Yuliya Zakharava
Composer

Belarusian-Canadian composer Yuliya Zakharava studied composition at the Belarusian State Academy of Music under the mentorship of Dmitri Smolsky. A disciple of Anatoli Bogatyrev—himself a student of Vassili Zolotarev, heir to Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov—Smolsky passed on to Yuliya a tradition deeply rooted in a lineage of masters, forging a powerful link between eras. Her first symphonic work was conducted by Gennady Provatorov, the conductor who led Shostakovich's Katerina Izmailova in 1964.

After completing her master's degree in Minsk, Zakharava moved to Montreal, where she was profoundly influenced by the innovative approach of Ana Sokolović. Under Sokolović's guidance at the Université de Montréal, she earned not only a second master's degree but also the DEPA diploma, further consolidating her distinctive artistic vision. At the end of her studies, her symphonic works were performed for the first time in Canada by the Université de Montréal Orchestra under Jean-François Rivest, with a national broadcast on Ici Musique.

Yuliya Zakharava's music embraces a resolutely contemporary language in which theatricality, irony, sonic poetry, and folkloric influences intertwine. Her works stand out for their narrative quality and openness to dialogue with other art forms.

Recently, a milestone in her career was her participation in the MNM Festival with the Orchestre Nouvelle Génération, Natasha Turovsky, Fila 13, and Lina Cruz. In August 2024, during the Chants Libres workshop, she collaborated with mezzo-soprano Marie-Annick Béliveau, pianist Pamela Reimer, and stage director Igor Ovadis on Second Hand Time, an opera based on the book by Svetlana Alexievich. This experience deepened her artistic perspective and will fuel the future development of the opera.

Her work is gaining increasing recognition both in Canada and abroad. In December 2025, her first commission from the Montreal Symphony Orchestra was premiered at Place des Arts to strong critical acclaim.