

#### One-Liner Bio:

Shelisa Akbar is a talented vocalist, composer, and music educator located in the Greater Toronto Area, who has a strong interest in pop, jazz, and Caribbean world music.

#### Short Bio (100 words):

Shelisa Akbar is a talented vocalist, composer, and music educator located in the Greater Toronto Area. She holds a Master of Arts Degree specializing in music composition from York University and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Humber College. Her unique sound stems from influences in genres that include Jazz, RnB, Pop, Soca, Calypso and Reggae. Shelisa has taught piano, vocal, theory and composition for several years through her studio, Shelisa's Music Studio. Alongside these commitments, Shelisa is undertaking many more musical projects such as participating in numerous live corporate performance settings such as paid entertainment venues and music festivals.

#### Long Bio (300 words):

Shelisa Akbar is a well-versed vocalist, composer, and music educator located in the Greater Toronto Area. In 2024 Shelisa acquired her Master of Arts Degree from York University. During her graduate years she specialized in music composition. Her published major research paper, “Music for Toronto's Caribana: Compositions Exploring Caribbean Musical Traditions” features multiple compositions that showcase the spirit of Toronto’s world music soundscape, and explores the festivals development, globalization, and growth in North America. Shelisa also holds a Graduate Certificate in Music Composition, a Bachelor of Music- Voice Major, and a Certificate of Commercial Jazz Performance all from Humber College. Throughout her academic years she has learnt from and has been coached by many industry professionals. Shelisa was educated by Paul Llew-Williams, Yvette Tollar, Collin Barrett, Shannon Gunn, Lisa Martinelli, Rich Brown, Laura Swankey, Stephanie Martin, Al Henderson and many more.

Shelisa has taught vocal, piano, guitar, ukulele, music theory, music analysis and music composition for several years in one on one, small group, and classroom settings. She began teaching during her undergraduate years and has worked with multiple academies within the Greater Toronto Area. Shelisa has successfully prepared students for The Royal Conservatory examinations and college auditions. Since 2019 Shelisa began compiling her own students to teach in her personal studio, Shelisa’s Music Studio. Shelisa's unique sound and style stems from influences in genres such as Jazz, RnB, Pop, Soca, Calypso and Reggae. Major artists such as Melody Gardot, Alicia Keys, Adele, Alison Hinds, Calypso Rose and Bob Marley all influenced her sound. Shelisa has performed at The World Jazz Festival in Brampton, Ontario annually since 2022, and The Bollywood Monster Mashup Festival in Mississauga, Ontario annually since 2021. Alongside these major festivals Shelisa performs with Paul Lew-Williams on guitar for multiple corporate events around the Greater Toronto Area.