

SOCAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS ANNUAL YOUNG COMPOSERS AWARDS; 15 YOUNG CANADIAN COMPOSERS WIN A TOTAL OF \$27,000

Toronto, July 22—The SOCAN Foundation (the Foundation) today announced the recipients of the 18th Annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. **Maxime McKinley** captured first prize in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards category and shared second and third prizes in two other categories. **Aaron Gervais** was awarded first prize in the Godfrey Ridout Awards and **Pierre-Marc Beaudoin** won first prize in the Hugh Le Caine Awards category while sharing second prize in that same category. Eight of the 15 winners are based in or currently studying in Quebec.

This year's competition attracted 212 entries from various regions throughout Canada, judged anonymously over three days in Toronto by a jury comprising distinguished composers **Gary Kulesha**, **Vincent Ho** and **Martin Bédard**. The annual SOCAN Foundation Awards recognize Canadian composers under 30 years of age for specific musical works in six categories of concert music.

"We were stunned by the orchestral performances in the submissions this year," says Gary Kulesha, a senior lecturer in composition in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. "This year's submissions demonstrated originality with submissions ready to be enjoyed widely."

"The Foundation's Awards for Young Composers is a remarkable opportunity to celebrate and encourage the talents of Canada's young composers in such a broad range of categories," says Rick MacMillan, Manager, SOCAN Foundation. The Awards are just one example of the Foundation's efforts to enhance and further the growth of music creation in Canada.

Additional Award recipients include: **Roger Feria JR** (second prize), **Nicolas Gilbert** (third prize) and **Maxime McKinley** (third prize) in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards; **Maxime McKinley** (second prize), **Charles-Antoine Fréchette** (second prize), **Nicolas Gilbert** (third prize) and **Pierre-Olivier Roy** (third prize) in the Serge Garant Awards; **Félix Frédéric Baril** (second prize), **Taylor Brook** (third prize) and **Eugene Astapov** (third prize) in the Pierre Mercure Awards; **Luke Nickel** (second prize), **Trevor Grahl** (second prize) and **Christian David Bérubé** (third prize) in the Godfrey Ridout Awards; **Pierre-Marc Beaudoin** (second prize), **Gabriel Dufour Laperrière** (second prize) and **Émilie Payeur** (third prize) in the Hugh Le Caine Awards. *(Recipients' bios and awards categories attached.)*

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.

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18TH ANNUAL SOCAN FOUNDATION AWARDS RECIPIENT LIST

John Weinzweig Award

For the work judged the best overall in the competition (not awarded this year)

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 – Maxime McKinley, 29, Montreal, Que.— *Wirkunst-Pellan*, for orchestra

Maxime McKinley received the *Prix avec grande distinction* from the Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Montréal, studying with Michel Gonneville, and completed his doctorate degree in composition at l'Université de Montréal, under the direction of Isabelle Panneton. He also studied in Paris with Martin Matalon. His works have been performed by the Camerata de las Américas, Toronto's Esprit Orchestra and New Music Concerts, the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, l'Orchestre de la francophonie canadienne and l'Ensemble contemporain de Montréal. He has won five awards previously in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers.

Second Prize: \$1,500— Roger Feria Jr., 28, Calgary, AB.— *Song of the Divine Strings*, for chamber ensemble

Roger Feria Jr. is a native of Taiwan and completed his Master of Music degree in composition at the University of Calgary, studying with Allan Bell, David Eagle and William Jordan. He received a prestigious Composition Fellowship for the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts in 2005, where he studied with Bright Sheng, George Benjamin, Steve Mackey and John Harbison, and oversaw performances of his vocal and chamber music works. He is currently undertaking a PhD in composition at McGill University in Montreal, studying with Denys Bouliane.

Third Prize (shared): \$750 each— Nicolas Gilbert, 29, Montreal, Que.— *L'entreprise de séduction*, for solo cello and chamber ensemble

Nicolas Gilbert studied composition and analysis at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal under Michel Gonneville and Serge Provost. He has won numerous prizes for his compositions, including the John Weinzweig Grand Prize in the 2008 edition of the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. His works have been performed in various centres in North and South America, Europe and Asia, by l'Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, Trio Fibonacci, Bradyworks, Continuum (Toronto), Kaida (Amsterdam), ICE (Chicago), Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Polish Radio Orchestra and the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. He earned a Doctorate degree in composition at McGill University under John Rea.

Third Prize (shared): \$750 each— Maxime McKinley, 29, Montreal, Que.— *Wirkunst-Yourcenar, for orchestra*

Bio listed under Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

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 (not awarded this year)

Second Prize(shared): \$1,500 each — Maxime McKinley, 29, Montreal, Que.— *Wirkunst-Gómez, concerto for guitar and 10 instruments*

Bio listed under Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

Second Prize (shared): \$1,500 each—Charles-Antoine Fréchette, 28, Montreal, Que.— *Aspirations, for chamber ensemble and electronics*

Charles-Antoine Fréchette studied piano at l'École Vincent-D'Indy and, with Claude Labelle, at l'Université de Montréal, and received his diplôme de maîtrise in composition from the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec à Montréal, studying with Michel Gonneville. He is currently working on a doctorate in composition at McGill University under the supervision of Sean Ferguson. He has won numerous awards, including first prize in the piano solo category of the CBC/Radio-Canada National Competition for Young Composers and five previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. His works have been performed by Toronto's New Music Concerts, and by trombonist/conductor Alain Trudel, pianist Brigitte Poulin and conductor Véronique Lacroix.

Third Prize (shared): \$750 each— Nicolas Gilbert, 29, Montreal, Que. — *Le temps des impossibles, for violin, clarinet, cello and piano*

Bio listed under Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

Third Prize(shared): \$750 each — Pierre-Olivier Roy, 30, Montreal, Que. — *Cinq pamphlets pour ailleurs, for flute, clarinet, piano, violin, viola and cello*

Pierre-Olivier Roy studied at l'Université Laval under Éric Morin and has undertaken studies and residencies in Metz, France, at Domaine Forget and at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. His works have been performed by Quatuor Bozzini, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne and Erreur du Type 27.

Pierre Mercure Awards

For solo or duet compositions.

First Prize (not awarded this year)

Second Prize: \$1,500— Félix Frédéric Baril, 29, Quebec, Que.— *L'indocile, for bass clarinet and violin*

Félix Frédéric Baril earned his undergraduate degree in composition from l'Université de Montréal, studying with Michel Longtin and Jean Piché, and was the first Quebec winner of the William Schuman Prize in the 2001 BMI Student Composer Awards in New York City for his work *Symphonie Spectrale*. He has won several previous awards in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. He is currently working towards a Doctorate degree in composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music under Denys Bouliane.

Third Prize (shared): \$750 each—Taylor Brook, 23, Toronto, Ont.— *It's Not Dark Yet, But It's Getting There, for piano solo*

Taylor Brook is currently pursuing a master's degree in composition with Brian Cherney at McGill University in Montreal. 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 and has participated in master classes with Françoise Paris, Gary Kulesha and Martin Matalon. His works have been performed by Continuum, Quatuor Bozzini, during Domaine Forget New Music Week and at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Third Prize(shared): \$750 each —Eugene Astapov, 20, Toronto, Ont.— *Préludes pour piano*
Eugene Astapov was born in Ukraine and immigrated with his family to Canada in 2003, settling in Toronto. He holds an ARCT diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. His works have been performed by the Vancouver Symphony, Esprit Orchestra and by ensembles and soloists in the U.S., Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany.

Godfrey Ridout Awards

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

First Prize: \$3,000 —Aaron Gervais, 28, Edmonton, Alta.— *Sensational Revolution in Medicine, for soprano and speaking pianist*

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. His works have been performed by l'Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, Toronto's Esprit Orchestra, the Nieuw Ensemble, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, the Arditti Quartet, and during a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst concert at New York's Carnegie Hall. He is currently developing a full-length opera for Tapestry New Opera Works in Toronto. He has won several previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers.

Second Prize (shared): \$1,500 each—Luke Nickel, 20, Winnipeg, Man.— *Jack and His Jillions, a chamber opera (libretto by James Nickel)*

Luke Nickel is currently studying composition and flute performance at the University of Manitoba. His works have been performed by the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra, University of Manitoba Chamber Winds and at the International Saxophone Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2009. He recently took part in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's mentorship program, attending a reading of one of his works in April 2009.

Second Prize (shared): \$1,500 each — Trevor Grahl, 25, Pembroke, Ont.— *Sacred Emily, an opera for soprano, baritone, ensemble and live electronics (text by Gertrude Stein)*

Trevor Grahl is originally from Rankin, Ont., and completed a Bachelor of Music degree at McGill University in Montreal, studying composition (under Brian Cherney) and theory. In 2005, he won the Piano Preludes Competition at McGill, held in co-operation with CBC Radio Two. His work *Urquitakuq* won the inaugural John Weinzweig Award in the 2007 edition of the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers, as well as capturing first prize that year in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards category. In 2008, he was featured in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's New Music Festival as the "young emerging composer," and heard performances of two of his works by the orchestra. He is currently attending the University of California at San Diego, working towards a Master's degree in composition with Roger Reynolds, Rand Steiger and Philippe Manoury.

Third Prize: \$750—Christian David Bérubé, 29, Fredericton, N.B.— *Goats on the Left, for narrator, mixed choir and organ*

Christian David Bérubé was born in Edmonton and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alberta in 2005, studying piano, voice and composition. In 2008 he completed a Master of Music degree in composition under Denis Gougeon at l'Université de

Montréal. He has performed professionally as a choral singer and rock pianist, and works as a composer and teacher in Fredericton.

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—Pierre-Marc Beaudoin, 28, Montreal, Que.— *Territoires*

Pierre-Marc Beaudoin studied composition at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal under Yves Daoust and Gilles Gobeil. His works show an interest in interactive video, installations, theatre and DJ culture. He won a second prize in this same category in 2007 and 2008.

Second Prize (shared): \$1,500 each—Pierre-Marc Beaudoin, 28, Montreal, Que.— *Nuit blanche*

Bio listed above

Second Prize (shared): \$1,500 each—Gabriel Dufour Laperrière, 28, Montreal, Que.— *Plié-Déplié*

Gabriel Dufour Laperrière was born in Chicoutimi, Que., and relocated to Montreal in 2000 to begin his music studies. Last year, he completed a double baccalaureate at the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec à Montréal in double bass and composition. He has studied with Serge Provost, Yves Daoust, Véronique Lacroix and Martin Bédard, and has collaborated on works with visual artists. He won first prize in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards category of this competition in 2008.

Third Prize: \$750—Émilie Payeur, 22, Montreal, Que.— *Synapse*

Émilie Payeur takes inspiration in her music from the psychedelic and surrealist movements of the 1960s, and in general from the visual arts world. She is currently working on a bachelor's degree in electroacoustic music composition at l'Université de Montréal.