

Violinist **Parmela Attariwala** interweaves life as a performer-creator, researcher and music educator. She uses her multi-faceted platforms to advocate for ethics and social justice in the Canadian cultural sector, and to promote contemporary Canadian artistic creation, domestically and globally.

Attariwala received her formal music training at Indiana University and the Konservatorium für Musik in Bern, Switzerland. She subsequently pursued post-graduate degrees in ethnomusicology at the School of Oriental and African Studies and at the University of Toronto.

In addition to being an interpreter of traditional Western art music, Attariwala's creative work explores the liminal space between musical genres, artistic disciplines and identities, using improvisatory techniques as a point of departure. Through the Attar Project, she has developed an avant-garde repertoire for violin and tabla as well as collaborative works with choreographers that integrate demanding choreographies with virtuosic violin playing. Attariwala has recorded many of these works on three critically-acclaimed albums. More recently, her creative output has focused on multi-authored improvisations, and a series of sonic memorials based on end-of-life bhakti poetry.

A dedicated mentor and teacher, Attariwala has taught violin, viola and improvisation for over thirty years. She specializes in working with adolescents needing skill-acquisition modifications and adult performers working in non-classical genres. Attariwala has taught at York University, the University of Toronto, and worked for many years with vulnerable youth at Toronto's Regent Park School of Music.

Attariwala increasingly works as an arts equity consultant and advocate for equity-seeking musicians. She has served on the boards of numerous music and arts service organizations, and in 2017, was the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Policy at Brandon University. Attariwala's writings focus on issues related to equity, diversity and ethics in the Canadian music sector, as well as improvisation and music pedagogy.

Attariwala is currently based in Vancouver.