

CONCOURS MUSICAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE MONTRÉAL



VIOLIN  
2023

REPORT

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## Message from the Chair of the CMIM Board and the President of the CMIM Foundation

As we celebrate the 2022–2023 season and the exceptional Violin 2023 edition, we wish to express our thanks to our loyal, generous community. On behalf of the CMIM Board of Directors and its Foundation, we want to acknowledge the Concours team for the exceptional success of the Violin 2023 edition, as well as our invaluable public and private partners, donors, sponsors and the numerous friends of the CMIM who help make our mission possible each year.

Last spring, we came together to support the 24 competitors in the Violin 2023 edition and celebrate our love of classical music. The CMIM has paved the way for numerous brilliant musical careers for nearly 25 years. The laureates of the Violin 2023 edition have now joined the 84 other CMIM laureates on the road to success, and they are sure to keep fond memories of their time here in Montreal as they go on to perform on stages around the world.



**Louise Roy and Daniel Lalonde**  
Chair of the CMIM Board of Directors  
and President of the CMIM Foundation

## Message from the Executive and Artistic Directors of the CMIM

The sounds of Violin 2023 will resonate in our ears and hearts for a long time to come. Our magnificent candidates astounded us with their artistic prowess and intensity. It was a pleasure to discover, listen to, and applaud for them.

The CMIM, and Montreal as a whole, can look back with pride upon the awards ceremony where the laureates were named. The Violin 2023 edition has given their careers a boost and left them with precious memories of their time at CMIM, their experience with the OSM conducted by Rafael Payare, the excellent organization, the high-quality production, the enthusiast audiences and the welcoming community.

We are proud and delighted to be taking on the joint leadership of the CMIM moving forward. Our Concours is already known around the world as an exceptional music competition, and we can't wait to take it to even greater heights.

Now that Violin 2023 is behind us, it's time to look ahead to Piano 2024!



**Chantal Poulin, Executive Director**  
and **Shira Gilbert, Artistic Director**  
of the CMIM

## MISSION

The Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) is a prestigious competition that showcases the international elite of the new generation of classical musicians. Founded in 2001 by André Bourbeau and Joseph Rouleau, the CMIM enjoys an undeniable reputation worldwide. Top-level artists come to Montreal from around the globe to participate. Since its beginnings, nearly 5,000 young musicians from more than 90 countries, trained at some of the most highly regarded schools in the world, have participated in the Concours.

The CMIM is an integral part of the Montreal arts scene. It upholds the city's reputation for cultural richness, openness to the world and a welcoming spirit. Proud of its heritage, the CMIM encourages interaction between the public and exceptional mentors in order to reveal and propel the young classical music talents of our time.

The CMIM aims to make classical music accessible to as many people as possible by way of live concerts and live streaming on the CMIM website. The CMIM editions have garnered over 1 million views from around the world.

Photo credits and visuals:  
Cover page: Antoine Saito | Photography: Tam Lan Truong | Design: Z Communications



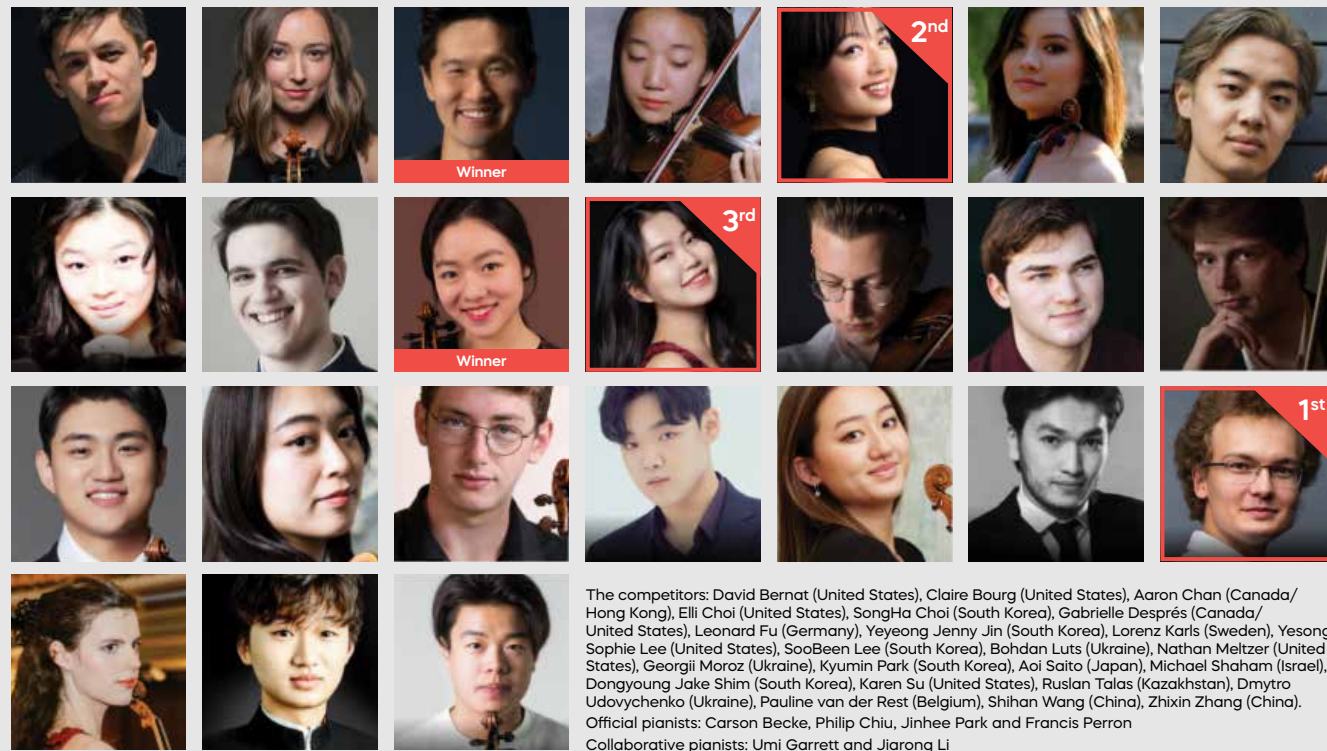
# ABOUT THE COMPETITION

THE CMIM'S REPUTATION ATTRACTS SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED MUSICIANS IN THE WORLD. FOR THE 2023 EDITION, THE COMPETITORS WERE NOT ONLY VIRTUOSIC PLAYERS WITH EXCEPTIONAL TECHNIQUE, BUT ALSO OUTSTANDING ARTISTS WITH ENDEARING PERSONALITIES AND AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF MUSICALITY.

**24 COMPETITORS**  
BETWEEN THE AGES  
OF 17 AND 27

**11 COUNTRIES**  
INCLUDING  
CANADA

**248 PARTICIPANTS**  
A RECORD FOR  
A VIOLIN EDITION



## 10 UNFORGETTABLE DAYS OF COMPETITION

**3 ROUNDS**  
One fierce  
competition

**12 CONCERTS**  
performed in Montreal  
and streamed online

**36 RECITALS**  
presented with piano  
at Bourgie Hall

**6 GRAND CONCERTOS**  
performed with the OSM and guest conductor  
Rafael Payare at the Maison symphonique

Violin 2023 also included 2 panel discussions, 4 masterclasses, 1 lecture, and 1 film screening.

*"The participants in the Violin 2023 edition were incredibly talented," said Dmytro Udovychenko about his fellow violinists competing in the Concours musical international de Montréal. "It was a great honour to receive first place, because they were all such fantastic players."*

## In the Press

### Presence of the national and international press

THE CMIM BENEFITS FROM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE IN THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS THAT COVER CLASSICAL.

#### ONLINE



Digital storytelling segment on Radio-Canada.ca  
"Never without my violin: The life of a young virtuoso"  
(in French) Presenter: Myriam Fimbray



#### TOUT UN MAGAZINE

Special episode dedicated to the CMIM,  
live from Bourgie Hall (in French)  
Host: Marie-Christine Trottier  
Available on the Radio-Canada application Ohdio  
after the broadcast



**La Scena Musicale**  
A free magazine  
dedicated to promoting  
classical music

**The Strad**  
Based in the UK, a monthly  
classical music magazine  
dedicated to strings.



#### INTERNATIONAL

##### The Violin Channel

We are present on The Violin Channel, the leading platform for classical music news, media and live streaming. It is based in New York City and attracts 250,000 music lovers from North America, Europe and Asia each month.



Interview with laureate SongHa Choi on The Violin Channel

"Violin 2023: A great year." (in French)

"Dmytro Udovychenko: Laureate of a historic competition." (in French)

- Christophe Huss, Le Devoir, Montreal,  
May 2 and May 5



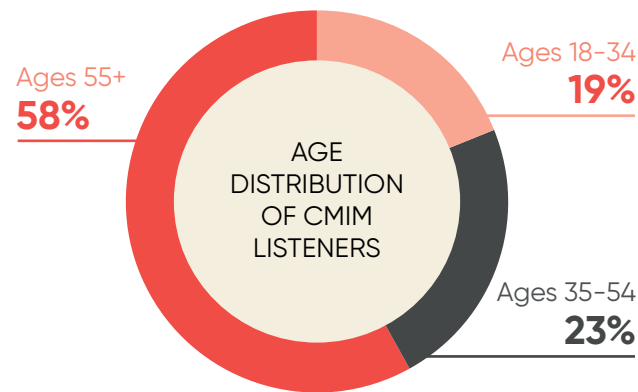
In 2023, four articles about the CMIM were published in **Le Devoir**, a newspaper read by 20% of the Quebec population every week.

**Ludwig van Montréal**, now under the banner of **ZoomerMedia**, has 65,000 monthly readers and more than 100 partners dedicated to the arts.

# Key Figures

MORE THAN ONE MILLION VIEWS IN 2023 AND MORE THAN **75 MILLION IMPRESSIONS** ON PLATFORMS MANAGED BY THE CMIM AND ITS PARTNERS. 50% OF VIEWS ON PLATFORMS MANAGED BY THE CMIM CAME FROM CANADA, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 125,000 CONFIRMED VIEWERS.

## ONLINE VIEWING



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOLLOWED EVERY STEP OF THE COMPETITION IN CONCERT HALLS AND ON THEIR SCREENS. FROM MONTREAL TO TOKYO, BERLIN TO NEW YORK, SEOUL TO VANCOUVER, THEY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WITNESSING THIS GREAT MUSICAL AND HUMAN ADVENTURE.

PROPRIETARY NETWORKS AND MEDIA OUTLETS  
 VIEWS OF VIOLIN 2023: 651,501  
 IMPRESSIONS OF VIOLIN 2023: 8,190,980

PARTNER PLATFORMS (BACHTRACK, AMADEUS TV, WEIBO & WECHAT, THE VIOLIN CHANNEL)  
 VIEWS OF VIOLIN 2023: 443,442  
 IMPRESSIONS OF VIOLIN 2023: 64,307

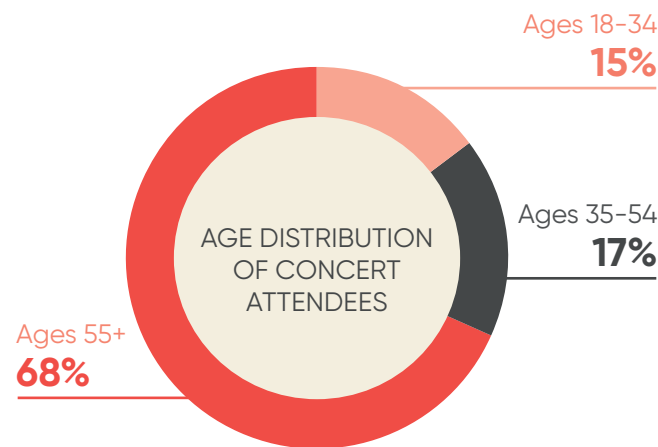
## SOCIAL MEDIA

**31,000 subscribers**

(Meta, Instagram, YouTube)



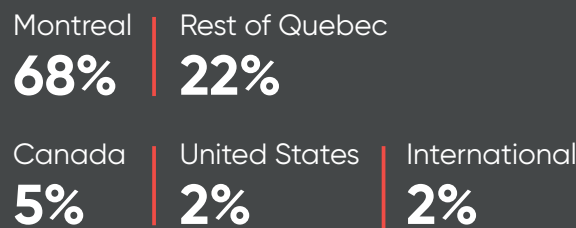
The CMIM reaches viewers of all ages:  
**39%** ages 18-34, **32%** ages 35-54, **29%** ages 55+



## IN CONCERT HALLS

**6,000 audience members** each year

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS



The CMIM attracts spectators of all ages: **77%** will come again  
 The number of viewers between the ages of 25 and 44 has grown substantially: **3%** increase since 2022 | **9%** increase since 2021

# WINNERS

## Laureates and special prize winners

**\$160,000**  
 WORTH OF AWARDS  
 AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
 WERE PRESENTED



**First Prize Laureate** – valued at \$95,000  
**Dmytro Udovychenko**

Ukraine

- Grand Cash Prize (\$30,000) offered by the City of Montreal
- Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant (\$50,000) offered by the Azrieli Foundation
- Winner’s tour to three North American cities (\$15,000)
- An engagement with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal for a concert or recital in a subsequent season, offered by the OSM



**Second Prize Laureate** – Pierre-Péladeau and Raymonde-Chopin  
**SongHa CHOI**

South Korea

- \$15,000 offered by Québecor



**Third Prize Laureate**  
**SooBeen LEE**

South Korea

- \$10,000 offered by Stingray Classica

## Special Prizes

**Dmytro UDOVYCHENKO**

Ukraine

- Award for Best Performance of a Work by J.S. Bach Offered by Andrew Wan, concertmaster of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (\$2,500)

**Yesong Sophie LEE**

United States

- Award for Best Performance of a Virtuosoic Work Offered by the Rouleau Family and the Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation (\$2,500)

**SongHa CHOI**

South Korea

- André-Bachand Award for the Best Performance of the Imposed Canadian work Offered by Claudette Hould (\$2,500)
- Award for the Best Performance of a Sonata in the Semi-final Offered by Louise Roy (\$5,000)
- Audience Award Offered by ICI Musique (\$5,000)

**Aaron CHAN**

Canada / Hong Kong

- Bitá-Cattelan Philanthropic Engagement Award Offered by Bitá and Paolo Cattelan (\$5,000)

**Umi GARRETT**

United States

- John-Newmark Prize for the Best Collaborative Pianist Offered by the Lupien Family Foundation (\$5,000)

**Michael SHAHAM**

Israel

**Nathan MELTZER**

United States

**Ruslan TALAS**

Kazakhstan

- CMIM Grants for unranked finalists Offered by the Fondation Huguette et Jean-Louis Fontaine and by John Farrel and François Leclair (\$3,000 per finalist)



# Juries

The international jury for the Violin 2023 edition was led by renowned director and administrator Richard Rodzinski. Seven prestigious members made up the international jury: Koichiro Harada (Japan), Yura Lee (Korea/United States), Malcolm Lowe (Canada), Mihaela Martin (Romania), Lucie Robert (Canada), Dmitry Sitkovetsky (United Kingdom/United States) and Krishna Thiagarajan (Germany/United States).

The distinguished members of this international jury listened to and evaluated the performances of 24 of the most talented young violinists on the planet, after which they selected the laureates and winners of the special prizes for the Violin 2023 edition.

The CMIM also salutes the remarkable work of the preliminary jury composed of Benjamin Beilman (USA), Ilya Gringolts (Russia-Switzerland), Elissa Lee (Canada-Germany), Anne Robert (Canada), Guillaume Sutre (France), Andrew Wan (Canada) and Timothy Ying (USA-Canada), and the jury for the Bitá-Cattelan Philanthropic Engagement Award, offered by Bitá and Paolo Cattelan and composed of Hilary Knox, Jean-Pierre Primiani and Andrew Wan.



From left: Richard Rodzinski, Lucie Robert (Canada), Yura Lee (Korea/United States), Christiane LeBlanc, Executive and Artistic Director of the CMIM, Krishna Thiagarajan (Germany/United States), Mihaela Martin (Romania), Koichiro Harada (Japan) and Dmitry Sitkovetsky (United Kingdom/United States). Absent from photo: Malcom Lowe (Canada).

## IMPOSED CANADIAN WORK

*L'Inconnu.e bouleversant.e*  
A captivating work for violin by Canadian-American composer LUNA PEARL WOOLF.

Each of the twelve semi-finalists were required to perform it during the Semifinal at Bourgie Hall.



# Artistic Qualities

This year was the first time since the beginning of the competition in 2001 that a Music Director of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal conducted the official CMIM orchestra.



Rafael Payare with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Ruslan Talas at the Maison Symphonique



Nicolas Ellis with the Orchestre de l'Agora (OA) at Bourgie Hall and Mark Chia

## MINI VIOLINI

Five young violin prodigies between the ages of 10 and 15 launched the Violin 2023 edition. They performed a series of recitals with piano and concertos with the Orchestre de l'Agora (OA) at Bourgie Hall under the direction of Nicolas Ellis.



Mark Chia (Singapore), age 10, Sofia Demetriades (United Kingdom), age 14, Corina Deng (Canada), age 15, Himari (Japan), age 11 and Edna Unsel (Switzerland), age 11, surrounded by partners of Mini Violini.

*"Honestly, the Montreal competition was without a doubt the friendliest, most inspirational and best organized that I've experienced so far! I will truly cherish the memories of my time here."*

- SongHa Choi, 2nd prize laureate and winner of the Audience Award



# Special Activities

## The \$7 3D-printed violin and its creator

Making violins accessible and affordable to all?

Inventor and project leader Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Brown presented a lecture during which she discussed the many possibilities offered by her \$7 3D-printed violin.



## Pre-concert talks with members of the jury and outgoing Executive and Artistic Director Christiane LeBlanc.

Three members of the jury had the opportunity to talk with presenter Kelly Rice about their role in the musical career of a virtuoso and how they choose the winners.

After ten wonderful years as Executive and Artistic Director of the CMIM, Christiane LeBlanc discussed her own experience and what she sees as the role of international music competitions.



## Our Grand Laureate of Violin 2019

Hao Zhou, performed a private recital for 120 violin students at Saint-Luc High School.

Hao answered many of the students' questions, including some rather surprising ones, about his life as a musician.

# BENEFIT EVENT

250 GUESTS CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT THE CMIM

On April 13, 2023, the CMIM hosted their annual benefit event once again. This highlight of the Montreal classical music philanthropy calendar illustrates how generous and dynamic our community is. Thank you to everyone who made this evening a success.



Marc Hervieux, tenor, master of ceremonies and auctioneer at the benefit event.

This gourmet musical evening was hosted by tenor Marc Hervieux and overseen by honorary vice-presidents Pascale Bourbeau and Daniel Lalonde.

The CMIM wishes to extend its thanks to the Toriani family, who make it possible for the CMIM to come together at the Ritz-Carlton Montreal each year. We especially want to acknowledge the contributions of the late Geneviève Toriani, who was a dedicated member of the CMIM Board of Directors for many years.

Join us for our next benefit event on April 18, 2024.



From left: Christiane LeBlanc, departing Executive and Artistic Director of the CMIM, Richard Rodzinski, 2023 president of the jury, Louise Roy, chair of the CMIM Board of Directors, Daniel Lalonde and Pascale Bourbeau, honorary copresidents of the benefit event



Performance by Hao Zhou (Violin Laureate 2019) and Mark Chia, age 10 (Mini Violini 2023)



Renée Rouleau and Louise Roy



THE BENEFIT EVENT RAISED \$385,000



# Past Laureates

## Where are they now?

Su Yeon Kim - South Korea  
Grand Laureate Piano 2021

In summer 2023, Su Yeon Kim released her first album with Steinway & Sons, one of her prizes as the winner of Piano 2021. The album is dedicated entirely to the music of Mozart and has been well received by the press. Su Yeon has been named "One to watch" by *Gramophone magazine*.



Meredith Wohlgemuth - United States  
Grand Laureate Voice 2022 - Art Song

Last spring, Meredith was a Grand Prize winner in the *Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition*. The soprano, who received the Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant offered by the Azrieli Foundation, is starting her first season in residence at the Hannover State Opera. Photo credit: Natalie Powers



Sarah Dufresne - Canada  
Laureate Voice 2022

Before beginning her second season with the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House in London, soprano Sarah Dufresne returned to Montreal to perform as a soloist in a magnificent performance of "Carmina Burana" with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, conducted by Rafael Payare. Photo credit: Antoine Saito



Charles Richard-Hamelin - Canada  
Laureate Piano 2014

The Montreal native recently returned home after touring in Japan and Poland. Charles Richard-Hamelin's most recent album, "Schumann: The Three Violin Sonatas" with violinist Andrew Wan, was nominated for an ADISQ prize in 2023, and BBC Music Magazine praised it for its "velvet-gloved sonority and glowing cantabile."



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the Concours depends largely on the invaluable contributions of our volunteers and host families. All the competitors who came to Montreal were touched by the CMIM's warm welcome and the hospitality of their host families.

"Hosting a young musician is one of the most enriching experiences you can have. My family and I became very close with the young man we hosted, and I think it was very comforting for him to feel that we were treating him like a son. We still talk on the phone several times a week."

- Thérèse Primiani, Host family



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Last updated on August 30, 2023

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THANK YOU TO THE DONORS AND PARTNERS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE VIOLIN 2023 EDITION OF THE CMIM

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS FOR SUPPORTING THE CMIM FOUNDATION AND OUR BENEFIT EVENT

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