

## **2023 Violin Edition**

### **A Stellar Start to the Competition! The CMIM announces the 12 Semifinalists**

**Montreal, April 27, 2023** – Twenty-four young violinists dazzled us with their talent, their virtuosity, and their musical artistry over the course of the First Round of the 2023 Violin Edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM). At the conclusion of this first stage of the competition, which took place on April 25, 26, and 27, the jury has selected twelve semifinalists.

The Semifinal, presented by the Wicha Music Foundation, will be held on April 29 and 30, in both afternoon (2 pm) and evening (7:30 pm) sessions at Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Preceding the Semifinal, composer Luna Pearl Woolf will give a pre-concert talk to introduce the imposed new Canadian work that all semifinalists must perform.

Chaired by Richard Rodzinski, the international jury for Violin 2023 is comprised of seven distinguished members: Koichiro Harada (Japan), Yura Lee (Korea/USA), Malcolm Lowe (Canada), Mihaela Martin (Romania), Lucie Robert (Canada), Dmitri Sitkovetsky (United Kingdom/USA), and Krishna Thiagarajan (Germany/USA).

**Here are the 12 violinists selected for the Semifinal, in performance order:**

#### **Saturday, April 29, 2023, 2 pm**

1. [Dmytro UDOVYCHENKO](#) (Ukraine) | pianist: Francis Perron
2. [Nathan MELTZER](#) (United States) | pianist: Umi Garrett
3. [Michael SHAHAM](#) (Israel) | pianist: Jinhee Park

#### **Saturday, April 29, 2023, 2 pm and 7:30 pm**

4. [Lorenz KARLS](#) (Sweden) | pianist: Philip Chiu
5. [SongHa CHOI](#) (South Korea) | pianist: Carson Becke
6. [Yesong Sophie LEE](#) (United States) | pianist: Francis Perron

#### **Sunday, April 30, 2023, 2 pm**

7. [Pauline VAN DER REST](#) (Belgium) | pianist: Philip Chiu
8. [SooBeen LEE](#) (South Korea) | pianist: Jinhee Park
9. [Yeyeong Jenny JIN](#) (South Korea) | pianist: Philip Chiu

**Sunday, April 30, 2023, 7:30 pm**

10. [Bohdan LUTS](#) (Ukraine) | pianist: Carson Becke
11. [Zhixin ZHANG](#) (China) | pianist: Carson Becke
12. [Ruslan TALAS](#) (Kazakhstan) | pianist: Jinhee Park

At the conclusion of the Semifinal, the jury will select six violinists to take part in the Final on May 3 and 4, at 7:30 pm, at Maison symphonique with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal—the official orchestra of the CMIM—under the direction of guest conductor Rafael Payare. At the conclusion of the competition on May 4, all prizes will be announced and awarded during the closing ceremony. The laureates and winners will share a total of over \$160,000 CAD in the form of prizes, grants, and engagements.

### **Webcasts**

**All rounds of the CMIM are webcast live and are available for listening on-demand at [concoursmontreal.ca](http://concoursmontreal.ca).**

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

The CMIM is also presenting several activities complementing the competition:

#### **FREE ADMISSION**

- April 28 at noon, Bourgie Hall  
Master class – Dmitry Sitkovetsky (English)
- April 28 at 2 pm, Bourgie Hall  
The \$7 3D Violin and its creator, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Brown (bilingual)
- April 28 at 3 pm, Université de Montréal  
Master class – Koichira Harada (English)
- April 28 at 4 pm, Bourgie Hall  
Master class – Mihaela Martin (bilingual)
- April 28 at 6:30 pm, Bourgie Hall  
Cinema at the CMIM – *Janine Jansen: Falling for Stradivari* (English)

- April 29 at 1:15 pm, Bourgie Hall  
Pre-concert talk – Luna Pearl Woolf and the imposed Canadian work
  
- May 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 pm, Conservatoire de musique de Montréal  
Master class – Lucie Robert (French)
  
- May 3 at 6:30 pm, Maison symphonique  
Talk – Members of the jury for Violon 2023
  
- May 4 at 6:30 pm, Maison symphonique  
Talk – Christiane Leblanc, outgoing Executive and Artistic Director of the CMIM

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## **ABOUT THE CMIM**

The Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) is one of Canada's great cultural achievements, serving as an exceptional springboard for classical musicians of the next generation. Over the past 20 years, the CMIM has shone a spotlight on the talent of over 600 international competitors and chosen 84 laureates. Montreal can take great pride in having had participants from over 90 countries perform here on stage!

### **Box Office**

**Semi-Final:** April 29 and 30, at 2 pm and 7:30 pm in Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

**Final:** May 3 and 4, at 7:30 pm at the Maison symphonique.

Information and box office: [www.concoursmontreal.ca](http://www.concoursmontreal.ca)

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

Facebook / Instagram: @CMIMontreal

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