



Performer Bibliographies

Described as “one of Canada’s most original and compelling artists”, violinist **Parmela Attariwala** has been active in genre-bending music and performance since moving to Toronto in 1994. She has toured and recorded with an array of musicians that includes Carla Bley, Ravi Nairpally, James Campbell, Anthony Braxton, Ed Hanley and Quinsin Natchov. She has also collaborated extensively – as composer, musician and movement artist – with a diverse range of choreographers, including Keiko Kitano, Claudia Wittmann and Karen Kaeja. An ardent improviser and proponent of improvisational pedagogy as a tool for cross-genre musical communication, Parmela performs regularly at AIMToronto events. In addition to traditional symphonic work, she also performs contemporary music with the Esprit Orchestra, Toca Loca, New Music Concerts and the Queen of Puddings Theatre Company. Parmela finds her creative home, though, in *the Attar Project*. Conceived as a vehicle to integrate the eclectic strands of her own musical background, *the Attar Project* engages artists across musical genres and artistic practices in virtuosic collaborations that maintain the essence of each while challenging the boundaries between them. Neither a fixed ensemble nor an “ad hoc” one, *the Attar Project* has unfolded as a series of dedicated partnerships, resulting in a body of work that, while beyond common definition, unfailingly awakens the eye and ear. Parmela’s current collaborators include Montreal-based tabla player Shawn Mativetsky and Toronto choreographers Gitanjali Kolanad and Kelly Arnsby.

Hailing from Calgary, Parmela received her formal training at Indiana University and the Bern Conservatory in Switzerland. She holds a Masters degree in ethnomusicology from the School of Oriental and African Studies (London, UK). Parmela is currently on faculty at the University of Toronto in its jazz department, and is also pursuing an ethnomusicology Ph.D., her studies concerning the effects of official multiculturalism on Canadian music-making and its funding. Parmela has released two critically acclaimed recordings: *Beauty Enthralled* (1997), described as “a cross-cultural handshake to set the mind spinning” (NOW magazine); and *Sapphire Skies* (2003), which features her own compositions and was called “a recording to treasure” (Wholenote magazine). February 2010 marks the release of Parmela’s third Attar Project album, *The Road Ahead...* featuring new and commissioned Canadian works for violin and tabla performed in collaboration with Shawn Mativetsky.
<http://parmela.com>

Versatile percussionist **Shawn Mativetsky** performs in a variety of musical genres with dynamism and skill. Equally at home in Western classical and contemporary/new music, Indian classical music, and world music, Shawn also composes and performs music for dance and theatre. He is active in the promotion of the tabla and North Indian classical music through lectures, workshops, and performances across Canada and the United States. Based in Montreal, Shawn teaches tabla and percussion at McGill University. His solo CD, *Payton MacDonald: Works for Tabla*, was released in 2007 on the Atma Classique label.

As an ensemble musician, Shawn Mativetsky performs regularly with the contemporary music collectives, Ensemble Mont-Royal and Ensemble Kore, violinist Parmela Attariwala’s cross-cultural Attar Project, and the Indian-folk group Galitcha. Shawn has performed numerous solo recitals, spanning Canada, the United States, England, and India. He has been featured in series such as the Windsor Canadian Music Festival, New Music in New Spaces, Groundswell, Festival Montréal Baroque, Jusqu’aux Oreilles, Evolutions, Voyages: Montréal-New York, Festival International du Domaine Forget, New Works Calgary, Music Toronto, and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

Since 2003, Shawn has been affiliated with the Pandit Ram Sahai Foundation (UK/India), and in the summers of 2006 and 2008, hosted tabla maestro Pandit Sharda Sahai's annual summer tabla workshop. As a practitioner of Indian classical music, Shawn regularly gives solo tabla performances, as well as accompanying kathak dance, voice, bansuri, sarod, and sitar artists. Regular performances with the Indian-folk group, Galitcha, have led to concerts across Canada and the US, as well as tours to France and Tunisia, and performances with guest musicians Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Salil Bhatt, Harry Manx, and Yves Lambert.

Shawn's work as composer and percussionist in Geordie Theatre's productions of *Brahm and the Angel* (2005) and *Hansel and Gretel* (2003) was met with critical acclaim. In 2003, he performed in Théâtre du Rideau Vert's highly successful production of Paulo Coelho's *L'Alchimiste* and was musical director and performer in Ensemble Mahapooram's *Le Lion du Panjshir* and Danse Kalashas / Usine C's dance production, *En Himalaya*. In 2006, he collaborated with the dancer Manijeh Ali, composing music for her solo dance choreography, *Spirit of the Mountain*.

Shawn has also performed with Ramasutra, Matter of Time, Ensemble Mahapooram, Ragleela, Lithium Ensemble, the Montreal Organ Consort, and Duo Sheppard-Lanza, as well as with a number of symphony orchestras in Canada. In 2000, his recording with Ramasutra won an ADISQ Felix award, and was nominated for a Juno.

Shawn Mativetsky is a ganda-band disciple of Pandit Sharda Sahai of the Benares tabla gharana and has also studied tabla with Bob Becker. In addition, he has studied Western classical percussion with Pierre Béluse, D'Arcy Gray, Andrei Malashenko, and Robert Slapcoff, and the percussion of Kathakali dance-theatre with Bruno Paquet. Shawn holds a Master's degree in music from McGill University and has received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.
<http://shawnmativetsky.com>