

CMIM 15TH ANNIVERSARY: OFF TO A GREAT START!

24 of the world's most promising young pianists in Montreal from May 2 to 12

Montreal, Thursday, April 27, 2017 – The festivities surrounding the 15th anniversary of the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal) kicked off yesterday, April 26, with the sold-out presentation of *Pianos en liberté*, a piano improvisation concert by Jean-François Zygel, Bruno Fontaine, and Serhiy Salov. This unique event featured the world premiere of *Concerto pour piano fantôme et orchestre* by Canadian composer François Dompierre, as well as some improvisational sparring and a game of musical chairs by the three truly remarkable pianists!

The competition starts Tuesday, May 2 at Bourgie Hall (Montreal Museum of Fine Arts). 24 young pianists, 6 women and 18 men from 15 countries with an average age of 26, participate in the first round. Note that South Korean ChangYong Shin has withdrawn from the competition and been replaced by JeungBeum Sohn also from South Korea. The order of appearance will be determined by random draw and announced on Monday, May 1. Here is the list of competitors:

Stefano Andreatta, Italy
Albert Cano Smit, Spain / Netherlands
Zoltán Fejérvári, Hungary
Teo Gheorghiu, Canada
Maddalena Giacomuzzi, Italy
Nathanaël Gouin, France
Caterina Grewe, Germany
Giuseppe Garrera, Italy
Helene Heejun Han, South Korea
David Jae-Weon Huh, South Korea
Atsushi Imada, Japan
Eddie Myunghyun Kim, South Korea

Julia Kociuban, Poland
Vladislav Kosminov, Uzbekistan
Ho Yel Lee, South Korea
Ying Li, China
Ismaël Margain, France
Sélim Mazari, France
Yejin Noh, South Korea
Jinhyung Park, South Korea
JeungBeum Sohn, South Korea
Alexey Sychev, Russia
Alexander Ullman, United Kingdom
Artem Yasynskyy, Ukraine

The first round (May 2 to 4, sessions at 2 pm and 7:30 pm) and semifinal round (May 6 and 7, sessions at 2 pm and 7:30 pm) will be held at Bourgie Hall. And the finals (May 9 and 10 at 7:30 pm) will take place at Maison symphonique with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) led by Maestro Claus Peter Flor.

GALA

On May 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at Maison symphonique with the OSM led by Maestro Flor.

For its 15th anniversary, the CMIM is presenting an altogether unique gala event. For starters, the top three prizewinners, as well as the winners of all the special awards, will be revealed at the awards ceremony preceding the concert. 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 that evening. In addition to hearing the First Prize winner of the 2017 piano edition, the audience will have the pleasure of hearing three former CMIM First Prize winners: soprano Measha Brueggergosman (2002), pianist Serhiy Salov (2004) and violinist Benjamin Beilman (2010). It promises to be an exceptional evening!

“The CMIM makes an incredible contribution to Montreal’s reputation as a cultural metropolis. In this, our 15th anniversary year and 375th anniversary of Montreal, I am delighted to welcome these virtuoso young artists. What a pleasure it will be to also have three former winners with us on the

evening of the Gala Concert—a wonderful opportunity for them as they return to Montreal, where everything started!” declares André Bourbeau, president and co-founder of the CMIM.

JURY

The international jury, presided over by André Bourbeau, includes Idil Biret (Turkey), Dang Thai Son (Vietnam), Alain Lefèvre (Canada), Hélène Mercier (Canada), Pedja Muzijevic (Bosnia), David Owen Norris (United Kingdom), Cristina Ortiz (Brazil), R. Douglas Sheldon (United States), and Gabriel Tacchino (France). Special activities planned with members of the jury:

- TGIFREE-DAY! All-day Friday, May 5, the CMIM presents free activities at Bourgie Hall. Masterclasses with jury members Idil Biret and Gabriel Tacchino at 2 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. respectively. And at 5 p.m., join David Owen Norris *for Notes from the piano stool*, as he plays his favourite music and explains what it means to him in the context of a forty-year career.
- Prior to each evening of the Finals, Jean-Pierre Primiani will host pre-concert talks with jury members Alain Lefèvre on May 9 and Hélène Mercier on May 10. Both at 6:45 p.m. in Foyer Allegro (Maison symphonique), upon presentation of a ticket for the Final.

PRIZES

The competitors will compete for over \$125,000 in prizes, awards and grants. The CMIM will also provide concert engagements to the laureates through partnerships with musical organisations across Canada.

Main prizes

- First Prize offered by the Ville de Montréal, \$30,000 and Joseph Rouleau Career Development Grant funded by the Azrieli Foundation, \$50,000
- Pierre Péladeau Second Prize offered by Québecor in tribute to its founder, \$15,000
- Third Prize offered by Stingray Classica, \$10,000

Special awards

- Radio-Canada People’s Choice Award, \$5,000
- Best Canadian Artist Award offered by the Bourbeau Foundation, \$5,000
- André Bachand Award for the best performance of the compulsory Canadian work in the semifinal round offered by Jean-Claude and Raymond Bachand, \$4,000
- Award for the best semifinal recital offered by Tourisme Montréal, \$2,000
- Bach Award for the best performance of a work by Johann Sebastian Bach offered by the Montreal Bach Festival, \$1,000
- Chopin Award for the best performance of a work by Fryderyk Chopin offered by Liliana Komorowska, \$1,000

The three unranked finalists will each receive a \$2,000 grant.

ROBERT CHARLEBOIS, SPOKESPERSON

Author, composer, musician, and performer Robert Charlebois is CMIM’s spokesperson this year. *“It is with great joy that I have joined forces with the CMIM. And I am happy this year to join these young pianists, who have devoted their lives and all of their energy to getting ready for a competition such as this – the equivalent of the Olympic Games for them. They prove that music is truly a universal language. Fans of sleight of hand, you who appreciate fingers that are quicker than the eye and ear, I invite you all to come and encourage and applaud our artists,”* stated Robert Charlebois.

WEBCASTING

All three rounds and gala concert of the CMIM are webcast live and made available on demand at concoursmontreal.ca/live and. The finals and gala concert will also be webcast live and made available on demand for three months on medici.tv, global leader in classical music content.

BOX OFFICE

- Finals and gala concert - The Place des Arts box office: placedesarts.com | 514 842-2112 | 1 866 842-2112.
- First and semifinal rounds - Bourgie Concert Hall, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts: mbam.qc.ca/en/concerts | 514 285-2000, option 4.

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ABOUT CMIM

The mission of the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal) is to discover and support exceptional young singers, violinists and pianists from around the world while raising awareness for classical music. The CMIM is the only international competition in North America to be held annually, presenting three disciplines in a three-year rotation. Since its first edition dedicated to voice in 2002, 3,000 hopefuls have entered the competition and some 450 have performed in Montreal.

More details at: concoursmontreal.ca
Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @CMIMontreal

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