

2015 OSM MANULIFE COMPETITION

THE NAMES OF THE SEMI-FINALISTS ARE REVEALED! **All the details on the elimination rounds and activities open to the public free of charge**

Montréal, November 9, 2015 – With one week to go before the launch of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition, presided over by Mr. Pierre A. Goulet, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to announce the names of the 22 semi-finalists for this **edition, devoted to piano and percussion**, which will take place from **November 17 to 21**. At this edition of the most important Canada-wide performance competition, to be officially launched on Tuesday, November 17, candidates will vie for a number of awards and grants, including the Competition Grand Prize, with a total value of over \$100,000. The jury will be chaired by Mr. **Zarin Mehta**, co-executive director of the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University; president and executive director of the New York Philharmonic (2000-2012); and general manager of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (1981-1990).

THE 22 SEMI-FINALISTS

The semi-finalists for the 2015 edition of the OSM Manulife Competition, hailing from the four corners of Canada, are:

In the “Piano class A” category (18 to 25)

Scott MacIsaac (Calgary, AB)
Meagan Milatz (Montreal, QC)
Naomi Woo (North Vancouver, BC)
Jeanne Amièle (Greenfield Park, QC)
Justin Joon Kee Min (Montreal, QC)
Nicole Linaksita (North Vancouver, BC)
Suren Barry (Montreal, QC)
Carter Johnson (Vancouver, BC)

In the “Piano class B” category (17 and under)

Vincent Vu (Laval, QC)
George Hua (Montreal, QC)
Mariya Orlenko (Coquitlam, BC)
Anastasia Kulikova (Toronto, ON)
Eric Xi Xin Liang (Vancouver, BC)
Zhan Hong Xiao (Montreal, QC)
Kevin Chen (From Calgary, AL)

In the “Percussion” category

Alexandre Lavoie (Amos, QC)
Olivier Tremblay-Noel (Montreal, QC)
Matthias Soly-Letarte (Montreal, QC)
Daniel Morphy (Toronto, ON)
Mark Morton (Montreal, QC)
Elliott Harrison (Toronto, ON)
Gaël Chabot-Leclerc (Chicoutimi, QC)

All information pertaining to the semi-finalists, along with video-clips allowing the public to get to know them, can be consulted on the website of the [Competition](#).

A HOST OF FREE ACTIVITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Semi-finals at Tanna Schulich Hall and grand finale at Maison symphonique de Montréal

This year once again the public can attend free of charge the semi-finals and finals of the OSM Manulife Competition. A unique opportunity to discover the exceptional talent of the rising Canadian musical generation and to feel part of the most prestigious national performance competition.

Semi-finals:

Tanna Schulich Hall at McGill University's Schulich School of Music
527 Sherbrooke St. West, Montréal

Wednesday, November 18, Piano class B, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, Piano class A, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 20, Percussion, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Finals:

Maison symphonique de Montréal
1600 Saint-Urbain St., Montréal

Saturday, November 21, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Followed by the prize awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Audiences will unquestionably be swept away by the outstanding talent of the young artists competing, especially in the sublime acoustics of Maison symphonique thanks to a generous donation to the OSM by Mrs. Barbara Bronfman and her family. A new feature this year: the public will be able to attend, also at no charge, an organ recital given by OSM organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz on Saturday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Every step of the Competition broadcast live on the Web

Once again, the public can watch the finals live at osm.ca. And new this year, the semi-finals will also be webcast, so that the public gets to see absolutely everything of the Competition!

Stingray Rising Stars Award: Public's Choice: vote for your favorite candidate!

The public is invited to make the acquaintance of the candidates on the OSM's Facebook page and website and to vote on Stingray Music website or in the hall for the finalist of their choice during the final round.

Masterclasses

Again this year, masterclasses are offered by members of the Competition's international jury. The public is invited to attend at no cost.

See Appendix for the schedule.

Concert at Bourgie Hall

On Sunday, November 22 at 2:00 p.m., a chamber-music concert in Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts will be performed by OSM musicians, members of the international jury and two winners from the 2015 edition of the Competition. Tickets for this concert can be acquired through Bourgie Hall customer service at **514 285-2000, extension 4** or [online](#) (paid activity).

THE 2015 EDITION COMPETITION

Awards and grants with a total value of more than \$100,000

In addition to reaping exceptional recognition, finalists will be rewarded with prizes and grants totaling over \$100,000 in value. The Grand Prize winner will have the opportunity of performing as a soloist with the OSM under the direction of **Jacques Lacombe** on February 10, 2016.

[Complete list of awards and grants](#)

A remarkable international jury

The jury for this edition will be chaired by **Mr. Zarin Mehta**, co-executive director of the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University; president and executive director of the New York Philharmonic (2000-2012); and general manager of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (1981-1990). The grand jury, which will determine the winner of the OSM Manulife Grand Prize, will be made up of Maestro **Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM, and **Ms. Ilona Schmiel**, intendant of the Zürich Tonhalle-Gesellschaft.

Judges in the Piano category:

- Mr. **Benedetto Lupo**, pianist
- Mr. **André Laplante**, pianist

And the judges in the Percussion category:

- Ms. **Rumi Ogawa**, percussionist, member of Frankfurt's Ensemble Modern
- Mr. **Eric Sammut**, soloist with the Orchestre de Paris, composer, marimbist and teacher at the Paris and Glasgow conservatories as well as at London's Royal Academy of Music.

Mentoring by OSM musicians and jury members

A much appreciated and a distinctive component of the OSM Manulife Competition, mentoring activities enable competitors to benefit from the expertise of professional musicians, including those of the OSM, these having been actively involved for a number of years. This year, piano candidates will have the chance to attend a lecture by Zarin Mehta, president of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition jury, Olga Gross, pianist with the OSM, Esther Gonthier, concert pianist vocal coach and choir director, and Pierre Beaudry, OSM principal trombone. Percussion candidates will get to exchange thoughts with members of the OSM percussion section: Serge Desgagnés, principal percussion, Andrei Malashenko, principal tympani, and Hugues Tremblay, percussion. (These activities are however not open to the public.)

Background

The Competition came into being in 1940, on the initiative of Wilfrid Pelletier, the first music director of the Société des Concerts symphoniques de Montréal, which in 1954 would become the OSM. Over the years, more than 300 prize-winners have made a name for themselves at this performance competition. Among these may be mentioned Angela Hewitt, James Ehnes, Alexandre Da Costa, André Laplante, Karina Gauvin, Jonathan Crow, Stéphane Tétreault, Jan Lisiecki and Andrew Wan. The 2016 edition will see the organ integrated into the Competition for the first time in its history.

Manulife – Presenting Sponsor

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group providing forward-thinking solutions to help people with their big financial decisions. Manulife is committed to the health and vitality of the communities where it operates. That is why it supports programs, such as the OSM Manulife Competition, which help youth reach their full potential.

Follow us on Twitter [@OSMconcerts](#) and on [Facebook](#)
and be part of the conversation with the hashtag **#OSMCompetition!**

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The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank
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and the Conseil des arts de Montréal for their generous support.

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

The OSM Manulife Competition is presented by
Manulife in association with Stingray Music.

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2015 OSM MANULIFE COMPETITION

APPENDIX

Detailed schedule of activities open to the public

Semi-final round*

Tanna Schulich Hall, McGill University
527 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal

Wednesday, November 18

Semi-finals – Piano B

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 p.m. | Mariya Orlenko |
| 1:45 p.m. | Anastasia Kulikova |
| 2:30 p.m. | Vincent Vu |
| 3:10 p.m. | Eric Xi Xing Liang |
| | |
| 5 p.m. | Kevin Chen |
| 5:45 p.m. | George Hua |
| 6:25 p.m. | Zhan Hong Xiao |
| 7 p.m. | Deliberations, followed by announcement of the results |

Thursday, November 19

Semi-finals – Piano A

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 p.m. | Suren Barry |
| 1:50 p.m. | Naomi Woo |
| 2:40 p.m. | Nicole Linaksita |
| 3:30 p.m. | Carter Johnson |
| | |
| 5:00 p.m. | Jeanne Amièle |
| 5:50 p.m. | Meagan Milatz |
| 6:40 p.m. | Justin Joo Kee Min |
| 7:30 p.m. | Scott MacIsaac |
| 8:15 p.m. | Deliberations, followed by announcement of the results |

Friday, November 20
Semi-finals – Percussion

- 10 a.m.** Olivier Tremblay-Noel
10:35 a.m. Elliott Harrison
11:15 Gaël Chabot-Leclerc
11:50 Daniel Morphy
- 1:15 p.m.** Matthias Soly-Letarte
1:50 p.m. Alexandre Lavoie
2:25 p.m. Mark Morton
3 p.m. Deliberations, followed by announcement of the results

Final round

Saturday, November 21
Maison symphonique de Montréal
1600, rue Saint-Urbain, Montréal

- 9:30 a.m.** Finals, category Piano B
12:30 p.m. Finals, category Piano A
3:30 p.m. Finals, category Percussion
5 p.m. Free organ recital with Jean-Willy Kunz
6:30 p.m. Awards ceremony (open to the public)

*Schedule subject to change

Masterclasses

Thursday, November 19

9:30 a.m. Percussion masterclass with **Eric Sammut**, marimba
Tanna Schulich Hall – Schulich School of Music at McGill University

Friday, November 20

10 a.m. Masterclass focusing on the required Canadian works in the Competition with **Louise Bessette**, pianist
Concert hall, Conservatoire de musique de Montréal

2 p.m. Piano masterclass with **Benedetto Lupo**, pianist
Salle Claude-Champagne – Université de Montréal Faculty of Music

4:30 Percussion masterclass with **Rumi Ogawa**, percussionist
Tanna Schulich Hall – Schulich School of Music at McGill University

Concert at Bourgie Hall

Percussive Encounter

Sunday, November 22 - 2:00 p.m.

Bourgie Hall – Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal

Andrew Wan, violin

Marie-André Chevrette, violin

Natalie Racine, viola

Anna Burden, cello

André Laplante, piano (member of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition jury)

Benedetto Lupo, piano (member of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition jury)

Eric Sammut, marimba (member of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition jury)

With the participation of two laureates of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition

Rota, 15 Preludes (approx. 22 min.)

Bizet, *Carmen*, "La fleur que tu m'avais jetée" (arr. E. Sammut) (approx. 3 min.)

Sammut, « Blue Somewhere » (approx. 7 min.)

Shostakovich, Piano Quintet in G minor, op. 57 (approx. 30 min.)

Works performed by two of the winners of the 2015 OSM Manulife Competition