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Press release

OSM MANULIFE COMPETITION 2016

SEMI-FINALISTS' NAMES ANNOUNCED!

Full information about the rounds and activities of the OSM Manulife Competition

Ambassador Angèle Dubeau and Guest of Honor Jacqueline Desmarais

A prestigious international jury

Montreal, October 28, 2016 – Three weeks away from the opening of the 2016 OSM Manulife Competition, Pierre A. Goulet presiding, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to announce the names of the 22 semi-finalists for this year's Competition, devoted to strings and, for the first time, organ. The Competition runs from November 22 to 26.

At this year's Competition, the most important national performance competition in Canada, contestants will compete for various prizes and scholarships totaling more than \$100,000, including the Competition's Grand Prize. This year's jury will be presided over by R. Douglas Sheldon, Senior Vice President and Director of Columbia Artists Management Inc.

Angèle Dubeau, Competition winner in 1976, has accepted the post of Ambassador for the 2016 competition as she celebrates the 40th year of her professional career. The internationally renowned Quebec violinist is also releasing a new recording, *Silence, on joue - Prise 2*, accompanied by her loyal collaborators of the ensemble La Pietà.

In recognition of Jacqueline Desmarais' role in helping acquire the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique for the Maison symphonique, the OSM has invited her as a Guest of Honor of the competition. The Jacqueline Desmarais Prize, instituted especially for this year's competition, will be offered to the top-ranking winner in the organ category. The prize consists of a professional video recording on the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique.

THE 22 SEMI-FINALISTS

The semi-finalists of the 2016 OSM Manulife Competition come from across Canada. They are:

Category A, Strings (18-25 years of age)

Miss **Jaewon Ahn**, cello (Calgary, AB)

Miss **Eva Aronian**, violin (Calgary, AB)

Miss **Émile Auclair**, violin (L'Ancienne-Lorette, QC)

Mr. **Thomas Chartré**, cello (Montreal, QC)

Mr. **Bryan Cheng**, cello (Ottawa, ON)

Miss **Dasol Jeong**, cello (Toronto, ON)

Mr. **Byungchan Lee**, violin (Vancouver, BC)

Mr. **Blake Pouliot**, violin (Toronto, ON)

Category B, Strings (17 years of age and younger)

Miss **Olivia Yelim Cho**, cello (Vancouver, BC)
Miss **Alison Kim**, violin (Coquitlam, BC)
Miss **Maria Krstic**, violin (Ottawa, ON)
Miss **Alice Lee**, violin (Toronto, ON)
Miss **Yan Li**, violin (Calgary, AB)
Miss **Isabella D'Éloize Perron**, violin (Montreal, QC)
Miss **Angela Ryu**, violin (Calgary, AB)
Mr. **Bruno Tobon**, cello (Longueuil, QC)

Organ Category

Mr. **Rashaan Allwood** (Mississauga, ON)
Mr. **Stephen Boda** (Hamilton, ON)
Mr. **Donald Hunt** (Halifax, NS)
Mr. **Jocelyn Lafond** (Saint-Eugène, QC)
Mr. **Malcolm Matthews** (Toronto, ON)
Mr. **Joel Peters** (Montreal, QC)

THE 2016 COMPETITION

Semi-final rounds and the grand finale at Montreal's Maison symphonique

Once again this year, the general public can attend free of charge the semi-final and final rounds of the OSM Manulife Competition. A unique opportunity to discover outstanding talent of the up-and-coming generation of Canadians, and to take the pulse of the country's most prestigious national performance competition.

Semi-final rounds

Wednesday, November 23 from 10 a.m.: Organ
Saint Jean Baptiste Church
309 Rachel Street East, Montreal

Thursday, November 24 from 10 a.m.: Strings Class B
Friday, November 25 from 10 a.m.: Strings Class A
Tanna Schulich Hall at the Schulich Faculty of Music, McGill University
555 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal

Final round

Saturday, November 26 from 9 a.m.: all categories
Awards ceremony at 7 p.m.
Maison symphonique de Montréal
1600 St. Urbain Street, Montreal

At the final round, the audience will assuredly find itself astounded by the outstanding artistry of the young musicians performing in the exceptional acoustical setting of the Maison symphonique, thanks to a generous donation to the OSM from Barbara Bronfman and family.

Note: Once again, the semi-finals and final can be followed in live streaming on the OSM's web site. No need to miss the OSM Manulife Competition!

Stingray Rising Stars Award: Public's Choice: Vote for your favorite contestant!

The audience is invited to learn about the semi-finalist contestants on the OSM's Facebook page and website in the coming weeks, then vote online or at the hall for their favorite performer.

Opening concert

For the opening concert of the competition, five organists – Paul Jacobs, Isabelle Demers, Christian Lane, the OSM's organist emeritus Olivier Latry, and the OSM's current organist-in-residence Jean-Willy Kunz – will present a concert on November 22 at 8 p.m. at the Maison symphonique. Accompanied by string players from the OSM, members of the jury and competition winners, they will play works ranging from Bach's Concerto for Four Keyboards to Ravel's famous *Bolero*. Dazzling sounds from masterly musicians await your ears!

Prizes and scholarships totaling over \$100,000

In addition to high-level recognition, the winners will receive prizes and scholarships in the amount of over \$100,000. The Grand Prize winner will also have the opportunity to perform as soloist with the OSM under Vasily Petrenko on February 22, 2017, plus receive a cash prize of \$15,000, concert engagements from broadcast partners, and a promotional recording from ICI Musique. New prizes this year include those from the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Cathédrale Saint-Pierre in Geneva, the Royal Canadian College of Organists in Calgary, St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, and the Canadian International Organ Competition.

[Complete list of prizes and scholarships](#)

An impressive international jury

R. Douglas Sheldon, Senior Vice President and Director of Columbia Artists Management Inc, will preside over the jury for this competition. The grand jury, which will choose the OSM Manulife Grand Prize winner, will consist of **Matthias Naske**, general manager of the Konzerthaus in Vienna, **Jeanne Lamon**, music director emerita of Tafelmusik, and **Barbara Smith**, executive director of NYO Canada.

Main jury for strings

- **Cho-Liang Lin**, music director of the La Jolla Music Society's SummerFest and violin teacher at the Juilliard School of Music and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston
- **Luigi Piovano**, principal cellist of the Orchestra of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome

Main jury for organ

- Olivier Latry, organist of the Great Organ at Notre Dame in Paris and organist emeritus of the OSM
- John Grew, artistic director of the Canadian International Organ Competition and professor emeritus of the Schulich School of Music at McGill University

Semi-finalists were chosen in a preliminary round by a jury of highly-regarded North American performers and teachers.

Master classes

Again this year, international jury members of the Competition will offer master classes. The public is invited free of charge.

Thursday, November 24: Olivier Latry, organ
2 p.m. at the Saint Jean Baptiste Church

Thursday, November 24: Cho-Liang Lin, violin
7 p.m. in Tanna Schulich Hall at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University

OSM Commissioned work from Éric Champagne and a tribute to Raymond Daveluy

The required Canadian work for semi-finalists in the string category, *N'importe où hors du monde*, is an OSM commission for the 2016 OSM Manulife Competition, written by composer Éric Champagne.

In the organ category, the required Canadian work for semi-finalists is *Épilogue sur "Nun danket" et "Ballerma,"* written in 1994 by renowned Quebec organist, composer and teacher Raymond Daveluy. Organist at St. Joseph's Oratory for more than 40 years, Daveluy died on September 1, 2016. The OSM pays tribute to this musician at the opening concert of the Competition on November 22.

Mentoring by OSM musicians

A highly valued and distinctive element in the OSM Manulife Competition is the mentoring that allows competitors to benefit from the experience of and contact with OSM musicians. This year, the musicians are inviting the contestants to take part in a round-table discussion on the subject of their profession and a chamber music reading session.

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Since its founding in 1934, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal has distinguished itself as a leader in the orchestral life of Canada and Quebec. A cultural ambassador of the highest order, the Orchestra has earned an enviable reputation internationally through the quality of its many recordings and tours. The OSM carries on that rich tradition under the leadership of its Music Director, Kent Nagano, while featuring innovative programming aimed at updating the orchestral repertory and deepening the Orchestra's connection with the community. Over the years, the OSM has been on more than forty tours and thirty national and international excursions. It has made more than a hundred recordings on the Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM and Sony as well as on its own label, which have earned it more than fifty national and international awards.

The OSM Manulife Competition began in 1940 at the initiative of Wilfrid Pelletier, the first music director of the Société des Concerts symphoniques de Montréal, which became the OSM in 1954. Over the years, more than 350 winners have distinguished themselves at this performance competition, including Angela Hewitt, James Ehnes, Louis Lortie, André Laplante, Angèle Dubeau, Karina Gauvin, Jonathan Crow, Stéphane Tétreault, Jan Lisiecki and Andrew Wan.

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Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group providing forward-thinking solutions to help people with their big financial decisions. The health and wealth of the communities where we operate is at the centre of our priorities. That's the reason why we support programs like the OSM Manulife Competition, which helps talented young musicians to develop their potential.

The OSM's indispensable partners

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the City of Montreal for their generous support.

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

BMO Financial Group is partner for the 2016-2017 season.

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The OSM Manulife Competition is presented by Manulife in collaboration with Stingray Musique.

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