

Praised for her “beautifully clear, light lyric soprano” (Ludwig Van), Sara Schabas has performed as a soloist on three continents.

Nominated for the Dora Award for Outstanding Performance by an Individual, Sara is the 2024 winner of the Wirth Vocal Prize, a previous District Winner and Regional Encouragement Award Winner from the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, a three-time laureate of the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, and a recent alumna of Barbara Hannigan's Equilibrium Young Artists. An avid interpreter of new music, she enjoys close collaborations with composers including James Rolfe, Danika Lorèn, Cecilia Livingston, and Amy Brandon.

The 2025/2026 season sees Sara in returns to the Little Opera Company of Winnipeg as Addie in Ricky Ian Gordon/Royce Vavrek's The House Without a Christmas Tree, and debuts with the Victoria Philharmonic Choir in British Columbia, the Toronto Beach Chorale and Winnipeg's Dead of Winter. She reprises her critically acclaimed recital in a dark blue night with the pianist Isabelle David for the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg. In the spring, New Focus Records will release her recording of James Rolfe's O Greenest Branch conducted by David Fallis as well as her performance of Amy Brandon's The Bond, a song cycle written for her with poems by Miriam Waddington. Her first opera libretto, an adaptation of Christina Rossetti's Goblin Market with music by Danika Lorèn, will be workshopped by the University of Toronto Opera School in January.

Sara's previous career highlights include a recital tour of mainland China as well as residencies in Germany and France with the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques. She has premiered and performed roles for Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Tapestry Opera, the Dayton Opera, Aspen Opera Centre and Loose Tea Music Theatre. Concert performances have included Messiah across Canada and the United States, Mahler's Fourth Symphony under the late Lorin Maazel, James Whitbourn's Annelies in Kitchener-Waterloo, and recitals in venues including the Zurich Opera House Spiegelsaal, Montreal's Chapelle-Historique du Bon Pasteur, Concerts Lachine and the COC's Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre.

Sara holds degrees from the University of Toronto (Hon. Voice Perf., Eng. Literature Minor) and Roosevelt University (M.Mus., Siragusa Endowed Scholarship) with additional studies at Vienna's Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst, the Franz-Schubert-Institut, Highlands Opera Studio, the Aspen Opera Center, Toronto Summer Music Festival and the Castleton Festival. She is a certified yoga teacher and a founding board member of the charity Sharing Notes, which brings free musical performances to hospitals and prisons. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies at McGill University researching the Austrian-Canadian mezzo-soprano, Emmy Heim and is the editor of Art Song Canada e-magazine.