

MARIELLE GROVEN WINS SOCAN FOUNDATION'S JOHN WEINZWEIG GRAND PRIZE

Toronto, June 19, 2013 –The SOCAN Foundation today announced 14 recipients of the 22nd Annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers.

This year's competition attracted 184 entries, awarding \$29,250 to 14 prizewinners. "This year is particularly special since, for the first time, a female composer, **Marielle Groven**, was the sole winner of **The John Weinzweig Grand Prize**," said Rick MacMillan, Manager, SOCAN Foundation.

The Annual SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers recognize Canadian composers 30 years of age and under for specific musical works in five categories of concert music. The competition was judged anonymously, by a jury of three prominent composers: Dr. Ka Nin Chan of Toronto (professor of theory and composition in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and a two-time Juno Award winner), Dr. T. Patrick Carrabré (professor in the School of Music at Brandon University in Brandon, MB, where he has served terms as Dean of music and Vice-President Academic and Research), and Gilles Gobeil (professor of Music Technology at Collège de Drummondville, QC, and winner of more than 20 national and international awards for his electroacoustic music).

"What made Groven's work unique and especially attracted us," says Carrabré, "is the uniqueness of her sound, the wonderful use of instrumental techniques that makes the violin sound almost like an ondes Martenot. She is clearly very creative."

The John Weinzweig Grand Prize celebrates the best overall work submitted in the competition, and is valued at \$3,000. Groven's work, titled *Animaris Currens Ventosa*, was also recognized with the \$3,000 first prize in the competition's Serge Garant Awards category. Also winning two \$3,000 top prizes is **Wei-Chieh Lin**, who captured first prizes in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards category for *Tracing the Shadows of Broken Time* and in the Pierre Mercure Awards category for *A glimpse of trembling refraction*.

Other winners of \$3,000 first prizes were **Marie-Claire Saindon** for *Øst for vinden* and **Anna Pidgorna** for *On the Eve of Ivan Kupalo* (shared, in the Godfrey Ridout Awards), and **James O'Callaghan** for *Objects-Interiors* (Hugh Le Caine Awards).

Additional Award recipients include: **Ashkan Behzadi** (second prize) and **Haralabos Stafylakis** (third prize) in the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards; **Taylor Brook** and **Alec Hall** (shared second prize) and **Matthew Ricketts** (third prize) in the Serge Garant Awards; **Philippe Béland** (second prize) and **Anna Pidgorna** (third prize) in the Pierre Mercure Awards; **Patrick Murray** (second prize) and **Haralabos Stafylakis** (third prize) in the Godfrey Ridout Awards; and **Stephen Spencer** (second prize) and **Guillaume Côte** (third prize) in the Hugh Le Caine Awards. (*Recipients' bios and awards categories attached.*)

About the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers

The SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers is open to Canadian citizens 30 years of age and under.

About SOCAN Foundation

Founded in 1992, 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. It is closely aligned to the interests of the members of SOCAN – the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada.

- 30 -

Media Contact: Rick MacMillan, 416-445-8700, ext. 3815, macmillanr@socan.ca

22nd ANNUAL SOCAN FOUNDATION AWARDS FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS RECIPIENT LIST

The John Weinzweig Grand Prize

Grand Prize awarded for the best overall work submitted in the competition.

Marielle Groven, 29, Fletchers Lake, NS – *Animaris Currens Ventosa*, for large ensemble

Marielle Groven is currently based in Berlin, Germany, having completed a Master's degree in composition at that city's Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" under the supervision of Wolfgang Heiniger and Hanspeter Kyburz. She has also undertaken private studies with Brian Ferneyhough, John Adams, Franck Bedrossian and Brian Cherney. Her music has been performed in Canada and abroad by ensembles and soloists including Ensemble Mosaik (Berlin), Le Nouvel Ensemble Modern (Montreal), The Moscow Ensemble, Ensemble Linea (Strasbourg, France) and Ensemble SuperMusique (Montreal). She captured first prize in the 2012 SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers, in the Godfrey Ridout Awards category.

The 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 electroacoustics.

First Prize: \$3,000 – Wei-Chieh Lin, 30, Brossard, QC – *Tracing the Shadows of Broken Time*, for sinfonietta of 15 players

A native of Taiwan, Wei-Chieh Lin completed his Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in composition, under scholarship, at The Juilliard School in New York City under the guidance of Milton Babbitt. His works have been performed at venues including the Gaudeamus Muziekweek in the Netherlands, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, Jordan Hall in Boston, and the National Concerts Halls in Taiwan, by ensembles including Ensemble Intercontemporain, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, The New Juilliard Ensemble and the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra. Among his recent honours are two ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards and first prizes in the 2009 and 2010 National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan Composition Competitions.

Second Prize: \$1,500 – Ashkan Behzadi, 30, Toronto, ON – *Urban Trilogy* for chamber orchestra of 16 players

Ashkan Behzadi was born in Iran and studied architecture at Tehran University, while undertaking studies in music with Alireza Mashayekhi (composition) and Farman Behboud and Tamara Dolidze (piano). He later pursued studies in the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, under Chris Paul Harman and Brian Cherney. His works have been performed by the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Esprit Orchestra and the McGill Percussion Ensemble. He is currently working towards a DMA in composition, at Columbia University in New York City.

Third Prize: \$750 – Haralabos Stafylakis, 30, Montreal, QC – *Brittle Fracture*, for 14 players

Haralabos Stafylakis was born in Montreal and currently resides in New York City, where he is a Graduate Teaching Fellow at the City University of New York Graduate Center, under the supervision of David Del Tredici and Jason Eckardt. He strives in his music for dramatic emotional and intellectual expression, seamlessly integrating idioms drawn from various genres, including metal, pop, Greek traditional and film music. His works have been performed by the McGill Symphony Orchestra, Alea III Contemporary Music Ensemble, Lorelei Ensemble and American Modern Ensemble. He has won two previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers and is the recipient of a Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The Serge Garant Awards

For instrumental compositions for a minimum of three performers to a maximum of twelve, with or without voices and/or electroacoustics.

First Prize: \$3,000 – Marielle Groven, 29, Fletchers Lake, NS – *Animaris Currens Ventosa*, for large ensemble

Bio listed under The John Weinzweig Grand Prize

Second Prize (shared): \$750 – Taylor Brook, 27, Toronto, ON – *El jardín de senderos que se bifurcan*, six songs for string quartet

Taylor Brook studied composition with Luc Brewaeys, Brian Cherney, Richard Carrick and George Lewis, as well as Hindustani musical performance in Kolkata, India, with Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya. He has won the Coup de Coeur prize from Montreal's Nouvel Ensemble Moderne as well as three previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. His works have been performed in North America and Europe by Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Quatuor Bozzini and Orchestre de la francophonie canadienne. He currently resides in New York City where he is pursuing a doctorate in composition at Columbia University. In September, he travels to the Netherlands as a finalist in this year's Gaudeamus composition competition for his work *Motorman Fragments*.

Second Prize (shared): \$750 – Alec Hall, 28, New York, NY – *Venice*, for string quartet and electronics

Alec Hall is a native of Toronto and lives in New York City, where he is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at Columbia University. He holds a Master's degree in composition from the University of California, San Diego, and studied with Tristan Murail, Philippe Manoury, Fred Lerdahl and George Lewis. His works have been performed throughout Europe and North America, including premieres by Ensemble Intercontemporain, Talea Ensemble and JACK Quartet. He won four previous prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers and was a finalist in the 2011 Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music.

Third Prize: \$750 – Matthew Ricketts, 29, Montreal, QC – *Still Burning*, for bassoon, brass trio, percussion and piano

Matthew Ricketts is originally from Victoria, BC. He studied theory and composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music under Brian Cherney, Chris Paul Harman and John Rea, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Columbia University in New York City under the supervision of George Lewis and Fred Lerdahl. His music has been performed across Canada and the U.S. His opera *No Masque for Good Measure* received its premiere in 2012 at the Cluster New Music + Integrated Arts Festival in Winnipeg. He captured first prizes in the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers in 2012 and in 2010.

The Pierre Mercure Awards

For solo or duet compositions, with or without voices and/or electroacoustics.

First Prize: \$3,000 – Wei-Chieh Lin, 30, Montreal, QC – *A glimpse of trembling refraction*, for cello and piano

Bio listed under The Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

Second Prize: \$1,500 – Philippe Béland, 26, Montreal, QC – *Espaces clos*, for solo flute and synthesizer

Philippe Béland was born in Drummondville, QC, and completed a Bachelor's degree in composition in the Faculty of Music at l'Université de Montréal under the direction of Philippe Leroux. He is currently working towards a Master's degree in composition at the same university, under the direction of Ana Sokolovic. Although his focus is on concert music, he is also interested in film and rock music and performs as an electric bass guitarist.

Third Prize: \$750 – Anna Pidgorna, 28, Vancouver, BC – *The Child: Bringer of Light*, for solo cello and optional amplification

Anna Pidgorna is also a media artist and combines her interests in sound, visual art and writing to create works that are dramatic and picturesque. In 2012, she took part in a prestigious workshop with Kaija Saariaho and Anssi Karttunen at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and was a composing fellow at the National Arts Centre's Composers Program in Ottawa. She completed her undergraduate studies at Mount Allison University in 2007 and is pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Calgary under the direction of David Eagle.

The Godfrey Ridout Awards

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

First Prize (shared): \$1,500 – Marie-Claire Saindon, 30, Montreal, QC – *Øst for vinden*, for treble choir, solo violin, solo cello and optional storyteller

Marie-Claire Saindon has played the violin since childhood, and first showed interest in composition while in high school. She completed a Bachelor's degree in composition at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University in 2007 and a Master's degree in composition (film and multi-media music) at l'Université de Montréal in 2010, under the supervision of Ana Sokolovic and Pierre-Daniel Rheault. She has received commissions from Arkéa, Bella Voce, Harmonia Choir of Ottawa and Concerto Della Donna.

First Prize (shared): \$1,500 – Anna Pidgorna, 28, Vancouver, BC – *On the Eve of Ivan Kupalo*, a chamber opera in a prologue and four scenes

Bio listed under The Pierre Mercure Awards

Second Prize: \$1,500 – Patrick Murray, 23, Waterloo, ON – *The Echo*, for mixed chorus SATB

Patrick Murray is music director of FAWN New Opera and an intern conductor with the Grand Philharmonic Choir in Waterloo. A choral and new music specialist, he has also served as a rehearsal conductor with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and appeared on the podium with Toronto's Toy Piano Composers Ensemble and Hart House Choir. His works have been performed at the Norfolk Festival (Connecticut), Atlantic Music Festival (Maine) and Soundstreams (Toronto). He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto, studying composition with Norbert Palej and Gary Kulesha, and conducting with Ivars Taurins.

Third Prize: \$750 – Haralabos Stafylakis, 30, Montreal, QC – *The Metal and the Flower*, for tenor, accordion and piano

Bio listed under The Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards

The Hugh Le Caine Awards

For live or recorded electroacoustics, where the intended performance is, at least in part, through loudspeakers. Works in this category may be multi-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 – James O'Callaghan, 25, Montreal, QC – *Objects-Interiors*, electroacoustic music

James O'Callaghan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in composition from Simon Fraser University and is currently a candidate for the Master of Music degree at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal. His output includes more than 40 works of concert music for dance, theatre and film, as well as audio-visual installations, often drawing on found objects and sounds from natural and urban environments. He is currently the 2012-13 Emerging Composer-in-Residence with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, a project funded in part by the SOCAN Foundation. In 2013, he was a featured artist in Winnipeg's Cluster New Music + Arts Festival.

Second Prize: \$1,500 – Stephen Spencer, 22, Montreal, QC – *Zoom! Fiction*, for string trio and electronics

Stephen Spencer is a graduate of McGill University's Schulich School of Music, where he studied with Chris Paul Harman and Philippe Leroux. Originally from Ottawa, he is currently based in Montreal and begins his work this fall towards his Master of Music degree in composition, also at McGill. His compositional research is concerned with new approaches to improvisation with electronic extensions. His music will be performed this July at the Composit New Music Festival in Rieti, Italy.

Third Prize: \$750 – Guillaume Côté, 26, Montreal, QC – *Il n'y a que blanc*, electroacoustic music

Guillaume Côté has a marked preference for a musical discourse based on contrasts. He is currently a student of electroacoustic composition and a teaching assistant at l'Université de Montréal. Apart from acousmatic music, he has a deep interest in free jazz and performs with his own trio. His works have been performed around the world, including Musiva Viva Festival (Portugal, 2010), Electronic Music Midwest Festival (U.S.A., 2010), Longueur d'ondes (France, 2010), NoiseFloor Festival (U.K., 2011) and SEAMUS national conference (U.S.A., 2011).