**ROBERT RIVAL**

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**Biographies for print and online concert programs**

**Updated Sep. 1, 2025**

SHORTEST BIO (96 WORDS)

Robert Rival's music for orchestra, chamber ensemble and voice has been performed widely in Canada and abroad, including at Carnegie Hall, by leading orchestras, musicians, ensembles and choirs. Critics have described his work, written in a contemporary extended tonal style and inspired by the Canadian wilderness, literature, and classical and romantic musical forms, as "stirring and dramatic", "spectacular", "clever and evocative", "well crafted", "immediately appealing", "melodic and accessible", "memorable" and "sophisticated". Former Resident Composer of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Rival holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto and teaches at the University of Ottawa. [robertrival.com](http://www.robertrival.com)

SHORT BIO (200 WORDS)

Robert Rival's music for orchestra, chamber ensemble and voice has been performed widely in Canada and abroad, including at Carnegie Hall, by leading orchestras, musicians, ensembles and choirs. Critics have described his work, written in a contemporary extended tonal style and inspired by the Canadian wilderness, literature, and classical and romantic musical forms, as "stirring and dramatic", "spectacular", "clever and evocative", "well crafted", "immediately appealing", "melodic and accessible", "memorable" and "sophisticated". His orchestral works include Lullaby, lauded as an "atmospheric dream world" (Birmingham News) and "a work of quiet rapture and refined sensibility" (American Record Guide) whose "gentle textures and flowing themes occasionally yield surprising harmonic turns and briskly changing metres" (New York Times); the muscular Achilles & Scamander; dazzling Whirlwind; Northwest Passage Variations on the Stan Rogers tune; the Renaissance-inspired Delights & Discords for chorus and wind ensemble; a riveting Violin Concerto; and the sweeping Symphony No. 2 "Water". Recent chamber music includes Nature Rhythms I, commissioned by the Gryphon Trio. Former Resident Composer of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Rival holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto, teaches at the University of Ottawa and lives with his wife, [Chantal-Andrée Samson](https://www.chantalsamson.com/), a realist oil painter, and their son. [robertrival.com](http://www.robertrival.com)