

2022 OMNI COMPETITION

Young violist **EMAD ZOLFAGHARI** wins top honours 25 winners share over \$22,000 in scholarships

“A single moment of exhilaration in a concert can generate a passion that will inspire you for the rest of your life. The OM and I are proud to accompany this new generation of musicians and to light up, one spark at a time, passion inside them.” – Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Emad Zolfaghari, alto

Montreal, Monday, June 13, 2022 – Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain are pleased to announce that **the winner of the 4th edition of the 2022 OMNI Competition is the young violist Emad Zolfaghari (photo), who was awarded the competition's François Schubert Grand Prize**, one year after winning last year First Prize in the OMNI Competition Strings category. For a 4th consecutive year, young Canadian performers from 7 to 17 years of age were given the opportunity to demonstrate their musical talent in front of a jury. Among the thirty finalists, **25 young performers stood out in their respective categories: strings, winds, and piano, sharing scholarships and awards totalling more than \$22,000**. This is proof that perseverance and determination are already inspiring young people to pursue their dreams and corroborates the OMNI Competition's mission to promote the practice of a musical instrument among young people.

Here's [Emad Zolfaghari's winning performance](#) at the OMNI Competition 2022
Here's [all the performances](#) of the OMNI Competition 2022

Last year's Grand Prize Winner, young pianist Emmanuel Roberts Dugal recognizes the importance of the OMNI Competition in his musical career: *“In addition to being an enriching and highly formative experience, the OMNI Competition is by far the event that has opened the most doors for me. I played at Bourgie Hall during the final round of the Competition, I met jury members who offered me constructive and relevant comments, I gave a recital at the Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur and I had the immense privilege of being invited by Yannick Nézet-Séguin to perform with him and the OM during their 6th Benefit Gala. This is, without a doubt, the foremost event of my early career and it provides me with the impetus to continue working and pursuing my path in music. I will forever be grateful for what the OMNI Competition has given me!”*



From the Competition to the Stage with the OM — Emad Zolfaghari is the recipient of several awards, among them he won in 2021 **First Prize in the Strings Category of the OMNI Competition**. As a result of his accomplishments, **he will perform next season with the Orchestre Métropolitain as guest soloist in the youth production [Le pelleteur de nuages](#)**. Emad Zolfaghari is currently studying at the Curtis Institute of Music with Hsin-Yun Huang. His young career includes collaborations with the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Guelph Symphony Orchestra and the Oakville Chamber Orchestra.

Last year's winner in the Winds Category 12 to 14 years old, **saxophonist Heidi Robichaud** will also participate in **[Le pelleteur de nuages](#), which will take place on Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m at the Maison symphonique.**



25 WINNERS, 25 PRIZES

Grand Prizes

The jury awarded three Grand Prizes at the end of the final round of the Competition, recognizing the most outstanding young performers in their age category and in all the instrument categories of the Competition.

1- Emad Zolfaghari, viola (Oakville, ON)

François Schubert Grand Prize

\$5,000 scholarship awarded to the grand prize winner, 15 to 17 years old

2- Megan Lo, piano (Richmond Hill, ON)

Hydro-Québec Award

\$2,000 scholarship awarded to the grand prize winner, 12 to 14 years old

3- Iza Kamnitzer, violin (Montreal, QC)

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Award

\$2,000 scholarship awarded to the grand prize winner, 7 to 11 years old

Strings Category

1st places: 3 Canimex scholarships of \$1000

1- Gabriel Dodin, violin (Montreal, QC)

Canimex Prize: 15 to 17 years old

2- Émile Quimper-Bouchard, cello (Rimouski, QC)

Canimex Prize: 12 to 14 years old

3- Kim Carrier, violin (Lévis, QC)

Canimex Prize: 7 to 11 years old

2nd places: 3 Wilder & Davis gift certificates and accessories valued at \$250

1- Serina Lee, cello (Greenfield Park, QC)

Wilder & Davis Study Award: 15 to 17 years old

2- Jessie Sun, violin (Montreal, QC)

Wilder & Davis Study Award: 12 to 14 years old

3- Salma Khakimov, violin (Toronto, ON)

Wilder & Davis Study Award: 7 to 11 years old

Winds Category

1st places: 3 Stingray All-Star Award scholarships of \$1000

1- Alexis Bernier, flute (Sherbrooke, QC)

Stingray All-Star Award: 15 to 17 years old

2- Cyrille Dudan, trumpet (Montreal, QC)

Stingray All-Star Award: 12 to 14 old

3- Matthias Sutton, clarinet (Montreal, QC)

Stingray All-Star Awards: 7 to 11 years old

2nd places: 3 Twigg Musique & Yamaha Awards

1- Jin Dong Zhao, flute (Montreal, QC)

Twigg Musique & Yamaha Award: 15 to 17 years old

\$500 gift certificate from Twigg Musique or \$1000 rebate on a Yamaha 7000 to 9000 series professional instrument

2- Anouk Marceau, recorder (Chicoutimi, QC)

Twigg Musique & Yamaha Award: 12 to 14 years old

\$350 gift certificate from Twigg Musique or \$500 rebate on the purchase of a Yamaha 4000 to 9000 series intermediate or professional instrument

3- Tara Marceau, French Horn (Chicoutimi, QC)

Twigg Musique & Yamaha Award: 7 to 11 years old

\$250 gift certificate from Twigg Musique or \$200 rebate on a Yamaha 200 or 300 series student instrument



Piano Category

1st places: 3 Piano Bolduc scholarships of \$1000

1- Kevin Wang (Mississauga, ON)

Pianos Bolduc Award: 15 to 17 years old

2- Ethan Yang (Montreal, QC)

Pianos Bolduc Award: 12 to 14 years old

3- Yixuan Miao (Brossard, QC)

Pianos Bolduc Award: 7 to 11 years old

2nd places

1- Wan Lin Song (Longueuil, QC)

Forget-Choiselat Prize: 15 to 17 years old
\$500 scholarship

2- Valerie Tam (Toronto, ON)

Hélène Brodeur and François Lafortune Award: 12 to 14 years old
\$500 scholarship

3- Jason Li (Montreal, QC)

Josée Tremblay Award: 7 to 11 years old
\$250 scholarship

Orchestre Métropolitain Team Award: 3 scholarships of \$350

1- Henri Roy, violin (Lac-Beauport, QC)

Orchestre Métropolitain Team Award—Strings

2- Heidi Robichaud, alto saxophone (Saint-Marcellin, QC) *

Orchestre Métropolitain Team Award—Winds

3- Grégoire Abadie, piano (St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC)

Orchestre Métropolitain Team Award—Piano

* Heidi Robichaud will join the OM in 2023 for the youth concert production [Le pelleteur de nuages](#).

Coopérative des professeurs de musique Award

Catherine Dong, piano (Montreal, QC)

\$500 gift certificate awarded to a student of the Coopérative

*Crescendo Awards**

Created this year, the ***Crescendo Awards***, worth \$100 each, aim to encourage young people of all ages to persevere in the practice of their instrument at the beginning of their musical career. The ***Crescendo Awards*** were presented at the end of the first stage of the Competition by members of the jury to 10 young people who were not selected to go on to the finals of the Competition but whose talent nevertheless drew their attention:

1- Piano: Leonardo Feng, Kento Richard and Lilliana Tong

2- Strings: Aiden Gao, violin; Aiden Liu, violin; Melinda Liu, violin; Torrence Wei, cello.

3- Winds : Aube Geoffray, flute; Françoise Noël, clarinet; Simone Noël, bassoon.

* The creation of the *Crescendo Awards* was made possible by the generous donation of Ms. Élise Leroux, in memory of Ms. Hélène Verville.

For more information, visit the [OMNI Competition Webpage](#)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Orchestre Métropolitain warmly thanks Mr. **François Schubert**, sponsor of the OMNI Competition, for his invaluable support in the implementation of this initiative.

The OMNI Competition is pleased to benefit from the financial support of **Stingray**, official partner of the Competition's 4th edition.

The OMNI Competition is presented in collaboration with the **Coopérative des professeurs de musique**.

The OMNI Competition warmly thanks the **Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur** for graciously hosting the final round of the Competition and for making a special place for young performers in its programming.

Thanks also to our generous awards partners: **Groupe Canimex, Hydro-Québec, Pianos Bolduc, Twigg Musique, Yamaha Canada and Wilder & Davis Study**.

Finally, we would like to thank the patrons who offered scholarships to the winners of the final round: the **Forget-Choiselat family, Hélène Brodeur and François Lafortune, Josée Tremblay**, as well as **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the OM. Their generous support is invaluable and makes a real difference in the musical development of young talents.

MAKE WAY FOR THE 5th EDITION!

The OM is pleased to announce that
THE 5th EDITION OF THE OMNI COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SPRING OF 2023

Registration period: from November 7, 2022, to March 20, 2023, at midnight

**Final round of the Competition: May 27 and 28, 2023
at the Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur**

ABOUT THE OMNI COMPETITION

Reaching out to young people and showing them that they have a place in the symphonic world is a priority for the Orchestre Métropolitain. The **OMNI Competition** gives young musicians between the ages of 7 and 17 the opportunity to showcase their talent in a healthy environment that fosters a sense of belonging to the music community, a principle dear to the hearts of OM musicians and their conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. The creation of networks of young musicians sharing the same passion, enhanced by exchanges with musicians from the OM and Yannick Nézet-Séguin constituted a formative experience for all those who participated.

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

Our valued educational partnerships help to make promising musical projects a reality and bring symphonic music within the reach of young people. The OM is fortunate and privileged to have the indispensable support of the **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), Partenaire Éducation**, and the **J.A. DeSève Foundation**, as well as collaborating with numerous educational partners: the **Centre de services scolaires de Montréal**, the **Centre de services scolaires Marguerite-Bourgeoys**, the **Conservatoire de musique du Québec**, the **École de musique Vincent-d'Indy**, the **École de musique de Verdun**, the **Villa Sainte-Marcelline**, the **Coopérative des professeurs de musique** and the organization **L'école et les arts**.

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The OM website has a new look: orchestremetropolitain.com

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The Orchestre Métropolitain would like to thank its valued partners

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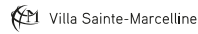


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