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70th edition of the OSM Standard Life Competition November 18 to 21

**21 semi-finalists from across Canada
Alexandre da Costa, spokesman
Pianist Lang Lang to give a master class**

Montreal, November 9, 2009 — The OSM Standard Life Competition is pleased to announce the names of the 21 semi-finalists who will be taking part in the 70th edition of the Competition, which this year is devoted to piano and percussion. The **semi-finals** and **finals** as well as the **master classes** are free and **open to the public**. They will take place from November 18 to 21 **in the Tanna Schulich Recital Hall at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University**. The complete schedule is available at www.osm.ca.

Alexandre da Costa, spokesman for the 70th edition

The OSM is proud to be able to count on the involvement of the young Montreal violinist **Alexandre da Costa** as spokesman for the OSM Standard Life Competition. His musical successes and the international recognition he has earned make him not only an ideal spokesman but an inspiring prize-winner for the young semi-finalists in the Competition. Mr. da Costa won the Competition in 1996, and his career has grown steadily over the past ten years. Upcoming appearances include performances with the OSM on November 10 and 11 as part of a concert that will be used in the production of a disc on the Warner Classics label.

21 semi-finalists between the ages of 14 and 30

Sixty-six candidates from all regions of Canada and the finest North American institutions entered the Competition. The jury for the preliminary rounds was delighted at the high level of the candidates. They selected 21 semi-finalists between the ages of 14 and 30: eight semi-finalists between 20 and 25 in the piano category class A, eight semi-finalists between 14 and 17 in the piano category class B, and five semi-finalists between 18 and 30 in the percussion category. The semi-finalists in the piano category class A hail from Québec and Alberta, the semi-finalists in the piano category class B are from Québec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario, while those in the percussion category are from Ontario, Québec and Nova Scotia.

The jury is chaired by **Henry Fogel, dean of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University**. It brings together performers, veteran teachers and players in the musical milieu such as **Michel Béroff (France), Robert McDonald (U.S.), Louis Charbonneau (Canada), Emmanuel Séjourné (France), Earl Blackburn (U.S.) and Walter Homburger (Canada)**.

Master classes open to the public

At each edition of the OSM Standard Life Competition, judges and special guests offer master classes before the public to performers from Québec institutions. For the 70th edition, four classes have been scheduled, including one with **pianist Lang Lang**, on a visit to Montreal for a concert with the OSM and for a recital. The three other master classes will be given by **Michel Béroff, piano; Emmanuel Séjourné, percussion; and Louis Charbonneau, percussion.**

More than \$100,000 IN PRIZES

The total value of the prizes awarded to winners is over \$100,000. In addition to the one-of-a-kind opportunity of performing in a **concert with the OSM** (recorded by Espace musique) under the direction of conductor **Roberto Minczuk on January 12, 2010**, the grand-prize winner will have the privilege of playing with the **Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra** in 2010-2011, of presenting a recital at the **Northern Arts and Cultural Centre in Yellowknife** in 2010-2011, and a second recital at the Orford Arts Centre in 2010.

Background

Since its creation in 1940, the OSM Standard Life Competition has launched the careers of nearly 300 prize-winners on the national and international scene: for example, André Laplante, Angela Cheng, Louis Lortie, Angèle Dubeau, Lyne Fortin, Jean-François Rivest, James Ehnes and Andrew Wan. Intimately connected with the history of the Orchestra, and attracting prestige partners and judges of great reputation, the Competition continues to carry out the educational mission fostered by Wilfrid Pelletier, conductor and the first music director of the OSM.

The OSM Standard Life Competition is open to all the instruments of the orchestra and is intended for all young Canadian performers. It is one of the few competitions to offer contestants three prize categories: cash grants totalling more than \$55,000, and training grants enabling artists to learn in greater depth; the chance to be offered professional engagements; and finally the enormous privilege of performing before an audience with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and being broadcast on the radio by Radio-Canada.

About Standard Life

Standard Life is an important Scottish asset-management group that carries out its activities around the world, including in Canada for more than 175 years. Today it specializes in investment products for retirement and in insurance for individuals and for companies. With 2,000 employees based in Montreal and across Canada, the Canadian operation is Standard Life's largest outside the U.K.

For more information: www.standardlife.ca

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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APPENDIX

THE SEMI-FINALISTS PIANO CATEGORY CLASS A

1. Vincent BÉLAND-BERNARD, QC, 23
2. Rosy GE, AB, 20
3. Olivier HÉBERT-BOUCHARD, QC, 21
4. Tristan LONGVAL-GAGNÉ, QC, 21
5. Alexander MALIKOV, AB, 20
6. Yuxi QIN, QC, 20
7. Charles RICHARD-HAMELIN, QC, 20
8. Yulin SHEN, QC, 25

THE SEMI-FINALISTS PIANO CATEGORY CLASS B

1. Simon BOILY PROULX, QC, 16
2. Jan LISIECKI, AB, 14
3. Meagan MILATZ, SK, 16
4. Mathieu ROUSSEL-LEWIS, QC, 15
5. Jean-Luc THERRIEN, QC, 15
6. Benjamin WOO, BC, 17
7. Xin Qiang YANG, QC, 15
8. Vincent YANG, ON, 17

THE SEMI-FINALISTS PERCUSSION CATEGORY

1. Noam BIERSTONE, ON, 18
2. Jean-François BRETON, ON, 30
3. Benjamin DUINKER, NS, 26
4. Christopher HASTINGS, ON, 27
5. Clara WARNAAR, QC, 18