

PRESS RELEASE For immediate release

### Piano 2024 edition, May 5 to 16

# STARTING SUNDAY, THE CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL (CMIM) IS IN FULL SWING!

**Montreal, May 2, 2024** - <u>The Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM)</u> will be in full swing from this Sunday, May 5 until May 16 for its Piano 2024 edition. The 24 young pianists invited, drawn from the international elite and representing the new generation, were selected to take part in this prestigious competition from nearly 400 applications. They compete in a series of rounds in a bid to win the title of laureate. With an international jury of invaluable expertise and, for the first time this year, the contribution of guest conductor Xian Zhang to the final deliberations, this edition will undoubtedly be one of the grandest! The full program will be streamed directly from the Competition website at https://www.concoursmontreal.ca/en/.</u>

"We're delighted to continue the CMIM's tradition of excellence and to bring our vision to the Competition, notably by adding several new features to the program. Since its inception in 2001, the Concours has been a showcase for the cultural richness and unique openness that characterizes Montreal. This year's edition is no exception, with 24 competitors from 12 different countries, including four from Canada," added Chantal Poulin, Executive Director, and Shira Gilbert, Artistic Director.

### PRESS KIT

### **Program**

The **24 competitors** who stood out from **388 applications**, will aim to distinguish themselves and to reach the highest steps of the podium, in order to claim the prestigious title of Grand Laureate and to win a share in <u>prizes and grants worth over **\$200,000**</u>, through a series of challenges:

### FIRST ROUND – May 5, 6, and 7

Presented by Vanda Treiser

Salle Bourgie at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

- May 5, 6, and 7: Recitals at 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM
- May 7: Announcement of semifinalists and special prize winners around 10 PM

### SEMIFINAL – May 10, 11, and 12

Salle Bourgie at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

- May 10: Chamber Music round at 7:30 PM
- May 11: Recitals at 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM

- **May 12:** Recitals at 1:30 PM and announcement of the finalists and special prize winners at 6:30 PM

### FINAL – May 15 and 16

*Presented by Alfid Service Immobilier* Maison symphonique de Montréal

- **May 15 and 16:** With the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the official orchestra of the CMIM, and Guest Conductor **Xian Zhang** at 7:30 PM
- **May 16:** Closing award ceremony, *presented by Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation*, around 10 PM

Learn more about the competitors of the Piano 2024 edition Learn more about the program

### Beyond the Competition, the CMIM's complementary activities

### TALK: IMPROVISING MOZART - MAY 8

Seated at the piano in Salle Bourgie, eminent pianist and musicologist **Robert Levin** – member of the jury for Piano 2024 – invites the audience to delve into the world of Mozart. Renowned for his legendary improvisational skill, this is a rare opportunity to encounter one of the greatest musical minds of our time, on **May 8 at 1:30 PM at Salle Bourgie**. (Free entrance) <u>Learn more</u>.

### MASTERCLASSES — MAY 8 AND 13

Two members of the International Jury will share their expertise during two sessions, benefitting advanced piano students from the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal and the Université de Montréal. The public is invited to attend, free of charge, this knowledge-sharing event and the transmission of a common passion: music.

- May 8: with Dmitri Alexeev from 3 PM to 5 PM Conservatoire de musique de Montréal
- May 13: with Hélène Mercier from 2 PM to 5 PM Faculty of Music at the Université de Montréal

### Learn more.



## **CONCERT PROMENADES – MAY 14** Presented in partnership with the CDPQ and in collaboration with JM Canada

Pianist **Dimitri Malignan**, 3rd prize laureate and ICI Musique audience award winner of Piano 2021, will offer an engaging promenade through works of contrasting colours and textures: "*Pictures at an Exhibition*" by Moussorgsky will take on a whole new dimension with the simultaneous projection of creations by students from Saint-Luc High School, inspired by this emblematic work. This convivial concert will be presented at **7 PM in Joseph-Rouleau Hall at Maison André-Bourbeau, preceded by an aperitif at 6 PM**.

## Learn more.

<u>Tickets</u>.

## **Several New Features**

The Competition offers several exciting new features to the broader musical community this year, all in line with the CMIM's vision of contributing to the development of talent and representing the new generation of classical musicians.

## **CHAMBER MUSIC**

A **Chamber Music round** will be presented during the first evening of the **Semifinal** on **May 10 at Salle Bourgie**. Competing pianists will have the opportunity to demonstrate their prowess in chamber music repertoire by **Beethoven**, **Brahms**, **Fauré**, **Mozart**, or **Schumann**. Three principal strings players from the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will join the semifinalists for this round as guest chamber musicians: **Andrew Wan** (violin), **Victor Fournelle-Blain** (viola), and **Brian Manker** (cello). Learn more

## JUNIOR JURY

To provide advanced music students in Montreal with an enriching experience, the CMIM has announced the establishment of a **Junior Jury**, chaired by **Janelle Fung**, pianist and professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. At the conclusion of the First Round, the members will vote for the "**Junior Jury Prize**", worth **\$1,000**, which will be awarded on the evening of **May 7**. Learn more

## CMIM On the Road

## Presented by the Famille Lupien and C'est beau la vie foundations

The CMIM ventures beyond the city's borders as the 14 pianists who do not advance to the Semifinal take part in *CMIM On the Road*. This new initiative enables these pianists to present the concert programs they prepared for the semifinal on **May 8, 9 and 12** in **Sorel-Tracy**, **île des Soeurs** and **Hudson**, allowing the public to appreciate their artistry and virtuosity.

## Tickets and packages

<u>Tickets for the entire Piano 2024 edition Competition are available for purchase online or by phone</u> <u>through the Place des Arts box office.</u>

Consult the Piano 2024 ticket packages.

### To view the livestream of the competition :

https://www.concoursmontreal.ca/en/

#### To stay updated on all CMIM activities leading up to the Competition

https://www.concoursmontreal.ca/en/ Facebook Instagram LinkedIn

#### About the CMIM

The Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) is a prestigious competition that showcases the international elite of the new generation of classical music. An essential *rendez-vous* of passion and music, in the heart of a city known for its cultural vitality and warm welcome, the CMIM enjoys an undeniable reputation worldwide. Since its inception in 2001, nearly 5,000 young virtuosi, trained in the best music schools from over 90 countries, have taken on the challenge to excel. The CMIM is more than a competition: it is a remarkable platform that highlights the excellence and pure talent of exceptional classical musicians. Our mission is to contribute concretely to the career development of participating artists by making the heart of Montreal vibrate to the rhythm of classical music, making it even more accessible to all, while forging links between the public, young artists and exceptional mentors. Together, we create unforgettable memories and propel the careers of young international musicians.

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