

CATHERINE MANOUKIAN, VIOLIN

Catherine Manoukian's professional career began at the age of twelve when she won the grand prize at the 1994 Canadian Music Competition. She was born in Toronto, began violin studies with her father, and made her first stage appearance at the age of four. From 1994 to 2000, Catherine studied with the late, world-renowned violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay in New York.

Catherine's orchestral debut was with the Vancouver Symphony in 1994, playing Paganini's first violin concerto. In subsequent years, she has soloed with many major North American and international orchestras, including, among others, the CBC Vancouver Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony, the Osaka Century Orchestra, and the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, all received to great critical acclaim. She has collaborated with such conductors as Mario Bernardi, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Keith Lockhart, Roy Goodman, Peter Oundjian, Marek Pijarowski, Tomomi Nishimoto, Seikyo Kim, and Eduard Topchjan.

As a recitalist, she has appeared on major stages of such cities as New York, Washington D.C., Boston, Los Angeles, Toronto, Paris, Tokyo, and Osaka, and has appeared as a chamber musician at the Aspen, Caramoor, and Newport International Festivals.

Catherine has released four CDs. "Elegies and Rhapsodies", a debut recital collection, "Chopin on Violin", consisting of transcriptions for violin of works by Chopin, "Lyricism", a collection of encores, and "Catherine Manoukian, Violin", featuring the Shostakovich A minor and Khatchaturian Violin Concertos, recorded with the Armenian Philharmonic under Eduard Topchjan. A fifth CD is in planning stages.

In addition to her musical career, Catherine is currently pursuing a PhD in philosophy at the University of Toronto. She holds a CGS doctoral research grant, awarded by the social sciences and humanities research council in Canada. She is interested in the nature of rationality and works on giving an account of deviant belief-forming processes. This means that she's secretly a neuroscientist.