

## **CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL VOICE 2018 EDITION STARTS TOMORROW**

*10 days with 38 of the world's finest young classical singers!*

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**Montreal, Monday, May 28, 2018** – This year, the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal) will be premiering the new format of its Voice editions, now consisting of two divisions: **Aria** (voice and orchestra) and **Art Song** (voice and piano). From **May 29 to June 7, 2018**, the CMIM will host 38 singers and 10 collaborative pianists from 22 nations who will vie for prizes, grants, and awards valued at a record amount of \$270,000 CAD and attributed by a jury of eminent specialists presided by the renowned Zarin Mehta.

### **THE COMPETITION**

This 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the CMIM is dedicated to the memory of an important member of the Competition family who passed away last March, President, Co-founder and President of the jury André Bourbeau. “With this edition, we want to pay tribute to André Bourbeau, a man who devoted a great part of his life to the development of young musicians here and around the world, by naming him Honorary President of the Competition. We are also very pleased to welcome to the fold two men whom Mr. Bourbeau held in high esteem, François R. Roy as the new President of the CMIM and its Foundation, and Zarin Mehta as President of the jury,” declares Christiane LeBlanc, CMIM Executive and Artistic Director.

### **THE JURY**

Zarin Mehta, among the world's leading performing arts administrators and consultants, will preside over the Voice 2018 jury comprised of Edith Bers (United States), Ben Heppner (Canada), Soile Isokoski (Finland), Warren Jones (United States), François Le Roux (France), Dame Felicity Lott (United Kingdom), Richard Rodzinski (United States), Joseph Rouleau (Canada), and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa (New Zealand).

### **THE COMPETITORS**

38 promising young singers—21 women and 17 men between the ages of 24 and 35 from 21 nations—have been selected to participate in Voice 2018. The participants were selected from a record-breaking 469 applications (303 in the Aria division and 166 in Art Song) submitted by 358 singers representing 52 nations—up 190% from the previous Voice edition in 2015.

The Aria division includes music from the repertoire for voice and orchestra (opera and concert arias, cantatas, oratorios, masses, orchestral songs, etc.), while the Art Song division includes repertoire for voice and piano (French mélodie, German Lied, English Art Song, etc.). Eligible candidates could apply to one or both divisions. As such, 16 will take part in the Art Song division and 24 in the Aria division, with two singers participating in both divisions.

### **THE ROUNDS**

The Art Song and Aria First round (May 29 to 31, at 3 pm and 7:30 pm), Art Song Semifinal (June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 3 pm and 7:30 pm), and Art Song Final (June 3, at 3 pm) will take place in Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The Aria Semifinal (June 4 and 5, at 7:30 pm) and Aria Finals Gala (June 7, at 7:30 pm) will be held at Maison symphonique, where singers will be accompanied by the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) led by British conductor Graeme Jenkins.

Here is the competitors' order of appearance for the Art Song and Aria First rounds. Take note that following German baritone Samuel Hasselhorn and Kang Wang's recent withdrawals, soprano Magali Simard-Galdès, a native of Rimouski (QC), and South Korean tenor Konstantin Lee have been selected to participate in the Art Song division and in the Aria division respectively.

<b>3 PM</b>	<b>MAY 29 ART SONG</b>	<b>MAY 30 ARIA</b>	<b>MAY 31 ARIA</b>
	<b>David Tayloe</b> (United States) tenor	<b>Carolyn Sproule</b> (Canada) mezzo-soprano	
	<b>Suzanne Fischer</b> (United Kingdom) soprano	<b>ByeongMin Gil</b> (South Korea) bass	
	<b>Julien Van Mellaerts</b> (New Zealand-United Kingdom) baritone	<b>Dilyara Idrisova</b> (Russia) soprano	
	<b>Irina Jae-Eun Park</b> (South Korea) soprano	<b>Kidon Choi</b> (South Korea) baritone	
	<b>Axelle Fanyo</b> (France) soprano	<b>Mihail Mihaylov</b> (Bulgaria) tenor	
	<b>Magali Simard-Galdès</b> (Canada) soprano	<b>Christina Nilsson</b> (Sweden) soprano	
	<b>Rihab Chaieb</b> (Canada-Tunisia) mezzo-soprano	<b>ChanHee Cho</b> (South Korea) bass	
	<b>Gemma Summerfield</b> (United Kingdom) soprano	<b>Emily D'Angelo</b> (Canada-Italy) mezzo-soprano	
<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>MAY 29 ART SONG</b>	<b>MAY 30 ARIA</b>	<b>MAY 31 ARIA</b>
	<b>Hagar Sharvit</b> (Israel-Germany) mezzo-soprano	<b>Alexandra Yangel</b> (Russia) mezzo-soprano	<b>Marie-Andrée Mathieu</b> (Canada) mezzo-soprano
	<b>John Brancy</b> (United States) baritone	<b>Andrew Haji</b> (Canada) tenor	<b>Petr Nekoranec</b> (Czech Republic) tenor
	<b>Suzanne Taffot</b> (Canada-Cameroon) soprano	<b>Anush Hovhannisyan</b> (Armenia) soprano	<b>John Brancy</b> (United States) baritone
	<b>Tomi Punkeri</b> (Finland) baritone	<b>Jongsoo Yang</b> (South Korea) bass	<b>Ruslana Koval</b> (Ukraine) soprano
	<b>Anna-Sophie Neher</b> (Canada-Germany) soprano	<b>Konstantin Lee</b> (South Korea) tenor	<b>Bongani Kubheka</b> (South Africa) baritone
	<b>Satriya Krisna</b> (Indonesia) tenor	<b>Lauren Margison</b> (Canada) soprano	<b>Rihab Chaieb</b> (Canada-Tunisia) mezzo-soprano
	<b>Clara Osowski</b> (United States) mezzo-soprano	<b>Oleksandr Kyreiev</b> (Ukraine) baritone	<b>Mario Bahg</b> (South Korea) tenor
	<b>Mengxi You</b> (China) soprano	<b>Olga Rudyk</b> (Ukraine) soprano	<b>Mikhail Golovushkin</b> (Russia) bass

## THE PRIZES

At the end of the competition, the competitors will be offered various engagements, and will share \$270,000 CAD in prizes, awards, and grants, including a First Prize in each category worth over \$80,000. Certain prizes and awards in the Art Song division bear the names of some of our greatest Canadian singers, namely Léopold Simoneau, Maureen Forrester, and Lois Marshall, as well as John Newmark, one of the greatest accompanists of his day.

<b>Art Song division</b>	<b>Aria division</b>
<p><b>‘Léopold Simoneau’ First Prize</b> \$30,000 – offered by the John R. Stratton Trust</p> <p>The First Prize also comes with the <b>‘James Norcop’ Career Development Grant</b> (\$50,000) and a <b>Residency</b> offered by the Banff Centre for Arts &amp; Creativity (\$2,500).</p> <p><b>‘Maureen Forrester’ Second Prize</b> \$15,000 – offered by Colleen Sexsmith</p> <p><b>‘Lois Marshall’ Third Prize</b> \$10,000 – offered in memory of Dr. Clive Mortimer</p> <p><u>SPECIAL AWARDS</u></p> <p><b>French Mélodie Award</b> \$5,000 – offered by Diane Loeb</p> <p><b>German Lied Award</b> \$5,000 – offered by Arijia and Clarence Stiver</p> <p><b>OFQJ 50<sup>th</sup> Award</b> \$5,000 – offered by the Office Franco-Québécois de la Jeunesse</p> <p><b>Radio-Canada People’s Choice Award</b> \$3,000</p> <p><b>Best Canadian Artist Award</b> \$3,000 – offered by the Bourbeau Foundation</p>	<p><b>First Prize</b> \$30,000 – offered by the City of Montréal</p> <p>The First Prize also comes with the <b>Joseph Rouleau Career Development Grant</b> (\$50,000), offered by the Azrieli Foundation, and a <b>Residency</b> offered by the Banff Centre for Arts &amp; Creativity (\$2,500).</p> <p><b>‘Pierre Péladeau and Raymonde Chopin’ Second Prize</b> \$15,000 – offered by Québecor</p> <p><b>Third Prize</b> \$10,000 – offered by Stingray Classica</p> <p><u>SPECIAL AWARDS</u></p> <p><b>Opera Aria Award</b> \$5,000 – offered by the Opéra de Montréal</p> <p><b>Oratorio Award</b> \$5,000 – offered by Aéroports de Montréal</p> <p><b>Radio-Canada People’s Choice Award</b> \$3,000</p> <p><b>Best Canadian Artist Award</b> \$3,000 – offered by the Bourbeau Foundation</p>
<p><b>‘John Newmark’ Best Collaborative Pianist Award</b> \$10,000 – offered by Richard Lupien</p>	

*\*The non-qualifying finalists in the Art Song and Aria divisions will each receive a \$2,000 grant.*

## THE PIANISTS

With the John Newmark Award, the CMIM recognizes collaborative pianists' contribution to the competition. All participating pianists born on or after January 1, 1983 are eligible for the award. Here are the 10 pianists from 5 nations vying for this award: João Araújo (Portugal), Mark Bilyeu (United States), Michel-Alexandre Broekaert (Canada), Peter Dugan (United States), Dokyung Han (South Korea), Felix Justin (Indonesia), Jennifer Szeto (Canada), Magdalena von Eccher (Canada), Jonathan Ware (United States), and Sebastian Wybrew (United Kingdom).

## THE HONORARY PATRON

A world-renowned virtuoso pianist who has greatly contributed to furthering the reach and influence of classical music, Alain Lefèvre has performed in over forty countries, in prestigious venues, and with the world's leading conductors and symphony orchestras. "I am delighted to be joining forces with the CMIM as its honorary patron, having had the opportunity—as a member of its jury in 2017—to fully appreciate the significance this great competition holds as a major stepping stone for so many young musicians and singers. This is why I have chosen to dedicate myself to the CMIM with purpose and conviction," stated Alain Lefèvre.

## THE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: MASTER CLASSES, PRE-CONCERT TALKS, AND CINEMUSE

Through a partnership with the Opéra de Montréal, the CMIM will present master classes featuring four of its jury members, all of which begin at 1 pm in Bourgie Hall:

- **May 31** with baritone François Le Roux, who will give a conference on the performance of French art song as a prelude to the master class
- **June 2** with soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, preceded by a short documentary
- **June 4** with collaborative pianist Warren Jones
- **June 5** with soprano Soile Isokoski

On June 4 and 5 at 6:45 pm (just prior to the semi-finals at 7:30 pm), in the Foyer Allegro at the Maison symphonique, Jean-Pierre Primiani, Director of Development at the Opéra de Montréal, will host pre-concert talks with jury members Ben Heppner (June 4) and Dame Felicity Lott (June 5).

Through a partnership with the Festival international du film sur l'art (FIFA), the CMIM is presenting CINEMUSE. A chance to see two exceptional documentaries on artists that have influenced an entire generation of musicians and music fans, on Saturday, June 2 in the Cummings Auditorium at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

**5:30 pm: Mstislav Rostropovitch, l'archet indomptable** (2017) – A film by Bruno Monsaingeon, followed by a commentary with cellist Denis Brott.

**8:00 pm: Bloody Daughter** (2012) – A film by Stéphanie Argerich, followed by a commentary with 2004 CMIM First prizewinner pianist Serhiy Salov. Hosted by Mario F. Paquet.

Admission to the master classes and to CINEMUSE is free of charge. Admission to the talks is free of charge upon presentation of a ticket for the following concert.

## THE BROADCAST

All rounds of the Competition will be webcast live and available on demand at [concoursmontreal.ca/live](http://concoursmontreal.ca/live). Master classes will be webcast and available on demand on the CMIM and partner Opéra de Montréal's websites. Moreover, the Aria Finals Gala will be broadcast live on the program *Toute une musique* on ICI MUSIQUE and the new ICI MUSIQUE Classique digital radio, on Thursday, June 7 at 7:30 pm. Hosted by Marie-Christine Trottier and Sylvia L'Écuyer.

## **BOX OFFICE**

**ART SONG & ARIA FIRST ROUNDS MAY 29-30-31**

**ART SONG SEMI-FINAL JUNE 1**

**ART SONG FINAL JUNE 3**

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BOURGIE HALL, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

514 285-2000, option 4

[mbam.qc.ca/en/concerts-other-organizations/cmim](http://mbam.qc.ca/en/concerts-other-organizations/cmim)

**ARIA SEMI-FINAL JUNE 4-5**

**ARIA FINALS GALA JUNE 7**

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MAISON SYMPHONIQUE

514 842-2112

[placedesarts.com/en/producer/concours-musical-international-de-montréal](http://placedesarts.com/en/producer/concours-musical-international-de-montréal)

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## **ABOUT THE CMIM**

Founded in 2002, the CMIM (Concours musical international de Montréal) aims to further the development of the world's most promising young singers, violinists, and pianists, while making classical music more accessible to the greatest possible number of people. The CMIM is the only international competition in North America to be held annually and to feature three disciplines (piano, voice, and violin) in a three-year rotation. Since its first edition dedicated to Voice in 2002, 3,500 hopefuls have entered the Competition, and close to 500 have been welcomed to perform in Montreal.

Complete details at [concoursmontreal.ca](http://concoursmontreal.ca)

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @CMIMontreal

- 30 -

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