



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

Federation of Canadian Music Festivals

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Federation of Canadian Music Festival Announces Winners of 2023 National Music Festival

August 10, 2023– The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] held its 52nd National Music Festival from July 13-August 6 as a virtual event. Over a hundred young musicians competed for a prize pool of \$39,000 including 27 advanced-level students [30 years and under] in the Emerging Artist Stream and 40 intermediate-level students [18 years and under] in the Developing Artist Stream. The bold new approach to supporting Canada’s brightest young stars also includes programming for young composers and junior-level students in non-competitive classes with 5 and 31 participants respectively. Following a hiatus during the pandemic, our choral competition resumed with 7 school and 8 community choirs. Two bands and 2 orchestras participated in the inaugural offering of large instrumental ensemble classes. Additionally, 4 chamber ensembles with a total of 16 members competed in the junior and intermediate-level classes.

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

“Festivals like the FCMF National Music Festival are so important because they include and give participants from all over, even smaller rural festivals, a chance to display their gifts on a larger scale, receiving feedback from adjudicators from all over Canada.,” commented Monica Huisman, a vocal teacher at the University of Manitoba and one of this year’s twenty-four adjudicators. “This information and connection in such a small industry helps us all to work together to nurture the next generation of Canadian talent.”

The 2023 Grand Award Winner, sixteen-year-old pianist Devin Huang from Halifax, NS, was chosen from the First Place Emerging Artist Winners in all disciplines by an internationally acclaimed panel of adjudicators. As the Grand Award winner, Devin received the \$5,000 cash prize from the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation. After being named Grand Award Winner, Huang stated, “In Halifax at my local festival, I get the opportunity to showcase new music that I've been practicing for the first time: a test run ... The local festival is really very valuable because you get input from other musicians and adjudicators.” When asked about how participation in festivals has influenced his development as a musician he commented, “The festivals influence my development as a musician by providing me ample opportunities to perform and receive valuable instruction from many diverse, professional musicians.”

Each First Place Emerging Artist winner receives \$2,000 plus a professional performance opportunity and/or a study opportunity with one of our partners: Antigonish Performing Arts, Debut Atlantic, Festival of the Sound, The Jeffrey Concerts, Under the Spire, Victoria Summer Music Festival, Barachois Summer Music, and Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance.

Marcel d’Entremont the 2014 Grand Award Winner and a 2023 adjudicator states, “The FCMF National Music Festival is an unparalleled tapestry of growth, camaraderie, and artistic evolution. Its impact transcends generations. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities it has provided me with and for the chance to continue contributing to this extraordinary event.”

The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] 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.

For more information, please contact

Barbara Long, FCMF Executive Director | info@fcmf.org | 506.245.1689

EMERGING ARTIST STREAM VOLET ARTISTES ÉMERGENTS			
30 years & under, advanced repertoire 30 ans et moins, répertoire avancé			
Voice Voix		Woodwinds Bois	
1 st 1 ^e	Danielle Girard, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Eva Bradáková, BC [LSQR]
2 nd 2 ^e	Anjulie Djearam, BC [LSQR]	2 nd 2 ^e	Sylvan Wilkinson, BC [LSQR]
Piano Piano		Brass Cuivres	
1 st 1 ^e	Devin Huang, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Olive MacPhail, PE
2 nd 2 ^e	Carey Wang, BC [LSQR]	2 nd 2 ^e	Jacob Reddin, PE
Strings Cordes		Musical Theatre Théâtre musical	
1 st 1 ^e	Layla Park, BC [LSQR]	1 st 1 ^e	Charlie Clements, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Alex Yang, NS	2 nd 2 ^e	Emily McInnis, NS
Classical Guitar Guitare classique			
1 st 1 ^e	James Baker, ON [LSQR]		
2 nd 2 ^e	Cédric Thériault, NB		

DEVELOPING ARTIST STREAM VOLET ARTISTES EN DÉVELOPPEMENT			
18 years & under, intermediate repertoire 18 ans et moins, répertoire intermédiaire			
Voice Voix		Woodwinds Bois	
1 st 1 ^e	Marie Conceicao, ON [LSQR]	1 st 1 ^e	Fardad Yamani Doozi Sorkhabi, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Muriel Falkenstein, NB	2 nd 2 ^e	Shinie Wagaarachchi, NB
Piano Piano		Brass Cuivres	
1 st 1 ^e	Jenny Chen, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Avery Hubert, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Liam Lai, ON [LSQR]	2 nd 2 ^e	Yeva Sibiryakova, NB
Strings Cordes		Musical Theatre Théâtre musical	
1 st 1 ^e	Claire Chu Wang, ON [LSQR]	1 st 1 ^e	Graham Cook, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Emilie Duncan, NB	2 nd 2 ^e	Samel Sunil, PE
Classical Guitar Guitare classique			
1 st 1 ^e	Adrian Chen, BC [LSQR]		
2 nd 2 ^e	George Eric Yan, NB		

RECORDED STREAM VOLET PRESTATIONS ENREGISTRÉES		
Chamber Ensembles Ensembles de musique de chambre		
1 st 1 ^e	Junior Débutant	Tubman Trio Max Francis, Joanne Jiang, Jack Yang, BC [LSQR]
1 st 1 ^e	Intermediate Intermédiaire	The Jelly Belly Trio Felina Yang, Veronica Park, Layla Park, BC [LSQR]
Instrumental Ensembles Ensembles Instrumentaux		
1 st 1 ^e	School Concert Band Harmonie/fanfare scolaire	St. Bonaventure's College Wind Ensemble, NL Director Directrice : Vincenza Etchegary
1 st 1 ^e	School String Orchestra Orchestre à cordes scolaire	Saint Michaels University School Senior String Orchestra, BC [LSQR] Director Directrice : Stella Guillen Fabregas
1 st 1 ^e	Community String Orchestra Orchestre à cordes communautaire	Amadeus Orchestra Sistema NB Director Directeur : Victor Vivas
Choirs Chœurs		
1 st 1 ^e	School Choir Chœur scolaires Grade 12 & under 12e année et moins	Holy Heart Chamber Choir, NL Director Directeur : Robert Colbourne
1 st 1 ^e	Community Choir Chœur communautaire 19 years & over 19 ans et plus	Saint John Chorale, NB Director Directeur : Spencer Belyea
1 st 1 ^e	Community Choir Chœur communautaire 19 years & under 19 ans et moins	Silvern Voices (The Graham Academy), NL Director Directrice : Katie Barrett
1 st 1 ^e	Community Choir Chœur communautaire 12 years & under 12 ans et moins	Belle Voci Honour Choir, NS Director Directrice : Melissa Hartery

*LSQR = FCMF Local Stream Qualifying Round | Volet de qualification régional