

SOUTH KOREAN TENOR KEONWOO KIM WINS FIRST PRIZE OF THE MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL COMPETITION

Quebecer soprano France Bellemare among top three

Montreal, June 3, 2015 — Following ten days of intense high-level competition, the Montreal International Musical Competition (MIMC) culminated this evening with the announcement of the top three prizewinners of its 2015 Voice edition. All other prizes will be announced at the official awards ceremony that will take place before the Gala Concert, on June 5.

Keonwoo KIM, Tenor, South Korea 1st Prize • \$30,000 Offered by the Ville de Montréal

Hyesang PARK, Soprano, South Korea 2nd Prize • \$15,000 Offered by Canimex

France BELLEMARE, Soprano, Canada 3rd Prize • \$10,000 Offered by Cogeco

" I take my hat off to all six young singers. They superbly mastered the challenging task of this Final round. I thank Orchestre symphonique de Montréal musicians for being such supportive partners in this true 'tour de force' through vocal repertoire" declared Maestro Johannes Debus, who made his Montreal debut this week at the MIMC.

Following the Quarter-final round in which 23 singers from nine countries competed at Salle Bourgie between May 25 and 27, twelve semi-finalists from six countries took the same stage on May 29 and 30. Six of them performed with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal during the Finals on June 2 and 3 at the Maison symphonique de Montréal.

Don't miss the closing Gala Concert at the Maison symphonique on June 5 at 7:30 pm; the laureates will perform with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal under the direction of Johannes Debus right after the official awards ceremony.

The Gala Concert musical programme will be available on the eve of the concert on the MIMC website: <u>http://concoursmontreal.ca/en/programming/</u>

WEBCASTING

The Gala Concert will be broadcast live on the MIMC website at <u>http://concoursmontreal.ca/en/webcast</u>, and on the OSM website at <u>www.osm.ca</u>, then archived. The semi-finals, finals and masterclasses are already archived and available for listening on demand.

GALA CONCERT | JUNE 5 | 7:30 p.m.

MAISON SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Guest Conductor: Johannes Debus \$45, \$32, \$21 / \$22.50, \$16, \$10.50 student, 60+

BOX OFFICE

Place des Arts box office: www.laplacedesarts.com | 514-842-2112 | 1 866-842-2112

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The mission of the Montreal International Musical Competition is to discover and support young singers, violinists and pianists who demonstrate exceptional mastery of their art. The MIMC 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 2,400 hopefuls have entered the Competition and over 400 have performed in Montreal, much to the delight of music lovers.

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