



## SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE ISABEL OVERTON BADER CANADIAN VIOLIN COMPETITION

January 26, 2017, Kingston ON .... The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University announces the semi-finalists for the inaugural ISABEL OVERTON BADER CANADIAN VIOLIN COMPETITION. Eight semi-finalists have been chosen to perform at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts on April 26 and 27, 2017. Subsequently, three finalists will be chosen for the concerto round (with piano) on April 29, 2017 at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts ("the Isabel") in Kingston, Ontario. The Isabel Overton Bader Canadian Violin Competition was made possible through the generosity of Alfred and Isabel Bader, whose vision, imagination and generosity will enable gifted emerging musicians to learn, inspire, perform, and develop their careers.

The eight semi-finalists are: **Eva Aronian, Yolanda Bruno, Ji Soo Choi, Ewald Cheung, Esther Hwang, Dasol Jeong, Catherine Poplyansky, and Lucy Wang.** Biographies of the semi-finalists is attached. The semi-finalists were chosen through an adjudication process with jury members comprising leading violinists across Canada.

This Competition invited violinists who are Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada (as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada), between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-nine (29) as of January 1, 2017. Violinists from St. John's NF to Victoria BC applied.

The first-prize winner will be awarded **The Marion Overton Dick Memorial Violin Prize for \$20,000 (CAD)**, a future engagement to perform with the **Kingston Symphony**, and a future engagement to perform a **recital at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts** to be recorded and **broadcast nationally by CBC Radio 2**. The second-prize winner will be awarded \$4,000 (CAD). The third-prize winner will be awarded \$2,000 (CAD).

The Semi-Finalist and Finalist performances are at the Isabel and open to the public. These concerts will be hosted by **Ireneus Zuk**, Associate Director of the Dan School of Drama and Music at Queen's University who has also served as jury member and/or chair of numerous prestigious international competitions. Bader and Overton International Violin Festival pass holders will attend the Semi-Finalist and Finalist concerts at no charge, and there will be a \$12 daily charge for all other attenders. In addition to the above awards, there will be an audience choice award for the final round of \$1,000.

All semi-finalists will perform a new work *Twitter Etudes No. 1* - a short virtuosic work for solo violin by Canadian composer **John Burge**. This work was commissioned by the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts for the inaugural Isabel Overton Bader Canadian Violin Competition. The work consists of six short etudes each of which limits the number of notes in each movement to just 140 distinctive attacks. All the etudes are given descriptive titles as follows: Octaves, Interrupted Scales, Broken Chords, Fughetto, G String Melody and Syncopated Accents.

"This competition was created to inspire excellence and to provide world-class Canadian violinists with a great professional development opportunity," says **Tricia Baldwin**, Director of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. "We are passionate about championing the next generation of artists, and have established an ongoing relationship with the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Honens International Piano Competition. Our next leap forward has been to establish our own competition here at Queen's University to foster Canada's top talent and to provide substantial and much needed support to extraordinarily gifted young Canadian violinists who aspire to a concert career."

This Competition invited violinists who are Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada (as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada), between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-nine (29) as of January 1, 2017. The applications went live on September 1st at [www.getacceptd.com/theisabel](http://www.getacceptd.com/theisabel), and the application deadline was December 12, 2016 at 7 PM (EDT). For further information, please visit [www.theisabel.ca/violin-competition](http://www.theisabel.ca/violin-competition).

The new, award-winning Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts is a beautiful venue with exceptional acoustics. The Isabel presents internationally acclaimed artists on its presentation series, and the building supports Queen's music, drama and film undergraduate educational programs. The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts recently collaborated with Queen's Dan School of Drama and Music to create two new graduate programs: the M.A. in Arts Leadership and the Graduate Diploma in Arts Management.

The Isabel is grateful to the distinguished jurors who are committed to supporting the next generation of outstanding talent. Preliminary, Semi-Finalist and Finalist round jury members include:

- **Martin Beaver**—CA (soloist, Montrose Trio member, Co-director of the Chamber Music Program at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California);

- **Jonathan Crow**—ON (Toronto Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, soloist, New Orford Quartet member, TSO Chamber Soloists concert curator, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto);
- **Gisèle Dalbec-Szczesniak**—ON (Kingston Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, Isabel Quartet member, Adjunct Lecturer in Violin and Viola at Queen’s University);
- **Eric Friesen**—ON (music broadcaster, writer, and former interim Artistic Director of Honens International Piano Competition);
- **Gwen Hoebig**—MB (Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, Hoebig/Moroz Trio member, former faculty member at the University of Manitoba, Visiting Artist at Mount Royal University);
- **Jeanne Lamon**—ON (director and violin soloist, Music Director Emerita Tafelmusik, Adjunct Professor of Baroque Violin at the University of Toronto);
- **Evan Mitchell**—ON (Music Director of the Kingston Symphony);
- **Barry Shiffman**—ON & AB (Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition, co-founder of St. Lawrence Quartet, Associate Dean of the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music);
- **Terence Tam**—BC (Victoria Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, chamber musician, winner of the International Pierre Lantier Competition in Paris and the OSM Standard Life Competition); and
- **Andrew Wan**—QU (OSM concertmaster, soloist, New Orford Quartet member, Assistant Professor at McGill University).

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For further information, please contact Tricia Baldwin, Director, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at (613) 533-6000 x 75168, [tricia.baldwin@queensu.ca](mailto:tricia.baldwin@queensu.ca).

Thank you to the Competition’s Performance Partner:



Thank you to the Competition’s Broadcast Partner:



**ISABEL BADER CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Queen’s University, 390 King Street West, Room 123, Kingston ON K7L 3N6, [www.theisabel.ca](http://www.theisabel.ca)

## SEMI-FINALISTS

### ISABEL OVERTON BADER CANADIAN VIOLIN COMPETITION

#### EVA ARONIAN

Born in 1995 in Montreal, Canada, violinist **Eva Aronian** has been the recipient of the 1st prize in the Canadian Music Competition, 1st prize in the Frank Simpson Concerto Competition, the Borromeo String Quartet's 2015 Guest Artist Award, 1st prize in the 2015 Città di Barlassina Competition in Italy, and most recently, 2nd prize and Aspen Prize at the 2016 OSM (Orchestre symphonique de Montréal) Manulife Competition. She has performed as a soloist numerous times with the Calgary Youth Orchestra, the Calgary Civic Symphony, and most recently with the Orchestra Philharmonica di Bacau "Mihail Jora" and has performed in Canada, the United States (Carnegie Hall, Jordan Hall), France, Italy (Teatro Dal Verme Milan), Germany, and Norway. An avid chamber musician, Eva has been invited to perform at the Ottawa Chamberfest, the Festival of the Sound (Parry Sound, Ontario), the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival (Greenville, NC), among others. Eva has performed alongside Laurence Lesser, Kim Kashkashian, Lucy Chapman, Robert McDonald, Anthony Marwood, Michael Kanne, Vivian Weilerstein, Curtis Macomber, among others. She has participated in festivals such as the Pablo Casals Festival, the International Mendelssohn Festival, the Kronberg Academy Masterclasses, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Perlman Music Program, and Yellow Barn.

Eva is currently in her fourth year at the New England Conservatory studying with Donald Weilerstein. She previously studied with Fiona Carnie and Bill van der Sloot in Calgary, and Van Armenian in Montreal. She receives regular chamber music coaching from Lucy Chapman, Vivian Weilerstein and Soovin Kim. Eva has participated in masterclasses and worked closely with Ida and Ani Kavafian, Ning Feng, Samuel Rhodes, Raphael Oleg, Régis Pasquier, Tanja BeckerBender, Todd Phillips, the Miró Quartet, the Shanghai Quartet, the Takács Quartet, the Brentano String Quartet, the Artis Quartet, and the Emerson String Quartet, among others.

#### YOLANDA BRUNO

Violinist **Yolanda Bruno** has been praised for her "total control of her instrument, articulation and perfect intonation with infinite variety in the sound palette" (*La Presse*), and was recently named on CBC's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30." Raised in Ottawa, she has performed across North America and Europe including solos with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, L'Orchestre Métropolitain, Youth Orchestra of the Americas and the London Mozart Players. A devoted chamber musician, Yolanda has collaborated with Pinchas Zukerman, Menahem Pressler and Levon Chilingirian. She is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, most recently winning the Canada Council's Virginia Parker Award (2015) as well as the grand prize at the OSM Standard Life Competition (2013) and best performed work by a Canadian composer. She has also been a recipient of the Sylva Gelber Foundation and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Yolanda has undertaken postgraduate studies with David Takeno at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, UK after completing undergraduate studies with Jonathan Crow at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Additional studies have included the International Musicians' Seminar Prussia Cove, the Banff Centre for the Arts, and the Toronto Summer Music Festival among others. Yolanda performs on the 1700 Taft Stradivari on generous loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

## **EWALD CHEUNG**

**Ewald Cheung** has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras around Canada, with conductors including James Sommerville, Yoav Talmi, Victor Sawa, and William Eddins. He has also performed in recital series in Trois-Rivieres, CAMMAC, Edmonton and Muzewest with pianists Philip Chiu, Henry Mokken, and Michael Massey. Ewald Cheung and pianist Philip Chiu were featured in a 34-concert tour with Jeunesses Musicales Canada through Quebec and the Maritimes in 2015. He has also been heard on CBC Radio. A grand prizewinner of the Shean Strings Competition in 2009, Ewald was also a finalist of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal in 2007 and winner of the Canadian Music Competition in 2003 and 2001. Ewald is also the recipient of the 2010 Golden Violin Award from McGill University. As an avid chamber musician, Ewald was a founding member of the Roddick String Quartet and Geistrio. The Roddick String Quartet competed at the London International String Quartet Competition and performed at the Montreal Chamber Music Festival and among many others. Geistrio competed at the Fischhoff National Chamber Competition and performed at the Canadian Opera Company's Free Concert Series in May 2012. He also participated at the McGill International String Quartet Academy (MISQA) from 2013-15. In 2015, he performed in Arte Musica's Jeunes et Pros series, with Axel Strauss, Douglas McNabney, Peter Wiley and Matt Haimovitz. Ewald recorded his debut album, with pianist, Philip Chiu, *A Tribute to Fritz Kreisler* in 2015.

Ewald Cheung is currently pursuing his Masters' degree at the Juilliard School with Daniel Phillips. He previously studied with Jonathan Crow, Felicia Moye and André Roy at McGill University.

## **JI SOO CHOI**

Recently hailed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as one of the "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30," violinist **Ji Soo Choi** started violin at the age of three in South Korea. She has won concerto competitions, such as Oakville Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition, Taylor Academy Concerto Competition, and Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. In addition, she has won first place in the prestigious Han Kook Il Bo Music Competition, at the age of 10, held for very young musicians, sponsored by the Korean Daily Newspaper, Han Kook Il Bo Korean newspaper. She was also the 2013 Grand prizewinner of the Canadian Music Competition in the 19 to 30 year old category at the age of 18. Ji Soo has won numerous age and repertoire categories in the past at the Peel Music Festival, Kiwanis Music Festival and at the Canadian Music Competition. In 2015, she was selected as one of the young musicians to perform at the Music Mondays series hosted by the CBC Radio 2. Ji Soo Choi received the 2015 Musical Mentoring Award by the Gold Coast Chamber Players in Lafayette, neighbourhood of San Francisco. She has performed as a soloist with the Academy Chamber Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Sherbrooke Symphonique Orchestra, and the Oakville Chamber Orchestra. Ji Soo has additionally performed in master classes conducted by James Ehnes, Ida Kavafian, Soo Vin Kim, Peter Oundjian, Hagai Shaham, Maxim Vengrov, Elizabeth Wallfisch and many other great musicians. During the past summer, she attended several music festivals such as Music at Port Milford, Domaine Forget Music Festival, the Summit Music Festival, and the Banff Music Festival.

Ji Soo Choi is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree at the Juilliard School in the studio of Ida Kavafian. She started her journey with the violin at the age of three in South Korea, under the tutelage of Kwang Gu Kim and Yoo Jung Kim. She also studied with Marie Bérard, Mayumi Seiler, Barry Shiffman, and David Zafer at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada.

## **ESTHER HWANG**

Korean-Canadian violinist **Esther Hwang** has achieved notable success in numerous provincial and national competitions such as the Shean Strings Competition (2016 and 2011), Canadian Music Competition (2010), and the Vancouver Women's Music Society Scholarship Competition (2012). Born in New Jersey, Esther Hwang began her violin studies at the age of three and immigrated to Canada at the age of five. Her first appearance with an orchestra as a soloist was at the age of nine. She performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra under conductor Ken Hsieh. Since then, she has garnered widespread acclaim and performed with various orchestras including Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Haw Par Summerfest Chamber Orchestra, Canadian Music Competition Orchestra, and many others. In addition to her appearances as a soloist and recitalist, Esther performed regularly as the concertmaster of the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra and the Juilliard Orientation Orchestra. She is also an active chamber musician as she was the first violinist of the Forza Quartet that won first place in the National round of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (2014).

Esther Hwang currently studies at the Juilliard School located in New York City under Professor Daniel Phillips. Within the past two years, Esther Hwang participated in numerous masterclasses and lessons with world-renowned teachers such as David Finckel, Wu Han, David Halen, Paul Kantor, Masao Kawasaki, Sylvia Rosenberg, Richard Aaron, Nam Yun Kim, Donald Weilerstein, Joel Smirnoff, and James Ehnes. This past summer, Miss Hwang had the opportunity to participate in the Heifetz International Music Institute. She was also a participant of the Banff's Chamber Music Residency program (2015), Aspen Summer Music Festival (2015), Finckel-Wu Han Chamber Music Studio in Aspen (2015), Great Mountains Music Festival (2012), and the New York String Orchestra Seminar (2011), where she received full scholarship.

## **DASOL JEONG**

**Dasol Jeong**, was born in South Korea in 1991, began violin lessons at the age of four and moved to Toronto, Canada in 2003. She was awarded First Place in the 2006 13th Annual All TV Festival of Music in Toronto, and the Gold Prize in the Kiwanis Music Festival of the Greater Toronto area in 2009. She won First Prize in the Duxbury Music Festival Solo Competition in 2009 and 2010. She was a National Finalist in the Canadian Music Competition in 2007, and was awarded the First Prize in Eastman Concerto Competition in 2010. In 2012, she won the Third Prize at the 4th Mykola Lysenko International Music Competition in Ukraine, was a semi-finalist at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. Solo performances include those with the Kunsan and Jungeup Symphony Orchestras where she played the Bruch Violin Concerto no. 1 and Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole in South Korea in 2002 and 2003. She performed in the opening concert with Duxbury Music Festival Orchestra in 2010 and 2011, playing the Mozart and Tchaikovsky's violin concertos. She performed the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 with the Eastman Philharmonia in 2010, the Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.1 with the Kiev National Symphony Orchestra in 2012, and Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Lviv Symphony Orchestra in 2013. She was recently featured on CBC radio, and was selected as one of the "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" in 2015.

Dasol Jeong recently graduated and earned a Master's degree from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Professor Ida Kavafian, and is currently studying at Manhattan School of Music with Professor Patty Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. She pursued her Bachelor degree at the Eastman School of Music from 2009-2014 with Professor Oleh Krysa. Previously, she studied with Leo Wigdorichik, Professor of Violin at the University of Toronto.

## **KATYA POPLYANSKY**

Canadian violinist **Katya Poplyansky's** recent solo performances include the Kurt Weill Concerto for Violin and Wind Orchestra under Joaquin Valdepeñas at the Glenn Gould School, Royal Conservatory of Music in November 2016. She received second prize at the Tunbridge Wells International Competition (UK) in April 2016. She has participated in music festivals such as the Banff Masterclass Program, IMS Prussia Cove, Sarasota Music Festival, Taos School of Music, and Music from Angel Fire. Katya is a grateful recipient of the Temerty Family Foundation Scholarships.

Katya Poplyansky completed her Master of Performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London UK in 2016 studying with David Takeno and her Bachelor of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music in 2014, studying with Shmuel Ashkenasi, Victor Danchenko, Ida Kavafian, and Joseph Silverstein. She is currently pursuing her Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould School, under the tutelage of Paul Kantor and Barry Shiffman.

## **LUCY WANG**

**Lucy Wang** made her solo debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Bramwell Tovey in 2014, and has since been featured with the orchestra numerous times. She was featured in the VSO's 2015 season finale after becoming the Grand Prize Winner of the VSO School's Standard of Excellence Competition. She has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions, including the Canadian Music Competition, the Shean Competition in Edmonton, the OSM Manulife Competition in Montreal, and the Seattle Young Artists' Competition. In previous years, she has participated in the National Arts Centre's Young Artists' Program and Morningside Music Bridge in Calgary. As an orchestral player, she has performed as part of the Colburn Orchestra at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and in the New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She has performed in the Gibson Dunn Rush Hour Concert Series in LA as well as the Colburn Chamber Music Society Concert Series. Lucy Wang was on CBC Radio's list of "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" in 2014. She was also a featured soloist on CBC Radio's Young Artist Series and NW Focus Live on King FM in Seattle.

Lucy Wang is a Bachelor of Music degree candidate at the Colburn School, where she studies with Martin Beaver. Originally from Vancouver, Lucy began her violin studies at the age of three and later studied with Gerald Stanick and Carla Birston. She has been a fellow at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara as well as the Aspen Music Festival. Lucy Wang has performed in the masterclasses of musicians including Ida Kavafian, Jonathan Crow, Ning Feng, Martin Chalifour, Glenn Dicterow, Karen Gomyo, and James Ehnes. As a chamber musician, she was coached by Gary Hoffman, James Dunham, Sylvia Rosenberg, and by members of the Tokyo String Quartet, the Opus One Piano Quartet, the Emerson String Quartet, the Guarneri String Quartet, and the Calidore String Quartet.