

CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL - PIANO 2027**Applications are now open!**

Montréal, September 3, 2026 – Applications are now open to pianists of all nationalities who are ready to propel their careers to new heights. Virtuosity, intensity, and musical excellence return to Montréal: from **April 24 to May 5, 2027**, the Concours musical international de Montréal will mark a magnificent 25th edition, while offering the public unforgettable musical moments.

Following a rigorous selection process, 24 of the best pianists of the new generation from around the world will be invited to Montréal to participate in the 2027 edition of the Concours. And this year, to celebrate the Concours' 25th anniversary, the winner of the OSM Competition will also receive an invitation to participate in this prestigious event in Montréal, bringing the total to 25 competitors for this edition. These exceptional young artists will perform at Bourgie Hall and the Maison symphonique de Montréal before a distinguished jury composed of international piano luminaries.

Over the course of two captivating weeks, these artists will compete against their peers while enchanting audiences, both in person and online, with their exceptional artistry. Each will strive to win the title of Grand Laureate, and secure prizes, grants, and performance opportunities valued at more than \$200,000.

“The Concours offers the public the opportunity to discover the best young musicians of the new generation. This 25th edition will bring together 25 extraordinary pianists in Montréal, whom we will then have the pleasure of hearing again on the world’s greatest stages,” said **Chantal Poulin**, Executive Director. “What a privilege to hear them here in Montréal! We invite music lovers to hold the dates from April 24 to May 5, 2027, for this remarkable international celebration of excellence, and to experience this musical and human adventure.”

Classical pianists between the ages of 18 and 30 are invited to **apply by October 31, 2026**.

[Information and Rules](#)

A new Jury President at the helm of a panel of international experts

Angela Cheng, a Canadian pianist acclaimed for her brilliant technique, beautiful tone, and exceptional musical sensitivity, will serve as President of the Jury for the Concours musical international de Montréal 2027. An acclaimed soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician, she has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the United States, in London, Israel, and Brazil, and has played in some of the world's most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the Mariinsky Concert Hall in St. Petersburg, and the Sydney Opera House.

She affirms: "I am honoured and delighted to take on the role of President of the Jury for the piano edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal 2027. Montréal is where my career began, and the city will always hold a special place in my heart. The Concours, with its rigorous standards, is one of the most important launching pads for exceptional young artists on the international stage. I look forward to returning to the city to discover the new generation of great pianists, alongside my distinguished colleagues."

"We are thrilled to welcome Angela Cheng to Montréal as President of the Jury," said **Shira Gilbert**, Artistic Director. "A Canadian pianist with a thriving international career, her extensive experience as a performer and adjudicator, as well as her commitment to young classical musicians, will be important assets for the upcoming edition of the Concours."

[Learn more about Angela Cheng, President of the Jury](#)

Throughout the four rounds of the Concours, Angela Cheng will preside an International Jury composed of seven piano luminaries with complementary backgrounds, areas of expertise, and influence in the classical music world. They are:

- [Janina Fialkowska](#) – A true icon of the piano, the international career of this great Canadian pianist, born in Montréal, took off when the legendary Arthur Rubinstein became her mentor. Praised for her musical integrity, her natural and refreshing approach, and her unique tone at the piano, she has delighted audiences and critics alike for over 50 years.
- [Sofya Gulyak](#) – In 2009, she was awarded First Prize and the Gold Medal at the Leeds International Piano Competition, the first woman in the competition's history to receive this distinction. Since then, she has performed extensively throughout the world, where she has been praised for her tremendous precision and exceptional colouration.

- [Olga Kern](#) – Her historic 2001 Gold Medal win at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition launched her international reputation. Since then, she has captivated audiences around the globe with her vivid stage presence, dazzling technique, and passionate musicality. In addition to her busy performing career, she is deeply committed to supporting and fostering the next generation of musicians.
- [Roberto Plano](#) – Described as the “Pavarotti of the piano” for his lyricism, he pursues a very active career as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe and North America. He has performed on the world's greatest stages with renowned conductors, while his recordings have received rave reviews.
- [Charles Richard-Hamelin](#) – Silver medalist and winner of the Krystian Zimerman Prize at the 2015 International Chopin Piano Competition, and laureate of the Concours musical international de Montréal in 2014, he stands out today as one of the most important pianists of his generation.
- [Antti Siirala](#) – His rich palette of sound colours, his nuanced and songful phrasing, as well as his expressive intelligence make him a sought-after soloist and chamber musician. He has won numerous major competitions, including the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2003.
- [Danwen Wei](#) – A Steinway Artist and considered one of the most outstanding artists of his generation, he is one of the last students of the legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz. A highly sought-after pedagogue, he has also guest conducted dozens of orchestras worldwide.

[Learn more about the International Jury](#)

Gergely Madaras, Guest Conductor of the Concours 2027

Hungarian conductor [Gergely Madaras](#) is the Guest Conductor of the Concours musical international de Montréal 2027. Finalists will have once again the opportunity to perform with the [Orchestre symphonique de Montréal \(OSM\)](#), the Concours’ official orchestra.

Recognized for “his ability to convincingly combine energy and expressiveness, precision and passion” which he demonstrates on the podium, Gergely Madaras was named 2025 “Conductor of the Year” at the Bartók Radio Awards. He served as Music Director of the Orchestre

Philharmonique Royal de Liège from 2019–2025, where his successful tenure was recently marked by him being named an Honorary Citizen of the City.

Recent highlights include performances with the Oslo, Luxembourg, and Hong Kong philharmonics, Dresden Staatskapelle, Budapest Festival Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Hallé Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, World Jewish Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, São Paulo State Symphony, as well as with Il Pomo d'Oro and Joyce DiDonato at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, as part of the *EDEN* tour.

[Learn more about the Guest Conductor](#)

The Chamber Music Round returns in 2027!

The [Chamber Music Round](#) is a captivating element of the competition, calling on pianists to demonstrate their musical versatility, their sense of musical dialogue, and their ability to adapt their playing to an intimate ensemble setting.

First introduced in 2024, this round returns in 2027. Finalists will perform one of Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14, works that the composer himself arranged for piano and string quartet. It will take place on Friday, April 30, 2027, at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Bourgie Hall. The International Jury will select the winner of the Chamber Music prize, who will receive \$2,500.

The Concours is delighted to welcome the **Viano Quartet**, whose first chair is held by violinist **Hao Zhou**, Grand Laureate of the Concours 2019. During the Chamber Music Round, each finalist will have the opportunity to perform alongside this ensemble, hailed as one of today's most outstanding and acclaimed string quartets.

[Learn more about the Chamber Music Round](#)

[Press release](#)
[Consult the press kit](#)

ABOUT THE CONCOURS

The Concours musical international de Montréal enjoys an undeniable reputation as one of the most prestigious and welcoming international music competitions around the world. A multidisciplinary event, the Concours has welcomed annually since 2002, in turn, singers, violinists, and pianists. Well over 5,000 musicians of the new generation from more than 90 countries and trained at the world's most important musical schools have entered the competition.

A major event on Montréal's cultural calendar, the Concours musical international de Montréal is a high-profile showcase that shapes the future of the classical music scene by offering its laureates invaluable visibility and professional opportunities. The competitors measure themselves against their peers, performing before a jury of classical music luminaries and music lovers in Montréal. Events of the Concours musical international de Montréal are viewed by more than 3 million people annually worldwide.



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