

**Concours musical international de Montréal, Violin 2016**

*24 of the world's most promising violinists competing in Montreal from May 22 to June 2*

**Montréal, May 18, 2016** – The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) kicks off next Monday, May 23, as 24 young violinists from 12 countries take the stage in a major competition. The order of appearance will be determined by random draw and announced on Sunday, May 22. The 17 women and 7 men, between 17 and 29 years old, competing in Montreal are:

Laura Bortolotto (Italy)	Christine Lim (United States/South Korea)
Elina Buksha (Latvia)	Richard Lin (Taiwan/United States)
Daniel Cho (United States)	Rika Masato (Japan)
Clémence de Forceville (France)	Albrecht Menzel (Germany)
Anna Göckel (France)	Diana Pasko (Russia)
Ioana Cristina Goicea (Romania)	Fedor Rudin (France/Russia)
Sirena Huang (United States)	Ji Won Song (South Korea)
Petteri Iivonen (Finland)	Elly Suh (United States/South Korea)
Bomsori Kim (South Korea)	Mai Suzuki (Japan)
Gyehee Kim (South Korea)	Ayana Tsuji (Japan)
Woo Hyung Kim (South Korea)	Xiao Wang (China)
Anna Lee (South Korea)	Minami Yoshida (Japan)

“The CMIM contributes to Montreal’s international reputation as a vibrant cultural metropolis. For many participants, performing at the competition represents the culmination of many long years of study. These young virtuosos demonstrate that the next generation of classical music talent is of the highest calibre. It is an honour to welcome them to Montreal, where they will express their talents on the stages of our world-class concert halls, to the great delight of Montrealers. The CMIM is an important first step in a career that, I hope, will bring them often to Montreal,” declares Denis Coderre, the Mayor of Montréal.

The quarter-final (May 23, 24, and 25) and semifinal (May 27 and 28) recitals with piano accompaniment take place in Bourgie Hall. The finals (May 30 and 31) and gala concert (June 2) take place at the Maison symphonique, with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) led by guest conductor Giancarlo Guerrero.

The gala concert will be presented on Thursday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m., also at Maison symphonique with the OSM and Maestro Guerrero, with surprises in store for the audience. Christiane LeBlanc, CMIM Executive and Artistic Director explains: “This year we are doing things differently. Rather than reveal the results right after the Finals, the top three prizewinners, as well as the winners of ALL the special awards, will be announced at the awards ceremony preceding the gala concert on June 2. Both audiences, the one in the Hall and the one following the competition on our webcast, will find out along with the competitors who has won and who will be performing with the OSM right after the announcement of the results. It promises to be an evening full of emotion!”

At the gala concert, the CMIM will award three main prizes, six special awards, and three grants:

- First Prize offered by the Ville de Montréal, \$30,000
- Second Prize offered by Canimex, \$15,000
- Third Prize offered by Stingray, \$10,000
- Radio-Canada People's Choice Award, \$5,000
- André-Bachand Award for the best performance of the compulsory Canadian work in the semifinals offered by Jean-Claude and Raymond Bachand, \$4,000
- Wilder & Davis Award for the best semifinal recital, \$2,500
- Award for the best performance of a Sonata in the semifinal round offered by Tourisme Montréal, \$2,000
- Bach Award for the best performance of a work by J.S. Bach in the quarter-final round offered by the Montreal Bach Festival, \$1,000
- Paganini Award for the best performance of a Caprice by Paganini in the quarter-final round offered by E. Noël Spinelli, C.M., C.Q., \$1,000
- CMIM grants awarded to the three unranked finalists offered by Maurice Deschamps, Joseph Rouleau, and Peter Symcox, \$2,000

The compulsory Canadian work is the first movement of the *Sonate en sol* for violin and piano by Jean Papineau-Couture. 2016 marks Papineau-Couture's centenary and the CMIM is proud to honour his legacy this year by showcasing his music to our international audience, and highlight a part of our Canadian musical heritage.

All three rounds of the CMIM, as well as the gala concert, will be webcast live on [concoursmontreal.ca/live](http://concoursmontreal.ca/live) and will be available on demand on its YouTube channel. The finals and gala concert will also be webcast live and available on demand for three months on medici.tv, global leader in classical music content.

The international jury for this edition includes **Pierre Amoyal** (France); **Boris Brott** (Canada); **Boris Garlitsky** (Russia/France); **Ida Kavafian** (Armenia/United States); **Mihaela Martin** (Romania); **Vera Tsu Wei-Ling** (China); and **Kathleen Winkler** (United States). **André Bourbeau**, Co-Founder and Chairman of the CMIM, will act as non-voting president of the jury

Special activities take place alongside the CMIM, including pre-concert talks prior to each evening of the Finals, at 6 p.m., in the Foyer Allegro at the Maison symphonique: ***The Makings of a Winner*** on May 30 with Marc Bouchkov, CMIM 2013 First prize, and ***Women Conductors: A Changing Landscape*** on May 31 with Dina Gilbert, assistant conductor of the OSM. Masterclasses will also be given by members of the international jury on May 26 at Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur: 2:30 PM with Ida Kavafian and 7:30 PM with Pierre Amoyal. Admission is free to both masterclasses.

Experience the CMIM first-hand and come support the competitors - the best musical athletes in the world!

- Finals and gala concert - The Place des Arts box office: [placedesarts.com](http://placedesarts.com) | 514 842-2112 | 1 866 842-2112.
- Quarter-final and semifinal rounds - Bourgie Concert Hall, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts: [mbam.qc.ca/en/whats-on/tag/cmim-en/](http://mbam.qc.ca/en/whats-on/tag/cmim-en/) | 514 285-2000, option 4.

\* \* \*

## **ABOUT THE CMIM**

The mission of the Concours musical international de Montréal is to discover and support young singers, violinists and pianists who demonstrate exceptional mastery of their art. The CMIM is the only international competition in North America to be held annually and to present three disciplines in a three-year rotation. Since its first edition dedicated to voice in 2002, more than 2,500 hopefuls have entered the Competition and over 400 have performed in Montreal, much to the delight of music lovers.

More details at: [www.concoursmontreal.ca](http://www.concoursmontreal.ca)

Facebook [facebook.com/concoursmontreal](https://facebook.com/concoursmontreal)

Twitter [@ConcoursMtl](https://twitter.com/ConcoursMtl)

- 30 -

### **Main Contact:**

Dina Barghout, Director of Sponsorships, Marketing, and Communications

+ 1 514-845-4108, poste 236 | Mobile: + 1 514-233-3510

[dbarghout@concoursmontreal.ca](mailto:dbarghout@concoursmontreal.ca)

### **Media relations:**

Martin Boucher

+ 1 514-778-0989

[martin@bouchercommunications.com](mailto:martin@bouchercommunications.com)