

IMPROVISERS TAKE THE STAGE FOR WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

Pianos en liberté kicks off CMIM piano 2017

Montréal, Wednesday, March 1st, 2017 –This spring, spread your wings, be spontaneous and let yourself be drawn by the unexpected. On April 26 at 7:30 pm, the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal) presents *Pianos en liberté*, a piano improvisation concert at Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts' Bourgie Hall. This unique event will feature two 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!

"Musical improvisation is as worthy and noble an art form as the performance of composed music; liberated from all restrictions, the improvising musician is a truly free artist," explains François Dompierre.

As a prelude to this double musical creation, pianist Serhiy Salov, winner of the Richard Lupien Improvisation Prize in 2014, will perform a selection of Dompierre's *Préludes* for piano, providing insight into the composer's style and aesthetics. The public can also expect solo and duo improvisations from Zygel and Fontaine in the first part of the concert. Mrs. Elaine and Mr. Réal Raymond serve as honorary presidents of this special evening.

Composer, conductor, arranger and broadcaster **François Dompierre** has held a prominent spot on the Canadian cultural landscape for fifty years now. He has composed the music for some sixty films, television programs and documentaries. He has also composed music for theater and orchestras. In 2016, Dompierre received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Cinéma québécois.

A pianist and composer, **Jean-François Zygel** is also a very well-known and talented improviser. He teaches improvisation at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and is recognized for raising awareness for classical music on TV and on the radio. For the 100th anniversary of the masterpiece *L'Argent*, by Marcel L'Herbier, the first ever original film score, Zygel wrote and performed the piano accompaniment.

Concert pianist, conductor, arranger and composer **Bruno Fontaine** is a complete and unclassifiable artist. He was the arranger and musical director for American soprano Julia Migenes, before acting in the same capacity for Johnny Hallyday and Mylène Farmer. Many of his arrangements and compositions have been nominated at the *Victoires de la musique* and *Césars*.

Winner of the CMIM First Prize in 2004 and Richard Lupien Improvisation Prize in 2014, **Serhiy Salov** enjoys a successful career as a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed extensively with major orchestras in Europe, Asia and North America. His album recordings were met with critical acclaim.

Tickets for this event can be purchased through the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts box office (Website: mbam.qc.ca/en/concerts; Telephone: 514-285-2000, option 4). Tickets for CMIM's piano competition which runs from May 2 to 12 can also be purchased through the Museum for the First and semifinal rounds at Bourgie Hall and through Place des arts for the finals and gala concert at Maison symphonique (placedesarts.com; 514 842-2112).

As the CMIM celebrates its 15th anniversary along with Montreal's 375th and Canada's 150th anniversaries, *Pianos en liberté* is a great way to kick-off celebrations!

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ABOUT CMIM

The mission of the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) is to raise awareness for classical music in a Competition setting, as well as discover and support exceptional young singers, violinists and pianists from around the world. 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, more than 2,700 hopefuls have entered the competition and some 450 have performed in Montreal.

More details at: concoursmontreal.ca

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