

The OSM reveals the identities of the winners of the 72th edition of the OSM Standard Life Competition (voice, woodwinds and brass)



Montreal, November 26, 2011 – The 72th edition of the **OSM Standard Life Competition** wound up after four days of auditions (semi-finals and finals) in Tanna Schulich Recital Hall at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. The winner of the OSM Standard Life Grand Prize is **Gordon Bintner (23 years old) bass-baritone from Saskatchewan**. Twenty-three (23) competitors took part in the semi-finals of the Competition, this year devoted to voice, woodwinds and brass.

The jury for the semi-finals in the voice category, was made up of Artistic Director of the Opera de Montréal **Michel Beaulac**, soprano and mezzo-soprano **Grace Bumbry** and **Evamaria Wieser**, Director of Artistic Administration at the Salzburg Festival and Artistic Consultant for the Chicago Lyric Opera. In the brass category, it consisted of trombonist **Jonas Bylund**, trumpeter **James Thompson** and horn player **John Zirbel**. Finally, in the woodwinds category, the jury was made up of clarinetist **Stanley Drucker**, oboist **Werner Herbers** and flutist **Jeffrey Khaner**.

For the finals, the following judges joined the semi finals' jury: conductor and musical director of the Opera and the Orchestre National de Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon **Lawrence Foster** and **Matías Tarnopolsky**, administrative and programming manager of Cal Performances from California Berkeley University.

For the preliminary round, in the voice category, the pianist and vocal coach **Esther Gonthier**, mezzo-soprano **Gabrielle Lavigne** as well as Richard Turp, cofounder of the Société Musicale André-Turp were members of the jury. The jury of the brass category reunited trumpet professor Jean-Louis Chatel, horn player **Denys Derome**, trombonist **Vivian Lee**, and tuba player **Dennis Miller**. In the woodwinds category, it was consisted of flutist **Denis Bluteau**, clarinetist **Alain Desgagné**, oboist **Sarah Jeffrey** and bassoonist **Stéphane Lévesque**.

THE RESULTS

OSM Standard Life Grand Prize

This prize is awarded to one of the first-prize winners (voice, woodwinds and brass) who made the strongest impression during the Competition. The winner of the **OSM Standard Life Grand Prize** is **Gordon Bintner (23 years old) bass-baritone from Saskatchewan**.

In addition to receiving a **\$10,000 scholarship offered by Standard Life**, the winner will perform in a **concert with the OSM**, under the direction of **Arild Remmereit**, on **December 6, 2011 at the Maison symphonique de Montréal** at Place des Arts, as part of the OSM 2011-2012 Season. The OSM Standard Life Grand Prize also include:

PRESS RELEASE

- **The Espace musique Prize:** a professional recording in one of the Radio-Canada studios as well as the recording and broadcast on Espace musique radio station of the concert of the OSM Standard Life Grand Prize winner;
- **The National Arts Center Prize:** a recital at the National Arts Center presented during the 2013-2014 season;
- **The YOA Orchestra of the Americas Prize :** a Concert Tour of Chile in July & August 2012 led by Carlos Miguel Prieto featuring Plácido Domingo, Sarah Chang, Branford Marsalis, and Louis Lortie;
- **A recital at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre** in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, as part of the 2012-2013 NACC season;
- **A concert with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra** in St. John's, Newfoundland, as part of the 2012-2013 NSO season;
- **The Orford Arts Centre Prize:** a recital at the Orford Arts Centre presented in 2012.

The first prizes

A \$10,000 Standard Life Scholarship, awarded in each of the three categories.

- Voice category: the winner is **Gordon Bintner 23 years old, Saskatchewan, bass-baritone.**
- Brass category: the winner is **Vanessa Fralick, 25 years old, Ontario, trombone.**
- Woodwinds category: the winner is **Eric Abramovitz, 18 years old, Quebec, clarinet.**

The second prizes

- A \$5,000 scholarship, offered by Fondation Paul F. Fournier, voice category. The winner is: **Geoffrey Sirett , 27 years old, Ontario, baryton.**
- A \$5,000 scholarship, offered by Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman, woodwinds category. The winner is: **Vincent Boilard, 23 years old, Quebec, oboe.**

The third prizes

- A \$2,500 scholarship, offered by Les Amis de l'OSM, voice category. The winner is: **Florie Gauthier-Valiquette, 25 years old, Quebec, soprano**
- The \$2,500 Aline-Hector-Perrier scholarship, offered by the Fonds Les Amis de l'Art and Les Amis de l'OSM, brass category. The winner is: **Scott Reynolds, 22 years old, trumpet, Ontario.**
- The \$2,500 V. E. Lambert scholarship, offered by the Succession Lambert-Fortier-Gagnon, brass category. The winner is: **Nicholas Mahon, 23 years old, trombone, Ontario.**

- The \$2,500 V.E. Lambert scholarship, offered by the Succession Lambert-Fortier-Gagnon, woodwinds category.
The winner is: **Vivianne Bélanger, 25 years old, Quebec, flute.**

PRIZE FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE OF A CANADIAN WORK

- A \$2,500 scholarship, offered by Juliana Pleines, voice category.
The winner is: **Geoffrey Sirett, 27 years old, baritone, Ontario.**
***THY VOICE IS ON THE ROLLING AIR*, The Centred Passion, by Derek Holman**
- A \$2,500 scholarship, offered by the OSM Musicians Association, brass category.
The winner is: **Nicholas Mahon, 23 years old, trombone, Ontario**
***FANTASY FOR TROMBONE*, by Elizabeth Raum**
- A \$2,500 scholarship, offered by the OSM Volunteer Committee, woodwinds category.
The winner is: **Vivianne Bélanger, 25 years old, flute, Quebec.**
***MIRAGE 2*, by Dorothy Chang**

OTHER PRIZES

- **The Banff Centre for the Arts Prize:** three scholarships covering tuition and accommodation for a three-week session in the Music and Sound Department at the Banff Centre for the Arts, in 2012.
The winners are:
Gordon Bintner, 23 years old, bass-baritone Saskatchewan.
Scott Reynolds, 22 years old, trumpet, Ontario.
Vincent Boilard 23 years old, oboe, Quebec.
- **The Orford Arts Centre Prize:** three scholarships covering tuition and accommodation for a two-week music session at the Orford Arts Centre, in 2012.

The winners are:
Danielle Buonaiuto, 27 years old, soprano, Ontario.
Nicholas Mahon, 23 years old, trombone, Ontario.
Ariane Brisson, 20 year old, flute, Quebec.
- **The Domaine Forget Prize:** three scholarships covering tuition and accommodation for a two-week music session at the Domaine Forget, in 2012.

The winners are:
Lucia Cesaroni, 28 years old, soprano, Ontario.
Matthew Russell, 23 years old, trombone, Quebec.
Eric Abramovitz, 18 years old, clarinet, Quebec.
- **The National Arts Center Prize:** A scholarship covering tuition, travel, room and board to the National Arts Centre Young Artists Program, for three weeks in June 2012;
The winner is: **Eric Abramovitz, 18 years old, Quebec, clarinet.**
- **The Paul Merkelo scholarship:** open to all participants and awarded by a jury chaired by Paul Merkelo, principal trumpet of the OSM, the \$2,000 scholarship aims at encouraging musical excellence and providing relevant financial assistance to a candidate's proposed training program.

The winner is: **Ariane Brisson, 20 years old, flute, Quebec.**

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal congratulates all the winners and thanks the partners who made it possible to stage this competition. Sponsored for **19 years** by the **Standard Life Assurance Company of Canada**, the OSM Standard Life Competition, this year, under the presidency once again of **Mr. Jean Élie**, is a Canada-wide competition offering more than \$100,000 in prizes and scholarships.

About Standard Life

Standard Life is a leading provider of long-term savings, investment and insurance solutions which has been doing business in Canada for 178 years. They are committed to helping develop the full potential of young Canadians, namely by sponsoring the OSM Standard Life Competition for a 19th consecutive year. "We are very proud to help give young musicians an opportunity to unveil their amazing talent. Their commitment and perseverance are inspiring to many. This is why we applaud every winner," said Joseph Iannicelli, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

Informations: (514) 842-9951 ou www.osm.ca

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec.

The OSM Standard life Competition is presented by Standard Life.

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Source: Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

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