

Francis Battah - Biography

Montreal-based composer Francis Battah studied classical and jazz piano before earning a Bachelor's degree in Composition from the Université de Montréal and a Master's degree from McGill University, where he studied with Denys Bouliane, Alan Belkin, Denis Gougeon, and Ana Sokolović. His catalogue spans works for soloists, ensembles, and orchestra, commissioned by, among others, the Orchestre métropolitain, Orchestre de l'Agora, Quasar, and the Bozzini and Cobalt string quartets.

His work explores the influence of jazz, microtonality, pianistic idioms, and the creation of an "imaginary folklore" centered on melody and modality. Nominated for an Opus Prize as Composer of the Year (2025), he has received awards in Canada and Europe, including prizes at the Antonin Dvorak International Composition Competition and the Free Range competition. He also develops projects at the intersection of music and literature (melodramas on poems by Pierre Nepveu and Fernand Ouellette). His scores are published by Doberman-Yppan and the Canadian Music Centre. Since 2023, he has taught ear training at Cégep de Saint-Laurent.