

Brad Kukko

Canadian guitarist Brad Kukko began studying guitar at the age of nine under the guidance of his uncle, Cliff Ojala. Inspired by the solo classical works of Fernando Sor, Francisco Tárrega, and Miguel Llobet, as well as performances by Andrés Segovia, Pepe Romero, and Christopher Parkening, Brad decided to pursue classical guitar as his life's ambition. He began his classical studies in Thunder Bay, Ontario, with instructor Sean Mundy and was later accepted into the music undergraduate program at Lakehead University. After earning his Bachelor of Music degree, Brad continued his classical guitar training for seven years with Dr. Jeffrey McFadden at the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) in Toronto. During this time, he also participated in masterclasses with renowned artists such as Adam Holzman, Roland Dyens, Andrew Zohn, Lorenzo Micheli, and Matteo Mela. At the RCM, Brad performed as a soloist in weekly masterclasses led by pianist Boyanna Toyich, featuring collaborations with performers on various instruments.

Brad's teaching career includes positions at the Regent Park School of Music (now Community Music Schools of Toronto), Arcadia Academy of Music, and Bravo School of Music. He currently offers guitar instruction at his studio in Thunder Bay as well as online. As an RCM-certified teacher at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels, Brad has guided many of his classical guitar students to significant achievements. His students have earned RCM Ontario examination gold medals (for the highest provincial marks), won scholarships and top placements at local and provincial music festivals, and received awards at the OMFA Provincial Competition.

As an adjudicator, Brad has evaluated guitar performances at prestigious festivals, including the Calgary Performing Arts Festival, Ottawa NCR Kiwanis Music Festival, Guelph Kiwanis Music Festival, St. Catharines Kiwanis Music Festival, and Kitchener-Waterloo Kiwanis Music Festival.

Brad performs on a 2018 Jeff Sigurdson double-top classical guitar.