival (China), the International Marimba Festival and Conference (USA), the Zeltsman Marimba Festival (USA), the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Stockholm International Percussion Event, and the Journée de la Percussion (France). She has also served on faculty at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (2016, 2024) and is a frequent performer at Canadian summer festivals such as the Festival of the Sound, Agassiz Chamber Music Festival, Music and Beyond, and the Ottawa Chamberfest.

A Montreal native, Johnston studied at Vanier College and later at the University of Toronto with Russell Hartenberger, where she has been a faculty member since 1996. She is a Marimba One and Paiste Artist.

For more information, visit her online at www.beverleyjohnston.com or connect with her on social media.

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