

SOCAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS ANNUAL YOUNG COMPOSERS AWARDS; 13 YOUNG COMPOSERS HONOURED IN TOTAL

Toronto, Aug. 26, 2010—The SOCAN Foundation (the Foundation) announced today the recipients of the 19th Annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. This year's competition attracted a record 232 entries, with 13 award recipients and two multiple prize winners, receiving a total \$26,250 in prizes. Seven of the 13 prize winners hold degrees from or are currently studying at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. The annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers recognize Canadian composers under 30 years of age for specific musical works in five categories of concert music.

Entries were judged unanimously, over three days in Toronto, by a jury comprising three distinguished composers: Jeffrey Ryan, Paul Frehner and Yves Daoust.

First prizes in the five categories were awarded to **Matthew Ricketts** (Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards), **Alec Hall** (Serge Garant Awards), **Taylor Brook and Trevor Grahl** (shared, Pierre Mercure Awards), **Nicholas Piper** (Godfrey Ridout Awards) and **Guillaume Barrette** (Hugh Le Caine Awards).

Of note, the jury found first-prize (Godfrey Ridout Awards) recipient Nicholas Piper's 45-minute opus *Locus Iste* particularly impressive. "Space is one of the main parameters of the piece, with the audience situated in the middle and the ensemble and choir often moving from point to point," says jury member Yves Daoust, a longtime professor at the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec in Montreal. Vancouver-based jury member Jeffrey Ryan, adds: "It's meditative but yet very dramatic, and very eclectic in its use of musical materials."

Additional Award recipients include: **Marielle Groven** (second prize) and **Alec Hall** (third prize) in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards; **Taylor Brook** (second prize) and **Roger Feria Jr.** (third prize) in the Serge Garant Awards; **Alexandra Fol** (third prize) in the Pierre Mercure Awards; **Gabriel Dharmoo** (second prize) and **Aaron Gervais** (third prize) in the Godfrey Ridout Awards; and **Adam Basanta** (second prize) and **Charles Quevillon** (third prize) in the Hugh Le Caine Awards. (*Recipients' bios and awards categories attached.*)

"The jury was especially impressed with the 13 talented young composers singled out this year," says Rick MacMillan, Manager, SOCAN Foundation. "And we are thrilled, once again, to have the opportunity to celebrate and encourage Canada's young composers." The Awards are just one example of the Foundation's efforts throughout the year to enhance and further the growth of music creation in Canada.

About the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers

The SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers is open to Canadian citizens under the age of 30. The 2011 application deadline is April 15, 2011. Visit www.socanfoundation.ca for further details.

About the SOCAN Foundation

Founded in 1992, the **SOCAN Foundation** is dedicated to fostering musical creativity and promoting a better understanding of the role of music creators in today's society. The Foundation is an independent organization guided by its own board of directors. The board, which consists of composers, songwriters and music publishers, reflects concert music and popular music genres as well as the geographic and linguistic regions of Canada. The Foundation is closely aligned to the interests of the members of SOCAN: composers, lyricists, songwriters and publishers of musical works.

For more information please contact:

Cara McCutcheon for SOCAN Foundation
Tel: (416) 406-4044 E-mail: cara@mccutcheoncommunications.com

19TH ANNUAL SOCAN FOUNDATION AWARDS RECIPIENT LIST

Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

For compositions for no fewer than thirteen performers up to a full symphony orchestra, which may include vocal participation and may be scored to include tape.

First Prize: \$3,000 – Matthew Ricketts, 24, Montreal, Que.—*In What Language?*, for chamber orchestra

Matthew Ricketts is a recent graduate of McGill University's Schulich School of Music, having studied with Brian Cherney, John Rea and Chris Paul Harman. His music has been performed across Canada and United States. Ricketts will begin graduate studies in composition this fall at Columbia University in New York City.

Second Prize: \$1,500— Marielle Groven, 26, Montreal, Que.—*The Ghost in the Machine*, for wind symphony

Marielle Groven recently completed a Master's degree in composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music, studying with Jean Lesage, Brian Cherney, John Rea, Sean Ferguson and D. Andrew Stewart. Her music has been performed in Canada by ensembles such as Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne and L'Ensemble SuperMusique. Groven attended the Voix Nouvelles composition seminar at Royaumont, France, in 2010. She won third prize in this category in the 2008 edition of the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers, for *Moving to the Clear*.

Third Prize: \$750—Alec Hall, 25, Toronto, Ont.—*The Sirens of Avaris*, for chamber orchestra

Alec Hall completed a Bachelor of Music degree in composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music in 2007, studying with Denys Bouliane. He subsequently earned a Master of Arts degree in composition, improvisation and critical studies at the University of California at San Diego, where his principal teachers included Philippe Manoury and Roger Reynolds. Hall currently studies with Tristan Murail as a doctoral student at Columbia University in New York City.

Serge Garant Awards

For compositions for a minimum of three performers to a maximum of twelve performers and may be scored to include tape. This category does not include vocal participation.

First Prize: \$3,000— Alec Hall, 25, Toronto, Ont.—*10 Small Pieces, for B-flat clarinet, percussion and cello*

Bio listed under Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

Second Prize: \$1,500—Taylor Brook, 24, Toronto, Ont. — *Kolkata Predawn*, for chamber orchestra

Taylor Brook recently completed a Master's degree in composition with Brian Cherney, Denys Bouliane, John Rea, Ana Sokolovic and others at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Born in Edmonton, he grew up in Toronto where he studied guitar with Eli Kasner. He spent two months of intensive study in Kolkata, India, with Hindustani musician Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya. Brook's works have been performed by Quatuor Bozzini, L'orchestre de la francophonie canadienne and Mira Benjamin. He will be participating this fall in the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne Forum 2010.

Third Prize: \$750— Roger Feria Jr., 29, Calgary, Alta. —*Lines*, for string trio

Roger Feria Jr. is a native of Taiwan and earned his Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Calgary, studying with Allan Bell and David Eagle. He is currently working with Denys Bouliane on his Doctor of Music degree in composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Feria is a recipient of the prestigious Max Stern Fellowship for Graduate Studies and grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and Alberta Foundation for the Arts. He was recently awarded the Robert Fleming Prize by the Canada Council.

Pierre Mercure Awards

For solo or duet compositions.

First Prize (shared): \$2,250 each— Taylor Brook, 24, Toronto, Ont. —*Vocalise*, for violin solo with drone

Bio listed under Serge Garant Awards

First Prize (shared): \$2,250 each— Trevor Grahl, 26, Pembroke, Ont. —*The Road Not Taken*, an opera for soprano and violin

Trevor Grahl hails from the small village of Rankin, Ont. In 2007 he obtained a Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University's Schulich School of Music, having studied with John Rea, Jean Lesage, Sean Ferguson and Tom Plaunt, and a Master's degree in composition at the University of California at San Diego, under Philippe Manoury. He currently studies with Richard Ayres in Amsterdam. Grahl was the inaugural winner of this competition's John Weinzwieg Award in 2007 for his work *Urquitakluq (Sheltered, but with Gusts of Wind)*, which also captured first prize in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards.

Second Prize: not awarded

Third Prize: \$750—Alexandra Fol, 29, Montreal, Que.—*Háisdèg*, for solo piano and optional offstage flute

Alexandra Fol was born in Bulgaria and studied composition at the National Music School, at the Bulgarian Academy of Music, at Boston University and at the Eastman School of Music. She is currently writing a Doctoral dissertation at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Fol was a finalist for the 2006 Gaudeamus Prize in composition and winner of the 2007 Leonard Bernstein Tanglewood Music Center composition fellowship.

Godfrey Ridout Awards

For works for any number of voices with or without instrumentation and/or tape.

First Prize: \$3,000—Nicholas Piper, 28, Victoria, B.C.—*Locus Iste*, for instrumental ensemble and choir

Nicholas Piper earned a Master's in composition from the University of Victoria this year. A native of Ottawa, he completed a Bachelor of Music degree in composition and musicology at Carleton University. Piper has received several awards and grants, including the University Medal in Music from Carleton and the President's Award from the University of Victoria. His works have been performed by various choirs.

Second Prize: \$1,500— Gabriel Dharmoo, 29, Quebec, Que.—*Vaai Irlandu*, for mezzo-soprano solo

Gabriel Dharmoo studied cello and later moved on to composition, including studies with Serge Provost at the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec à Montréal, where he received two "prix avec grande distinction" in composition and analysis. He has studied and practiced improvisation and has worked in that capacity with René Lussier and Robert Marcel Lepage. Dharmoo's works have been performed by l'Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, Arraymusic, Motion Ensemble and Codes d'Accès. He has won four previous awards in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers, including a first prize in the Godfrey Ridout Awards in 2002.

Third Prize: \$750—Aaron Gervais, 29, San Francisco, Calif.—*Kiss Around the World*, for soprano, violin, bass clarinet and piano

Aaron Gervais was born in Edmonton, graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, and received a Master's degree in composition from the University of California, San Diego, where he was accepted on full scholarship. He also pursued studies at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague, Netherlands, and studied jazz drumming and Cuban folkloric percussion, including a stint in Havana in 2002. Gervais' works have been performed by l'Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, Toronto's Esprit Orchestra, the Nieuw Ensemble, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, the Arditti Quartet, Tapestry New Opera Works and Toca Loca. He has won five previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers.

Hugh Le Caine Awards

For live electronics or electroacoustic music realized on tape or CD, where the intended performance is, at least in part, through an amplifier and loudspeakers. Works in this category may be mixed media and may include acoustic instruments or voices, live or pre-recorded. The principal element in the work must be electroacoustic.

First Prize: \$3,000—Guillaume Barrette, 22, Montreal, Que.— *Synchrétisme*

Guillaume Barrette hails from Quebec City and studied classical guitar, jazz guitar, theory and natural sciences at Cégep de Sainte-Foy. Barrette also studied electroacoustic composition at Université de Montréal and was a finalist in the 2009 competition Jeux de Temps/Times Play.

Second Prize: \$1,500—Adam Basanta, 25, Vancouver, B.C.— *Écologie Matérielle*

Adam Basanta recently completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Simon Fraser University, studying electroacoustic composition with Barry Truax and acoustic composition with Arne Eigenfeldt and David MacIntyre. He has collaborated with choreographers Henry Daniel, Troika Ranch and Kinesis Dance. Basanta's works have been performed at concerts, conferences and festivals throughout North America and the U.K.

Third Prize: \$750—Charles Quevillon, 21, Montreal, Que.— *Au Boute 1ère Étape: La Montagne*

Charles Quevillon completed studies in classical guitar and composition at Cégep de St-Laurent in 2008 and currently studies composition with Yves Daoust and Serge Provost at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. Quevillon's interests also include guitar improvisation and performance.