

SOCAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS ANNUAL YOUNG COMPOSERS AWARDS

Montreal-based composer Nicolas Gilbert was awarded the grand prize - John Weinzweig Award; 12 young composers honoured in total

Toronto, Aug. 19—The SOCAN Foundation (the Foundation) announced today the recipients of the 17th Annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. Montreal-based composer **Nicolas Gilbert** was awarded the grand prize **John Weinzweig Award**; the \$3,000 overall grand prize was introduced by the Foundation last year to honour one composer's work judged best overall in the competition. This year's competition attracted 183 entries, with 12 award recipients—eight of which are based in or studying in Quebec, receiving a total \$29,250 in prizes. The annual SOCAN Foundation Awards recognize Canadian composers under 30 years of age for specific musical works in six categories of concert music.

Entries were judged anonymously, over three days in Toronto, by a jury comprising three distinguished composers: Christopher Butterfield, Louis Dufort and Linda Catlin Smith.

"The jury was completely unanimous in these choices," says Christopher Butterfield, associate professor of composition and theory at the University of Victoria. "They are all outstanding compositions that deserve to be performed widely."

First prizes in the remaining five categories were awarded to **Gabriel Dufour Laperrière** (Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards), **Nicolas Gilbert** (Serge Garant Awards and Godfrey Ridout Awards), **Heymin Suk** (Pierre Mercure Awards) and **Olivier Girouard** (Hugh Le Caine Awards).

"The SOCAN Foundation is pleased to once again have the 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: **Charles-Antoine Fréchette** (second prize) and **Marielle Groven** (third prize) in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards; **Benoît Côté** (second prize) and **Aaron Gervais** (third prize) in the Serge Grant Awards; **Gabriel Dharmoo** (second prize) and **Trevor Grahl** (third prize) in the Pierre Mercure Awards; **Gabriel Dharmoo** (second prize) and **Heymin Suk** (third prize) in the Godfrey Ridout Awards; and **Pierre-Marc Beaudoin** (second prize) and **Adam Basanta** (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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