



## 2021 FCMF Local Stream Qualifying Round Adjudicators



**Elizabeth McDonald**  
Voice

Singer, teacher and arts leader **Elizabeth McDonald** considers herself a multi-hyphenate creative working to move the singing industry forward. During the pandemic, she co-founded em2CONNECT to create a system for mentoring artists into taking actionable steps towards clarifying their goals. She also co-hosts the free online community From the Voice of, a platform to bring collaboration, equity+action and connection to the arts.

A co-founder of the trio, Women on the Verge (WOV), Elizabeth has worked to bring awareness to the works of Canadian female composers. WOV have performed in the UK, Iceland, and France and has toured Western Canada and the US. WOV created the podcast Getting the Song Out in 2020 and will premiere a new commission by Canadian composer Cecilia Livingston and Toronto Poet Laureate Anne Michaels in 2021.

As a faculty member of the University of Toronto, Elizabeth's students have won major awards, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition, and the E-Gré National Music Competition. Elizabeth serves as a member of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Standing Committee and is a member of the Faculty of Music Safe Space.

Elizabeth holds a Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Toronto; she was a young artist with the Santa Fe and Canadian Opera Companies and has conducted masterclasses all over the world.

Elizabeth is a proud Prince Edward County native where she lives with her husband and two teenage children.



**Pierre-André Doucet**  
Piano

Renowned for his vivid soundscapes and inventive texts, pianist and writer **Pierre-André Doucet** is a leading voice among Canada's newest generation of artists.

He has been hailed for "the emotion of his playing and his impeccable control" (Audiophilia), and was recognized by CBC Radio 2 as one of the best Canadian classical musicians under 30 (2015). Recently, he has performed in Canada, Austria, France, Germany, Spain, South Africa, and the United States, as well as across Asia, Europe and the South Pacific as one of the inaugural Lincoln Center Stage artists aboard Holland America Line ships. Several of his performances have been broadcast on Radio-Canada, CBC Radio and NPR.

Winner of the Knigge Music Competition, as well as the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition (with soprano Alexandra Smither), Mr. Doucet has also been awarded top prizes for his performances of contemporary works, namely at the Prix d'Europe, and the Ibiza International Piano Competition. He holds a doctoral degree from l'Université de Montréal, where he studied with Maneli Pirzadeh, and where he has also been a visiting professor. Further, he has benefited from masterclasses at the Franz-Schubert-Institut, the Gijón International Piano Festival, Songfest, the Music Academy of the West, and the Tanglewood Music Center with such luminaries as Elly Ameling, Julius Drake, Margo Garrett, Marilyn Horne, Graham Johnson, Warren Jones, Kiri Te Kanawa, Martin Katz, Robert MacDonald, Dawn Upshaw and Roger Vignoles.

A prize-winning writer, Mr. Doucet was recently named Interim Executive Director of the Frye Festival, Atlantic Canada's largest literary event. Alongside pianist Julien LeBlanc, he has also been Co-Artistic Director of Barachois Summer Music since 2012.

[www.pierreandredoucet.com](http://www.pierreandredoucet.com)



**Vanessa Mio**  
**Strings & Chamber**

**Dr. Vanessa Mio** is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor within the Faculty of Education and the Music Education (Continuing Education) departments at the University of Windsor. She is also the Director of the Windsor String Academy and Windsor String Project programs in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and a violinist with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. Vanessa completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies degree (with a focus on violin pedagogy) from the University of Windsor. Vanessa also earned a Master of Music, a Bachelor of Music, and a Performance Diploma in Violin Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she studied violin with Mimi Zweig, Kathleen Winkler, Baroque violin with Stanley Ritchie, and string pedagogy with Mimi Zweig and Dr. Brenda Brenner. Vanessa established the first Canadian model of this precollege program at Wilfrid Laurier University, in addition to a unique string pedagogy course for postsecondary performance and music education students at both Wilfrid Laurier University and Western University. She has also developed the first Strings Additional Qualifications courses for teachers in Ontario, which are offered online through the University of Windsor. She has pursued a variety of professional development opportunities and has become a sought-after clinician, teacher, and adjudicator, working with students of all ages from across Canada. Vanessa is a String Examiner for The Royal Conservatory of Music, College of Examiners, and has traveled extensively throughout North America as an Ambassador for the Certificate Program. She also studied chamber music at the Banff Centre for the Arts with the Très Chic Piano Trio (Chamber Music Residency for Pre-Formed Ensembles).



**Dylan Maddix**  
**Brass & Woodwind**

**Dylan Maddix** is Professor of Music at Cambrian College in Sudbury, ON, where he serves as the head of wind and brass studies and teaches conducting at Laurentian University. Dylan is founder of the Toronto Winds, host of The Band Room Podcast, and maintains an active career as a sought-after conductor, clinician, performer and adjudicator across Canada.

With a passion for music education and outreach, Dylan maintains a commitment to working with young people and the community. He has been music director of the Milton Concert Band, a conducting fellow with the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra, program assistant of the Hannaford Youth Program, and is now co-manager of the DWCWO. Dylan has conducted the Northern Ontario Honour Band, Halifax Community Band Festival, Royal Conservatory Brass Ensemble, Northdale Concert Band, Western University New Music, Hannaford Youth Band, Mount Allison University Symphonic Band, Kingston Brass Choir, and Bathurst Chamber Festival Orchestra.

A prizewinner at the 2011 & 2014 National Music Festivals, Dylan has been a featured soloist with the PEI Symphony, Weston Silver Band, Greater Moncton Chorale and Orchestra, and Strathgartney Chamber Orchestra. His musicality has led him to numerous festivals in Canada and the US including the Scotia Festival of Music, North American Brass Band Championships, Indian River Music Festival, Bathurst Chamber Music Festival, Music Fest Canada and the Luminato Festival. He holds a Master of Music from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Music from Mount Allison University and will be pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting at Arizona State University in the Fall of 2021.



**Steve Cowan**  
**Guitar**

The Canadian guitarist **Steve Cowan** has performed as a soloist and in ensemble throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. His debut album of Canadian music, *Pour guitare* (McGill Records, 2016), helped to establish him as ‘one of Canada’s top contemporary classical guitarists’ (*Classical Guitar Magazine*). In 2018–2019, Steve Cowan made his concerto debut with Ensemble del Arte in Germany, his New York solo recital debut, and released his second solo recording *Arctic Sonata* (EMEC discs).

As a chamber musician, Steve Cowan performs regularly with Forestare, a Montréal-based string ensemble; in 2022, he will be a Chamber Music New Zealand touring artist with flutist Hannah Darroch, as well as a Prairie Debut touring artist with guitarist Adam Cicchillitti. The Cowan–Cicchillitti duo has premiered 15 new works and released an album of Canadian music titled *FOCUS* (Analekta, 2019); their next recording, *Impressions intimes* (Analekta, 2021), features original arrangements of Debussy, Ravel, Mompou and Tailleferre.

Steve Cowan has won awards at ten national and international competitions, eight of which are first prizes. Most recently, he won First Prize at the Tallinn Guitar Competition in Estonia, making him a EuroStrings touring artist for the 2021 season. Originally from St. John’s, Newfoundland, Steve Cowan holds degrees from Memorial University, the Manhattan School of Music and McGill University. His teachers include Sylvie Proulx, David Leisner and Jérôme Ducharme. Since 2019, Steve Cowan has been a guitar instructor at Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montréal.

[www.stevecowanmusic.com](http://www.stevecowanmusic.com) [@stevecowanmusic](https://www.facebook.com/stevecowanmusic) (Instagram)



**Deborah Buck**  
**Musical Theatre**

**Deborah** has worked in theatre for 25 years as a music director, most frequently in her home province of Saskatchewan for companies such as Persephone, Globe Theatre, Station Arts Centre, Dancing Sky Theatre, Sum Theatre, Souris Valley Theatre, the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival, and many independent companies. She was the first “Harvey Artist-in-Residence” at Rosebud Theatre and School of the Arts in Alberta and has directed music for student productions at the University of Saskatchewan Department of Drama. Her work as a music director and actor has been acknowledged with three Saskatoon and Area Theatre Awards and several nominations, as well as the inaugural SATA for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre. A few favourite productions include *Mary Poppins*, *Elf*, *Assassins*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Into the Wood* and *Billy Bishop Goes to War*.

A collaborative pianist, Deborah has supported many musicians in concerts and provincial and national competitions and currently accompanies the University of Saskatchewan’s Greystone Singers and University Chorus. She has been a guest performer in concerts, revues and fund raisers, singing a variety of repertoire from Vivaldi to Broadway. She sings alto in the Canadian Chamber Choir ([www.canadianchamberchoir.ca](http://www.canadianchamberchoir.ca)) and conducts the Saskatoon Men’s Chorus and Augustana St. Timothy’s parish choir. Deborah enjoys teaching voice in her home studio, where music theatre is given major emphasis, and regularly adjudicates for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

She holds an M.A. and B.A. in English literature from Queen’s University and University of Saskatchewan, respectively, and Licentiate and Associate Diplomas in Piano Pedagogy from Trinity College, London.