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Investigating the Operatic Oeuvre of Ana Sokolovic

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My research analyzes the intersection of Western contemporary and Southeastern European musical techniques in the operatic output of Serbian-Canadian composer Ana Sokolovic. This research will describe how culturally diverse music contributes to the Canadian musical identity and landscape, equip singers with practical materials to learn and perform this music, and connect new audiences with Canadian opera. I will analyse certain musical criteria such as melody, harmony, text, rhythm, tonality and extended vocal techniques from both Western contemporary and Serbian music in the context of Sokolovic's four published operas. A practical discussion of vocal techniques that lie outside the scope of conservative vocalisation, such as sliding figures, screams and imitating animal sounds will be of use to singers who might be unfamiliar with such skills. This researcher hopes to increase the visibility of Canadian women composers of opera and their work.