

SPRING IS IN THE AIR AT THE 14th MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL COMPETITION

The Ville de Montréal sponsors the \$30,000 First Prize

Montreal, April 23, 2015 – Next month, the Montreal International Musical Competition (MIMC) will welcome 24 singers from 9 countries who will share over \$80,000 in prizes in a major competition that will take place from May 25 to June 5. The Quarter-Final (May 25, 26, and 27) and Semi-Final (May 29 and 30) recitals will have piano accompaniment and take place in Bourgie Hall. The Finals (June 2 and 3) and the winners' concert (June 5) will take place at the Maison symphonique, with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM).

THE VILLE DE MONTRÉAL PRIZE

The Competition's First Prize, worth \$30,000, is offered by the Ville de Montréal, which is now a MIMC partner for the next three years. The Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Denis Coderre, has said he is "especially proud that Montreal is home to this event that bears witness to the city's cultural vitality and international profile."

OTHER NEW PARTNERS

This year, the \$15,000 Second Prize and the \$10,000 Third Prize are sponsored by Canimex and Cogeco respectively. Two new prizes have been added for this Voice edition of the Competition: a \$5,000 Lied and French Art Song Prize, courtesy of Clarence and Arija Stiver; and a \$2,500 Prize for the Best Semi-Final Recital, which will be awarded by Tourisme Montréal.

SPOKESPERSON, ORCHESTRA, AND GUEST CONDUCTOR

The Competition is pleased that journalist and host Marie-Claude Lavallée is spokesperson for the 2015 edition. "I have a soft spot for the human voice—the most beautiful instrument of all, to my ear," she confided. The OSM will accompany the finalists and the laureates and will be led by the Musical Director of the Canadian Opera Company, Maestro Johannes Debus, who stated "What a great privilege it is for candidates to perform with an orchestra of the calibre of the OSM," adding "it looks like we are going to undertake a colourful tour through 400 years of great music. I love it!"

BEFORE THE FINALS

The MIMC will hold two special presentations prior to each evening of the Finals, at 6 p.m., in the Foyer Allegro at the Maison symphonique. On June 2, the focus will be on recollections and anecdotes from three great musicians and friends—Richard Bonyngé, Marilyn Horne, and Joseph Rouleau, joined by host Dennis Trudeau. On June 3, the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the French publication *Opéra Magazine*, Richard Martet, will present "Great Voices of Quebec," joined by host Sylvia L'Écuyer. Admission is free upon presentation of a ticket for the Final, which will follow at 7:30 p.m.

FREE ACTIVITIES

In keeping with tradition, a whole range of activities will be held alongside the official competition, creating a variety of gathering places for fans of classical singing.

Masterclasses

On May 28 and 31, everyone can benefit from the valuable teachings that three members of the international jury will impart on talented young singers: join baritone Wolfgang Holzmair and conductor Richard Bonyngé (May 28, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively) and mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne (May 31 at 2 p.m.). All masterclasses are open to the public and presented in Bourgie Hall.

Cinevox

Through a partnership with medici.tv, the MIMC is presenting a free mini film festival entitled “Cinevox,” featuring documentaries on five 20th century legends: soprano Julia Varady, baritone Dietrich Fischer-Diskau, contralto Kathleen Ferrier, tenor Enrico Caruso, and soprano Montserrat Caballé. The screenings will take place in the auditorium at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, on May 31, starting at 11 a.m.

Sing-Along!

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of cult film *The Sound of Music* and the launch of the Montreal International Musical Competition by singing along “a few of your favorite songs” at Bourgie Hall on May 24 at 2 p.m. The event will be conducted by Bob Bachelor, musical director of The Lyric Theatre Singers.

BOX OFFICE

Tickets and passports for the quarter-final and semi-final rounds are available at the Bourgie Hall box office: mbam.qc.ca | 514-285-2000, option 4 *Packages are available.*

Tickets for the final round and the winners’ concert are available at the Place des arts box office: placedesarts.com | 514-842-2112 | 1 866-842-2112.

NEW WEBSITE

For complete details, please visit the Competition’s brand new website at www.concoursmontreal.ca.

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The mission of the Montreal International Musical Competition is to discover and support young singers, violinists and pianists who demonstrate exceptional mastery of their art. The MIMC is the only international competition in North America to be held annually and to present three disciplines in a three-year rotation. Since its first edition dedicated to voice in 2002, more than 2,400 hopefuls have entered the Competition and over 400 have performed in Montreal, much to the delight of music lovers.

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– 30 –

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DETAILS

THE COMPETITION, VOICE 2015 EDITION | MAY 25 – JUNE 5

■ THE 24 CANDIDATES

(The order of appearance will be determined by a random draw on May 24 and announced on the MIMC's Website)

BELGIUM

Cathy VAN ROY (soprano)

CANADA

France BELLEMARE (soprano)
Karine BOUCHER (soprano)
Claire DE SÉVIGNÉ (soprano)
Marianne LAMBERT (soprano)
Meghan LINDSAY (soprano)
Jana MILLER (soprano)
Owen MCCAUSLAND (tenor)
Suzanne RIGDEN (soprano)
Geoffrey SIRETT (baritone)

CANADA / UNITED KINGDOM

Cairan RYAN (baritone)

FRANCE

Anaïs CONSTANS (soprano)

JAPAN

Takaoki ONISHI (baritone)

MACEDONIA

Vasil GARVANLIEV (baritone)

SOUTH KOREA

Hwan AN (baritone)
Kidon CHOI (baritone)
Hyekyung CHOI (soprano)
Byeong-Min GIL (bass-baritone)
Keonwoo KIM (tenor)
Seung Jick KIM (tenor)
Hyesang PARK (soprano)
Jongsoo YANG (bass)

TURKEY

Dogukan KURAN (baritone)

UNITED STATES

Eric JURENAS (countertenor)

■ THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

Mr. David Agler (Canada)
Mr. Richard Bonyngé (Australia)
Mr. Brian Dickie (United Kingdom)
Mr. Wolfgang Holzmair (Austria)
Ms. Marilyn Horne (United States)
Ms. Sumi Jo (South Korea)
Mr. Joseph Rouleau (Canada)
Ms. Birgitta Svendén (Sweden)

President of the jury: Mr. André Bourbeau

■ THE AWARDS

First Prize: \$30,000 (Offered by the Ville de Montréal)

Second Prize: \$15,000 (Offered by Canimex)

Third Prize: \$10,000 (Offered by Cogeco)

Lied and French Art Song Prize: \$5,000 (Offered by Clarence and Arija Stiver)

Award for the Best Canadian Artist: \$5,000 (Offered by the Bourbeau Foundation)

Joseph Rouleau Award for the Best Artist from Quebec: \$5,000 (Offered by François R. Roy)

Radio-Canada People's Choice Award: \$5,000

Award for the Best Semi-Final Recital: \$2,500 (Offered by Tourisme Montréal)

MIMC Grants for the 3 unranked finalists: \$2,000 (Offered by Maurice Deschamps, Peter J. Hunt and Joseph Rouleau).

Over the course of the next few seasons, musical organisations will also offer an engagement to a laureate or finalist of their choice.

▪ WHERE AND WHEN TO HEAR THE COMPETITORS

BOURGIE HALL

QUARTER-FINALS

MAY 25, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 26-27, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

SEMI-FINALS

MAY 29, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 30, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

MAISON SYMPHONIQUE

FINALS

JUNE 2-3, 7:30 p.m.

WINNERS' CONCERT

JUNE 5, 7:30 p.m.

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Guest Conductor: Johannes Debus

BEFORE THE FINALS | JUNE 2 & 3

FOYER ALLEGRO IN MAISON SYMPHONIQUE

Special activities, upon presentation of your ticket for the final round that will follow at 7:30 p.m.

▪ **DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...** | JUNE 2, 6 p.m.

Recollections with three great musicians and friends Richard Bonyngé, Marilyn Horne, and Joseph Rouleau. Host: Dennis Trudeau

▪ **GREAT VOICES OF QUEBEC** | JUNE 3, 6 p.m.

With Richard Martet, Founder and Editor in Chief of French publication *Opéra Magazine*. Host: Sylvia L'Écuyer

FREE ACTIVITIES | MAY 24, 28 & 31

BOURGIE HALL

▪ **SING-ALONG!** | SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2 p.m.

Conducted by Bob Bachelor, musical director of The Lyric Theatre Singers

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of cult film *The Sound of Music* and the launch of the Montreal International Musical Competition by singing along "a few of your favorite songs".

▪ **MASTERCLASSES** (With three members of the international jury):

WOLFGANG HOLZMAIR: MAY 28, 2 p.m.

RICHARD BONYNGE: MAY 28, 7:30 p.m.

MARILYN HORNE: MAY 31, 2 p.m.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM

▪ **CINEVOX!** | SUNDAY, MAY 31, 11 a.m.

Five legends of the 20th Century on screen

11 a.m.: **JULIA VARADY** *Le chant possédé* by Bruno Monsaingeon (In French)

12 p.m.: **DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU** *Paroles ultimes*, with Bruno Monsaingeon (In French)

1 p.m.: **KATHLEEN FERRIER** by Diane Perelsztejn (In French)

2 p.m.: **ENRICO CARUSO** *Voice of the century* by Peter Rosen (In English)

3 p.m.: **MONTSERRAT CABALLÉ** *Beyond Music* by Antonio A. Farré (In English)

For even more details www.concoursmontreal.ca