



Federation of Canadian Music Festival Announces Winners of the 2024 National Music Festival

August 12, 2024 – The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] held its 53rd National Music Festival from July 11-31 as a hybrid event with over a hundred young musicians participating across five programming streams. A total of \$37,250 in awards was distributed.

Thirty [30] advanced-level students [30 years and under] competed in the Emerging Artist Stream held as a live event on the beautiful campus of Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. Thirty-three [33] intermediate-level students [18 years and under] competed in the virtual Developing Artist Stream, 43 junior-level students participated in the Non-Competitive Education Stream and 5 young composers participated in the non-competitive Composition Stream. In the virtual Ensemble Stream, 4 school and 10 community choirs competed across 5 classes; two bands participated in the second annual offering of large instrumental ensemble classes; and 6 chamber ensembles [total of 21 members] competed in the junior, intermediate, and advanced-level classes.

FCMF Chair, Tom Davidson, congratulated each of the young performers who were finalists adding, “Your dedication has brought you all to new heights and a future that is full of promise. Together with all who continue to support our young musicians across Canada, we celebrate your accomplishments with pride.”

“The FCMF offers an invaluable time of education, networking, and inspiration for both the participants and the adjudicators. I know I am a better educator and a better artist for having been a part of it,” commented Marion Abbot, this year’s National Music Festival Emerging Artist Musical Theatre Adjudicator.

The 2024 Grand Award Winner, twenty-five-year-old saxophonist Benjamin Liu from Woodbridge, ON, was chosen from the First Place Emerging Artist Winners in all disciplines by a nationally acclaimed panel of adjudicators. As the Grand Award winner, Benjamin received the \$5,000 cash prize from the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation.

When asked about his favourite aspects of the National Music Festival experience, Liu stated, “Meeting all the other amazing musicians, working with the adjudicators in the workshops, hearing the amazing performances during the week, and getting exposed to repertoire I would have never heard had I not come to this event. Additionally, the [career development] lectures were really helpful in gaining insights beyond just playing music.”

When asked about how participation in festivals has influenced his development as a musician he commented, “Music festivals are critical to the development of musicians as they provide the motivation to get new repertoire learned, to really polish up for performances, and provide a platform to share one's art.” To young musicians considering signing up for their local music festival, Benjamin says: “Just do it! Performing is a skill in itself and the more opportunities to go up on stage and share your story, the better a performer you will become!”

“The National Music Festival in Canada is a vibrant celebration of talent, culture, and creativity, showcasing some of our finest young musicians,” commented Michael Van der Sloot, Associate Professor of viola, violin, and chamber music at the University of Ottawa and this year’s Emerging Artist Strings adjudicator, “It unites communities through the universal language of music, inspiring audiences with performances that echo the diverse spirit of Canada. This festival is a testament to the power of music to bring people together and to the enduring passion that drives our artists to new heights.”

Event sponsors: Province of New Brunswick through the Regional Development Corporation, Mount Allison University, the New Brunswick Federation of Music Festivals, and the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation.

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.

| 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 | Maggie Andersen, NS | 1 st 1 ^e | Benjamin Liu, ON [LSQR] |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Clayton Butler, BC [LSQR] | 2 nd 2 ^e | Kaylee Cho, ON [LSQR] |
| Piano Piano | | Brass Cuivres | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Richard Nguyen, ON [LSQR] | 1 st 1 ^e | Avery Hubert, NB |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Olivia (Hanyi) Zhang, PE | 2 nd 2 ^e | Jacob Reddin, PE |
| Strings Cordes | | Musical Theatre Théâtre musical | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Irain Herrera Quirós, NS | 1 st 1 ^e | Samel Sunil, PE |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Luke Kim, BC [LSQR] | 2 nd 2 ^e | Zachary Boulanger, NB |
| Classical Guitar Guitare classique | | | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Kristian Del Cantero, QC | | |

| 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 | Charlotte Guy, NL | 1 st 1 ^e | Matty Angus, BC [LSQR] |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Christina Kipping, NB | 2 nd 2 ^e | Lucas Upward, NL |
| Piano Piano | | Brass Cuivres | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Maggie Wu, NS | 1 st 1 ^e | Henry Baker, BC [LSQR] |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Micah Lam, ON [LSQR] | 2 nd 2 ^e | Simon Bannerman, NS |
| Strings Cordes | | Musical Theatre Théâtre musical | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | William Fry, NB | 1 st 1 ^e | Adia Laureijs, PE |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Michaela Yee, BC [LSQR] | 2 nd 2 ^e | Sophie Simms, NL |
| Classical Guitar Guitare classique | | | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | George Eric Yan, NB | | |
| 2 nd 2 ^e | Ethan Hyunseung Ra, ON [LSQR] | | |

| ENSEMBLE STREAM VOLET ENSEMBLES | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Chamber Ensembles Ensembles de musique de chambre | | | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Advanced Avancé | Orpheus Quartet Harry Xie, Mia Gazley, Sunny Wu, Thyme Shi | |
| Instrumental Ensembles Ensembles Instrumentaux | | | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | School Concert Band Harmonie/fanfare scolaire | St. Bonaventure's College Wind Ensemble Director Directrice : Vincenza Etchegary | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | School Jazz Band Orchestre de jazz scolaire | St. Bonaventure's College Phoenix Jazz Band Director Directrice : Vincenza Etchegary | |
| Choirs Chœurs | | | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | School Choir Chœur scolaires Grade 12 & under 12e année et moins | Harbour View Chazz Director Directeur : Christopher Lane | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Community Choir Chœur communautaire 19 years & over 19 ans et plus | Music from the Heart - Raise Your Voice Ladies Choir Director Directrice : Elaine Boulanger | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Community Choir Chœur communautaire 19 years & under 19 ans et moins | Cantatrice Ensemble Honour Choir Director Directrice : Karen Newhook-MacDonald | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Community Choir Chœur communautaire 16 years & under 16 ans et moins | Music from the Heart - Pitch Perfect Director Directrice : Elaine Boulanger | |
| 1 st 1 ^e | Community Choir Chœur communautaire 12 years & under 12 ans et moins | Shallaway Nobile Ensemble Director Directeur : Robert Colbourne | |

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