



# The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals La Fédération canadienne des festivals de musique

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Federation of Canadian Music Festivals

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Federation of Canadian Music Festival Announces Winners of 2021 National Music Festival

*August 14, 2021* – The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] held their 2021 National Music Festival virtually due to the pandemic public health restrictions. The event was the 50<sup>th</sup> National Music Festival presented by FCMF, with the first one being held during Canada’s centennial celebrations in 1967. Fifty-four [54] young musicians competed for a prize pool of \$25,000 including eleven [11] in the premiere of FCMF’s Developing Artists Stream for intermediate level students [18 years and under].

FCMF Chair, Judy Urbonas, in her opening welcome congratulated each of the young performers who were finalists in this historic National Music Festival, adding, “The path to the National Festival has consisted of long practice hours and challenges in adapting to virtual lessons and virtual festivals. Persistence and diligence have brought excellence and opportunities to represent your communities at this national event.”

The Centenary Festival Grand Award Winner, clarinetist John Rapson, commented on the importance of this prestigious national event saying, “For talented Canadian classical musicians, this National Music Festival provides the performance experience, encouragement, and inspiration necessary for those heading towards professional and international stages.”

The 2021 Grand Award Winner, cellist Lexie Jana Krakowski from Victoria, BC, was chosen from the First Place Emerging Artist Winners in all disciplines by an international panel of adjudicators. As the Grand Award winner, Ms. Krakowski, received the \$5,000 cash prize from the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation and a performance opportunity with Symphony New Brunswick. After being named Grand Award Winner, Ms. Krakowski stated, “Being awarded this year’s FCMF Grand Award was truly an unimaginable experience. If anyone had told me a year ago that I would be competing in a National Competition during a global pandemic (let alone being selected as winner), I would never have believed them.” When asked about the importance of the FCMF National Music Festival, she commented, “It has been so meaningful to be a part of such a wonderfully put together virtual festival, as well as being fortunate enough to witness and learn from all the extraordinarily hardworking and dedicated participants. The FCMF Nationals has been such a gift to be able to work towards, and a positively life-changing event.”

**The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals** is a cultural network that discovers, develops, and promotes amateur musicians in their pursuit of excellence. For over 100 years, competitive music festivals across Canada have offered early educational performance opportunities for music students in an inclusive and nurturing environment. Since 1949, the grassroots music festival movement has discovered - and systematically developed - hundreds of thousands of young Canadian musicians, from beginner level to elite performers, and educators in a wide range of disciplines. We are a festival movement across Canada organized primarily by volunteers, which annually attracts hundreds of thousands of participants as competitors, volunteers, music lovers, patrons, and audiences at various levels. We are dedicated to developing and advancing Canadian musicians. Learn more at [www.fcmf.org](http://www.fcmf.org)

For a full listing of placements and award winners, see below.

**For more information, please contact**

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<b>EMERGING ARTIST STREAM</b>			
30 years & under, advanced repertoire			
Voice		Overall Instrumental	
First	Branden Olsen, NB	First	Amélie Richard, NB
Second	Shanice Skinner, NS	Second	Cédric Thériault, NB
Third	Duncan Stenhouse, NL	Third	Rachel Bradbury, QC
Piano		Guitar	
First	Devin Huang, NS	First	Cédric Thériault, NB
Second	Jonathan Devey, BC [LSQR]	Second	Ben Diamond, NL
Third	Boyana Makedonska, BC [LSQR]	Woodwinds	
Strings		First	Amélie Richard, NB
First	Lexie Jana Krakowski, BC [LSQR]	Second	Ayari Kasukawa, BC [LSQR]
Second	Austin Webster-Perks, NS	Third	Elizabeta Konstantinova, NL
Third	Conor Britt, NB	Brass	
Musical Theatre		First	Julia Cass, NL
First	Sarah MacLoon, NB	Second	Olivia MacPhail, PE
Second	Grace MacDonald, NL	Third	Ross Macintosh, NS
Third	Grace Smith, NS	Percussion	
		First	Rachel Bradbury, QC
<b>DEVELOPING ARTIST STREAM</b>			
18 years & under, intermediate repertoire			
Piano		Strings	
First	Eu-Rway Chew, BC [LSQR]	First	Sean Sneddon, NS
Second	Jacob Lee, NS	Second	John James Benigno, NB
Third	Jenny Chen, NS	Third	Emma Hueng, NB
<b>RECORDED STREAM</b>			
Chamber Ensemble			
First	Quatuor Dissonance, NB – Amélie Richard, Luc Richard, Jérémie Doucet, Nicholas Athens		