

SOCAN FOUNDATION CELEBRATES YOUNG AUDIO-VISUAL COMPOSERS

Composers from Montreal and Vancouver awarded top prizes in SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Audio-visual Composers

Toronto, July 11– SOCAN Foundation today announced 13 recipients of the 2nd annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Audio-visual Composers. The competition attracted 43 entries, awarding a total \$21,000 in prizes in four categories of music: **Best Original Musical Theme; Best Original Score: Fiction; Best Original Score: Animated** and **Best Original Score: Non-Fiction**. Eight of the 13 prizewinners are Quebec-based. The annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Audio-visual Composers recognize Canadian composers 30 years of age and under for specific musical works in four categories of audio-visual music.

The jury comprising three prominent, award-winning Canadian composers of film and television music--**John Welsman** of Toronto, **Frédéric Weber** of Montreal and **Terry Frewer** of Vancouver--judged the entries anonymously last month in Toronto.

Heading the winners' list is Montreal's **Guillaume St-Laurent** who was awarded the first prize in the category of Best Original Score: Animated for his work on the film *Doctor X* (directed by Maxime Garneau), as well as the third prize in the Non-Fiction category for *Jeanne Mance* (directed by Annabel Loyola). St-Laurent, 30, studied jazz arranging at McGill University's Schulich School of Music and earned a diploma in film music from l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

First prizes in the remaining three categories were awarded to **Simon Charrier** (Best Original Musical Theme) for his work on the film *Patte douce* directed by Georges-Édouard Duquette; **Iman Habibi** (Best Original Score: Fiction) for his work on the film *Lost and Found* directed by Elad Tzadok and **Gabriel Dharmoo** (Best Original Score: Non-Fiction) for his work in the film *Durga* directed by Paramita Nath.

Additional Award recipients include: **Rob Teehan** and **Maxime Ethier** (shared second prize) and **Ryan Faas** (third prize) for the Best Original Musical Theme; **Devin Ashton-Beaucage** (second prize) and **Tosia Scarfe** (third prize) for the Best Original Score: Fiction; **Merlin Bertrand-Hamel** and **Ghyslain Barbeau** (shared second prize) and **Eduardo Noya Schreus** (third prize) for Best Original Score: Animated and **Hunter Pearson** (second prize) for Best Original Score: Non-Fiction. (*Recipients' bios and awards categories attached.*)

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“The judges were particularly impressed with the high calibre of entries received which made the judging session especially interesting and enjoyable,” says Rick MacMillan, Manager, SOCAN Foundation. “It gives us great pleasure to be able to celebrate and encourage the careers of young audio-visual composers for the second consecutive year. We wouldn’t be able to do it without the dedication of our judges and we express our sincere gratitude to them for all their efforts.”

About the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Audio-Visual Composers

The SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Audio-Visual Composers is open to Canadian citizens 30 years of age and under. The 2013 application deadline is April 15. Visit www.socanfoundation.ca for further details.

About the SOCAN Foundation

Founded in 1992, the [SOCAN Foundation](http://www.socanfoundation.ca) 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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2nd ANNUAL SOCAN FOUNDATION AWARDS FOR YOUNG AUDIO-VISUAL COMPOSERS RECIPIENT LIST

Best Original Musical Theme (opening or closing)

First Prize: \$3,000 – Simon Charrier, 29, Montreal, Que.—*Patte douce* (director Georges-Édouard Duquette)

Simon Charrier is also an arranger, music producer and guitarist. He toured in the latter capacity with 2004-06 production of *Cavalia*, performed in film scores for director George Mihalka and assisted Oscar-nominated composer Benoît Charest. He has recorded orchestral demos at the McGill University MMR studio and at Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, and took part in the Screen Composers' Guild of Canada's director-composer matchup film scoring program. In 2011, Charrier completed a postgraduate specialized program in music for film at l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

Second Prize: \$1,500 (shared)— Rob Teehan, 30, Toronto, Ont.— *The Sugar Bowl* (director Shasha Nakhai)

Rob Teehan is a composer and tuba player, nominated in 2010 for a JUNO Award in the category "Classical Composition of the Year" and undertook his first work in film music in 2011. He has scored several short films, including this 19-minute documentary about the sugar-rich island of Negros in the Philippines. He currently performs with several active Toronto bands, including the Boxcar Boys, The Lemon Bucket Orkestra, and with soul-rock singer Saidah Baba Talibah.

Second Prize: \$1,500 (shared)— Maxime Ethier, 27, Montreal, Que.—*Générique des Histories Macabres* (director Lupeth)

Maxime Ethier is also a percussionist and has studied classical percussion, instrumental composition, computer-assisted music, jazz arranging and Latin percussion styles, at CEGEP de Joliette and CEGEP St-Laurent as well as in the Faculty of Music of l'Université de Montréal. Ethier works as a freelance musician and composer of electroacoustic and film music.

Third Prize: \$750— Ryan Faas, 29, Langley, B.C.— *Scattered Theme* (director Carmela Serrano)

Ryan Faas studied jazz piano at the University of Alberta, where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree. He taught guitar and piano privately in Edmonton before moving to Vancouver, where he continues to teach, compose and perform.

Best Original Score: Fiction

First Prize: \$3,000 – Iman Habibi, 26, Vancouver, B.C.— *Lost and Found* (director Elad Tzadok)

Iman Habibi, a composer and pianist, holds a Master of Music degree from the University of British Columbia, where he studied composition with Dorothy Chang, Jeffrey Ryan and Stephen Chatman. In 2011, he shared first prize in the non-fiction category of the inaugural SOCAN Foundation Awards for Audio-visual Composers. Habibi has received numerous commissions, including one from the Prince George Symphony Orchestra to compose a piano concerto, appearing as soloist in the 2010 world premiere.

Second Prize: \$1,500— Devin Ashton-Beaucage, 27, Montreal, Que.— *Mariale* (director Alexandre Auger)

Devin Ashton-Beaucage holds a Bachelor's degree in composition from l'Université de Montréal and has performed as a violinist and guitarist in chamber orchestras, rock bands and a jazz ensemble. Having studied both electroacoustic and instrumental composition, he has moved, in recent years, into the field of composition for film. Ashton-Beaucage performs the guitar part in his score for *Mariale*, a short film presented in 2011 at Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois.

Third Prize: \$750—Tosia Scarfe, 27, Vancouver, B.C. —*Worship the Sun* (director Diego Puertas)

Tosia Scarfe graduated with distinction from the University of Calgary in 2010 with a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, and in 2011 completed a diploma in Digital Music Production for Audio-visual Media at the Art Institute of Vancouver. She studied composition with Alexina Louie, Laurie Radford and Allan Gordon Bell, and film composition with Doug Blackley. As well as composing the score for *Worship the Sun*, Scarfe sang and performed on all instruments.

Best Original Score: Animated

First Prize: \$3,000— Guillaume St-Laurent, 30, Montreal, Que.— *Doctor X* (director Maxime Garneau)

Guillaume St-Laurent earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from l'Université Laval, studied jazz arranging in the Schulich School of Music at McGill University and received a diploma in film music from l'Université du Québec à Montréal. St-Laurent composed scores for several films and television series and has also composed for the circus and for music theatre.

Second Prize: \$1,500 (shared)—Merlin Bertrand-Hamel, 28, Prévost, Que.— *Mine de rien* (director Martine Favreau)

Merlin Bertrand-Hamel received a Bachelor's degree in popular music from l'Université du Québec à Montréal and a diploma in film music from the same institution. He teaches and performs as a freelance drummer and percussionist and has a particular fondness for composing scores for film projects.

Second Prize: \$1,500 (shared)—Ghyslain Barbeau, 26, Montreal, Que.— *L'Axe* (director Daniel Faubert)

Ghyslain Barbeau studied classical guitar and received his Bachelor's degree from the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. He is currently studying film music at l'Université du Québec à Montréal and has composed scores for several films that have been exhibited in Canada and Germany. Barbeau also performs as guitarist and composer for the symphonic metal band Märchenbilder.

Third Prize: \$750— Eduardo Noya Schreus, 28, Montreal, Que.— *RE-AX aka Peace Starts with Me* (director Max Hattler)

Eduardo Noya Schreus is also known as NOIA, was born in Lima, Peru, and emigrated to Canada in 2006. He studied sound recording and design at Trebas Institute. He composes digitally and uses software instruments and plugins, as well as unconventional devices such as Tibetan singing bowls, live animals, thumb pianos and analogue synthesizers. Schreus' sound design and scores have been featured in advertisements, film and live performances. *Peace Starts with Me* was presented during the World Peace Festival in 2011 in Berlin, Germany.

Best Original Score Non-Fiction

First Prize: \$3,000 — Gabriel Dharmoo, 30, Montreal, Que.— *Durga* (director Paramita Nath)

Gabriel Dharmoo studied composition at l'Université Laval with Eric Morin and at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal with Serge Provost and graduated with distinction in both composition and analysis. He studied Indian music with four renowned masters in Chennai, India, and has received numerous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, Arraymusic, Motion Ensemble and Aventa have performed his concert works. Dharmoo collaborates frequently with filmmakers, visual artists and choreographers and has provided music for short films screened in festivals across North America, Europe and South America.

Second Prize: \$1,500— Hunter Pearson, 28, Richmond, B.C.—*Through the Eyes of Faith* (director Cole Walliser)

Hunter Pearson is a classically trained pianist and graduate of the Recording Arts program at the Art Institute of Vancouver. He has worked in multiple recording studios while advancing a freelance career in music composition and production.

Third Prize: \$750— Guillaume St-Laurent, 30, Montreal, Que.— *Jeanne Mance* (director Annabel Loyola)

See bio listed under Best Original Score: Animated