

## Jocelyn Morlock – A Remembrance

By Kevin Madill

On March 27, 2023, Jocelyn Morlock, a highly admired and respected Canadian composer, passed away at the age of 53 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Jocelyn was born in Saint Boniface, Manitoba, and pursued her passion for music by studying piano with Robert Richardson, Sr. She obtained a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Brandon University in 1994.

Jocelyn then moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where she furthered her education in composition at the University of British Columbia (UBC). There, she studied under esteemed composers Stephen Chatman, Keith Hamel, and Nikolai Korndorf, earning her Master of Music degree in 1996 and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2002.

Throughout her career, Jocelyn garnered attention and recognition for her compositions. She served as a Composer-In-Residence for Music on Main from 2012 to 2014, contributing to the local new music scene in Vancouver. Subsequently, she held the same position with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra from 2014 to 2019. Her quartet, "Bird in the Tangled Sky," received international acclaim when performed at the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) World Music Days. In 2004, she won the Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Emerging Composers competition, and in 2018, she was awarded a Juno Award for her work "My Name is Amanda Todd," which reflected on the tragic life of a 15-year-old from Port Coquitlam who experienced cyber abuse and bullying.

Jocelyn had a deep connection to UBC's School of Music. As the Music Librarian at UBC, I had the privilege of engaging in several meaningful conversations with Jocelyn during her time as a teacher at the School. We discussed the music holdings of the library, and her generous spirit and thoughtful insights were greatly appreciated. It was later revealed to me that Jocelyn had a special bond with libraries in general, and the music library at UBC in particular.

Kirsten Walsh, former Head of the UBC Music Library, shares fond memories of Jocelyn from the 1990s when Jocelyn worked as a Student Assistant in the library. Jocelyn's exceptional abilities and dedication allowed her to single-handedly manage the Circulation Desk and respond to inquiries over the phone and in person, while also expressing her witty and quirky sense of humour. Kirsten observed Jocelyn's growth as a composer, with her compositions being performed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and various chamber groups. Jocelyn's insightful commentaries on

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new works and her engaging banter with conductor Bramwell Tovey during her tenure as Composer-In-Residence with the VSO left a lasting impression.

Colleagues and mentors at the UBC School of Music offer their special memories of Jocelyn as a composer and friend. Keith Hamel, Chair, Composition Division, School of Music, UBC, shared his reflections: “Like so many people, I considered Jocelyn Morlock to be a close friend and enjoyed our frequent discussions about the contemporary music scene in Canada, our post-concert critiques, and our chats as colleagues at the University of British Columbia. Jocelyn had a sharp mind and was an astute and talented musician. At the same time, she was kind, generous, quirky, and humble; she was more interested in helping other composers (especially students) than she was in furthering her own career.”

Stephen Chatman, Professor Emeritus and Former Head of Composition, School of Music, UBC, expressed his admiration: “Jocelyn Morlock was not only my exceptionally gifted composition student (MMus, UBC), she was a cherished friend. She oozed with talent — a great creative voice. As my long-time engraver, I came to know her well. I much admired her music, her intelligence, her quirkiness, her integrity, and most of all, her compassion and generosity. Jocelyn was an extraordinary person and composer; she will be sorely missed by many.”

Jonathan Girard, Director of Orchestral Activities, School of Music, UBC, shared a poignant experience: “When I was invited to conduct the Orquestra Sinfônica da UCS in Caxias do Sul, Brazil in 2019, I wanted to share with the orchestra and the audience a work which would showcase some of the wonderful music that has been written in Canada. I have always been a big fan of Jocelyn's music, and her piece ‘Nostalgia’ seemed to be the perfect work that was both reflective (as she mentioned her starting point was from the Adagio of Bach's ‘Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord, BWV 1027’) and looking forward to the importance of being present in the moment. The orchestra adored the work, and I was thrilled to help introduce new friends in South America to Jocelyn's music, which brings the best of the Canadian spirit forward. It was a moving experience for all.”

Jocelyn Morlock will not be forgotten. Her talent, kindness, warmth, and endurance through difficult times will be remembered and live on through the memories of others and her wonderful musical legacy.