

CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL – 15TH ANNIVERSARY
10 days of festivities with 24 of the world's finest young pianists!

Montreal, Tuesday, March 28, 2017 – 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal), which is dedicated to piano this year. And of course, an anniversary is a reason to celebrate! This edition of the CMIM promises to be special in every way, while also highlighting the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montreal and the 150th anniversary of Canada. Here's a look at this year's anniversary edition.

COMPETITORS

24 young pianists, 6 women and 18 men from 15 countries with an average age of 26, have been selected to participate in the CMIM next May 2 to 12. The highest number of candidates is from South Korea (7), followed by France (3) and Italy (3). The remaining countries are represented by one participant each: Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan. The 24 competitors were selected out of a record-breaking 304 pianists, representing the highest number of applicants in the history of the Competition and an increase of 120% from the previous piano edition in 2014. [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 Guarrera, 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
ChangYong Shin, 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 of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 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.

SPOKESPERSON

Author, composer, musician, and performer Robert Charlebois launched his career in the mid-'60s, establishing himself as one of the key figures of French Chanson in Québec and abroad. A fan of classical music, Charlebois collaborated for the first time with a symphonic orchestra in 1971 at Place des arts for a concert with the OSM led by Leon Bernier. Since then, he has never turned down opportunities to play with an orchestra. *"It is with great joy that I have joined forces with the CMIM. Hats off to these young virtuoso pianists who have to present two recital rounds before performing the final round with none other than the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, a national treasure. I am inviting you to come encourage all of our competitors in the concert halls, thereby contributing to the development and growing reputation of today's finest young pianists,"* stated Robert Charlebois.

TRIBUTE TO ANDRÉ MATHIEU

Other great artists have also shaped our city's cultural and musical history. To honour the work of Montreal pianist and composer André Mathieu, the CMIM's administrators have chosen *Laurentienne No. 2* as the compulsory Canadian work for candidates in their semifinal recital.

JURY

The international jury, presided over by André Bourbeau, co-founder and president of the CMIM, 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).

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
- Second Prize, \$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.

GALA

On May 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at Maison symphonique with the OSM led by German conductor Claus Peter 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, 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.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- To kick off the festivities, the CMIM presents *Pianos en liberté*, a piano improvisation concert at Montreal’s Museum of Fine Arts’ Bourgie Hall on April 26 at 7:30 pm. This unique event will feature Serhiy Salov, winner of the 2014 Richard Lupien Improvisation Prize, and world-renowned pianists, Frenchmen Jean-François Zygel and Bruno Fontaine, who will take turns in performing the improvised piano part of “*Fantaisie pour piano-fantôme et orchestre*” by Canadian composer François Dompierre. The soloist will not only improvise his part but will also conduct Montreal’s I Musici ensemble from the keyboard. It is a musical feat that has never been done before, and Montrealers will be the first to witness this improvised world premiere!
- FREE-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. After his recital, enjoy a glass of wine in his company.
- 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.
- From May 11 to 14, at the invitation of the CMIM, Montreal will host the general assembly of the World Federation of International Music Competitions. For the occasion, some one hundred people from around the globe will come together in our city and attend, among other events, our Gala Concert on May 12.

WEBCASTING

All three rounds and gala concert of the CMIM will be webcast live on concoursmontreal.ca/live and will be available on demand on its YouTube channel. The finals and gala concert will also be webcast live and 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, and *Pianos en liberté* - 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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