

# Sandy Scofield

is a multi-award winning composer, musician, musical director, singer, songwriter and performer based in Vancouver, the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh and Səlilwətał First Nations.. She has studied classical, jazz, African, Indonesian gamelan, electro-acoustic music and also audio production and electroacoustic music. Among her six recordings to date, she has won five Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, a Canadian Folk Music Award, an Indian Summer Music Award (U.S.A.), a Western Canadian Music Award and she received three consecutive Juno nominations.

Over the years, she has mentored innumerable First Nations singers and songwriters in rudimentary music theory, vocal techniques, songwriting craft and music-industry protocol. She has toured to festivals on five continents, including 2024 WOMAD South Africa (Cape Town), Crossing Cultures (Seoul S.Korea), N'gan Girra (Albury, Australia), First People's Festival (Smithsonian Institute, opening of the Museum of the American Indian), World Music Festival (Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia), Ollin Kan (Mexico City) and most of our Canadian Folk Festivals.

She was commissioned in 2023 by Quebec's Art Chorale for an unaccompanied SATB choral piece, which she called Sacred.

Sandy was Musical Director and composer for three of Kevin Loring's Nlakapa'mux community plays, presented her work in 2021 at the Canadian New Music Network, performed at the 2 Rivers Remix Feast of Contemporary Indigenous Music and Culture, was Mentor for Emergence women's music retreat two years in a row, was the sounddesign for Missing, Vancouver Opera's MMIW Opera and lastly, performed a concert with Tanya Tagaq at the National Arts Centre.

She has taken the tool box that she has enhanced as a touring musician, through her composition work at SFU, and from the young musicians she has mentored and applied them to her sense of melody, harmony and rhythm, resulting in what writer Phil Paine described as "a high-level synthesis of jazz, blues, rock and pop" with First Nations traditions. "Her music is original, refined and intelligent."

She is currently writing for her 7th album.

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she/her

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## Awards

- 2008 Winner, Indian Summer Music Award for Nikawiy Askiy, Best Folk Album, USA
- 2008 Juno nomination for Nikawiy Askiy, Best Music of Aboriginal Canada
- 2007 Winner, Canadian Folk Music Award for Best Songwriter, Indigneous, Nikawiy Askiy
- 2007 Winner, Canadian Aboriginal Music Award for Best Female Roots/Traditional, Nikawiy

Askiy

- 2004 Juno nomination Best Music of Aboriginal Canada for Ketwam
- 2003 Winner, Western Canadian Music Award for Outstanding Aboriginal Recording for Ketwam
- 2003 Winner, Best Producer/Engineer, Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for Ketwam
- 2003 Winner, Best Folk Album, Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for Ketwam
- 2002 Juno nomination, Best Music of Aboriginal Canada for Riel's Road
- 2000 Winner, Best Alternative Album, Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, Riel's Road
- 2000 Winner, Best Single for Beat the Drum, Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

## Education

- 2009 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Music Composition, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC (also African Music, University of Ghana, West Africa)

## Performance Highlights

- South Africa 2024 WOMAD, Cape Town, South Africa with Iskwew Singers
- Folk Alliance, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Vancouver BC
- Winnipeg Folk Festival, Winnipeg MB
- Lunenburg Folk Festival, Lunenburg Nova Scotia
- Germany Tour - Berlin, Oberweiling / Velburg, Nuernberg Hof
- First Peoples Festival, Pau, France
- Rainforest World Music Festival, Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia
- Erlebnismarketin, Vienna, Austria
- N'Gan Girra Aborigine Festival, Albury, Australia
- Adelaide, Australia
- Ollin Kan World Music Festival, Mexico City, MX
- International Languages Festival, Creel, MX
- Culiacan, Los Mochis, El Fuerte, Sinaloa, MX
- Olin Kan International World Music Festival, Mexico City MX
- 4th International Chihuahua Festival, Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- Third International Tercer Festival, Chihuahua City & Paquime, Casas Grande, Chih. MX
- Gathering of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Magdalena de Kino, Sonora Mexico
- Rites of Passage Festival, Seoul, Korea
- Canada Games, Aboriginal Pavilion, Prince George BC
- Pan Am Games, Toronto ON
- North American Indigenous Games, Regina BC
- Harrison Festival of the Arts, Harrison BC
- Opening of the Museum of the American Indian, First Peoples Festival, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC
- Bumbershoot, Seattle WA
- Talking Stick Festival, Vancouver BC
- Inspire Awards, Vancouver BC
- CBC Studio 700, Vancouver BC
- National Indigenous Day, The Forks, Winnipeg MB

## Selected Discography

- 2022 Red Earth, Merilainen Records, Independent
- 2012 Ninikamawinan, Iskwew Singers, Independent
- 2008 Nikawiy Askiy (Mother Earth), Arbor Records/EMI
- 2003 Ketwam, North America, Germany, Austria & Switzerland Release VarisOne-label of BE1TWO, Fenn Music Service, Germany; Sound Of Music, Austria; &, RecRec Medien AG, Switzerland
- 2000 Riel's Road, Arpeggio Records