

Peter Mendell Award

**recipients
2023**



Fondation
JM Canada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Word from the Chair | 3 |
| Peter Mendell Award | 4 |

The jury

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Cameron Crozman | 6 |
| Véronique Desjardins | 7 |
| Peter Mendell | 8 |

The finalists

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| David Baik | 10 |
| Amos Friesen | 11 |
| Sebastian Gonzalez Mora | 12 |

Word from the chair

Dear friends of music,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the final of the prestigious Peter Mendell Award, an event that celebrates the musical excellence of young string players in our beautiful province. Since its foundation in 2005, this award has showcased promising young talents who distinguish themselves through their dedication to music and virtuosity. This year, the jury had the difficult task of selecting three finalists from a pool of twenty exceptional candidates. David Baik, Amos Friesen and Sebastian Gonzalez Mora truly stood out for their technical mastery, moving interpretation and artistic boldness.

It promises to be a memorable evening, with our three finalists dazzling us with their talent. The winner of this unforgettable evening will have the honor of receiving a \$5,000 grant. We thank you for being here to support these young Quebec artists, and for sharing this moment of music and emotion with us.

With all my gratitude,

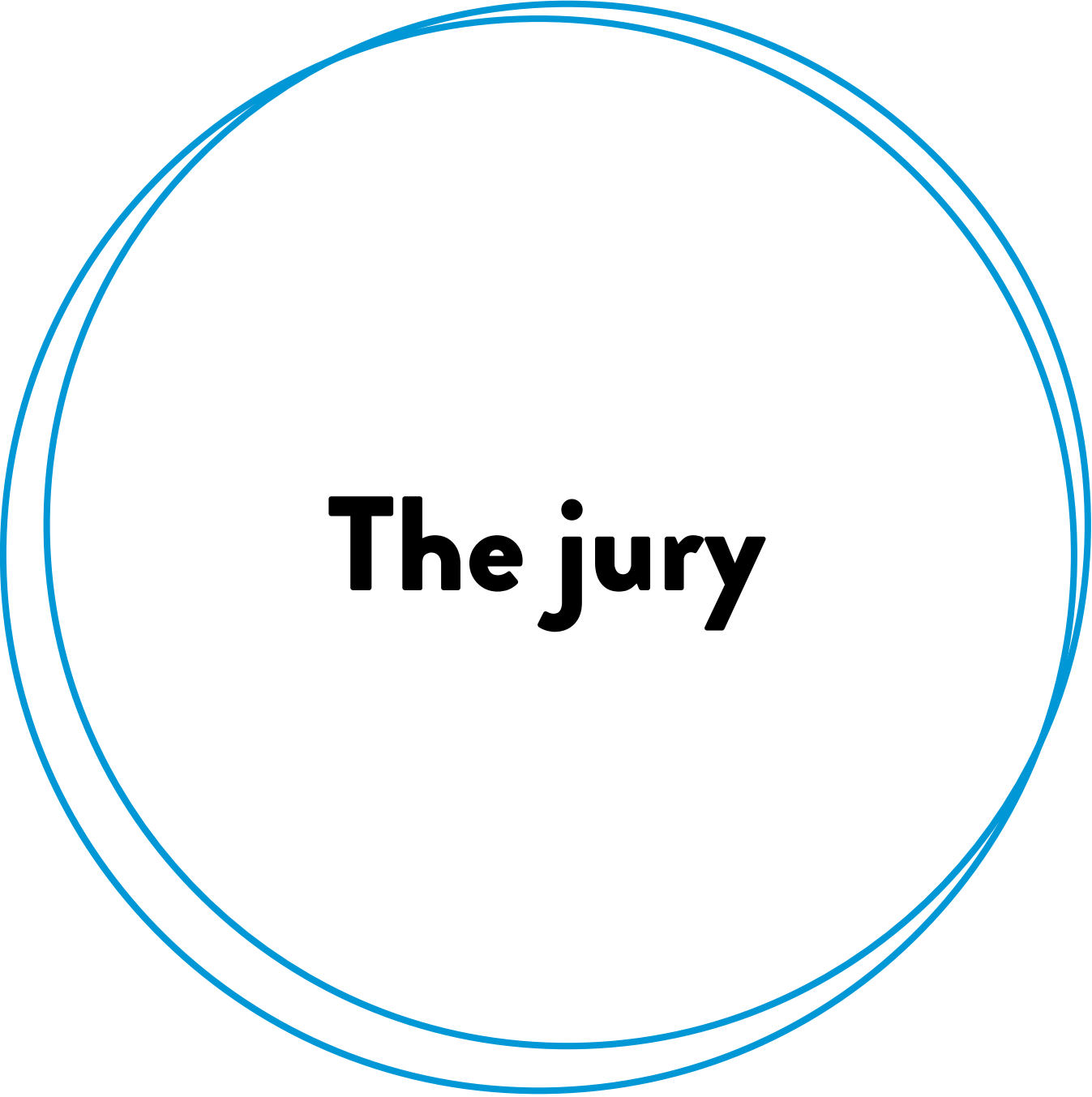
Florence Junca-Adenot
JM Canada Foundation President

Peter Mendell Award

Created in 2005, the Peter Mendell Award recognizes the excellence of a young string player studying in a Quebec university or in a Quebec Conservatory of Music who is 25 years old or younger.

This annual award is named after Peter Mendell, a highly regarded lawyer at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, who is a true music lover and amateur cellist. Peter and Margie Mendell are proud to support musical excellence in partnership with the JM Canada Foundation and JM Canada.

For its 18th edition, the Peter Mendell Award will reward a full-time string student (violin, viola, cello or double bass) with a \$5,000 prize. The other two finalists will receive \$500 prizes, offered by JM Canada.



The jury



Cameron Crozman

Cellist

A cellist “with a rich imagination and a keen mind” (Diapason), Cameron Crozman leads an active performing career as a soloist and chamber musician in Canada, the US and Europe. Winner of the 2021 Canada Council for the Arts Virginia Parker Prize, Cameron was CBC/Radio-Canada’s 2019 Classical Revelation artist and a laureate of Gautier Capuçon’s Classe d’Excellence at the Louis Vuitton Foundation, in Paris. He has released critically acclaimed recordings for the ATMA Classique and Printemps des Arts de Monaco labels and his performances are broadcast on CBC, Radio France, and Medici.tv.

Cameron is the co-founder of ClassicalValley, a festival bringing together wine and chamber music in the Okanagan Valley, and the artistic director of the Edeta Arts International Chamber Music Festival in Llíria, Spain, designated a Creative City of Music by the UNESCO. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire in the class of Michel Strauss and plays on a c. 1750 cello by Gennaro Gagliano, generously on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank.



Véronique Desjardins

Executive Director
JM Canada Foundation

Trained as a classical singer, Véronique Desjardins has been involved in the music scene since a very young age and has been working for the past 10 years in the arts and culture sector, particularly in music production and distribution.

Through her various experiences, notably with Jeunesses Musicales Canada and Les Disques Passeport, she has developed several skills that are sought after in the music industry. She has worked in album production, digital distribution and publishing, and has been responsible for the production and management of pan-Canadian tours of emerging artists in the classical music world. As a consultant, she has helped artists and music companies design and develop digital development strategies.

Today, as Executive Director of the JM Canada Foundation, she is expanding her skills in philanthropy, partnerships and fundraising.



Peter Mendell

Lawyer

Throughout his career, Peter has been a key advisor to clients around the world. He has been involved in major transactions for large international public and private companies operating in a wide range of industries. Peter's drive, responsiveness and good judgment have resulted in strong business relationships in Europe, Asia and North and South America. He leads the China Practice Group at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP.

Peter shares his professional career with his passion for music, especially chamber music. Among other things, he was chosen in 1960 to play as a cellist in Toronto in the inaugural session of the National Youth orchestra. He also sang for many years in the St Laurence Choir and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus and was part of the group that won a Grammy for its recording of Berlioz, Les Troyens.



The finalists



David Baik

Violin

Featured on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's (CBC) "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30", South Korean-born violinist David Baik is noted for his powerful yet sincere sound. Baik is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the 2021 NAC Bursary Competition, consecutive First Prizes at the 2016 and 2017 Canadian Music Competition, the Sturdevant Prize, and the Gerhard Kander Graduating Award. In 2022, Baik obtained his Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto where he studied with Jonathan Crow, and now is a fellowship recipient at the Schulich School of Music studying with Andrew Wan.

As an active soloist, Baik's recent highlights include recitals presented by the DOMS concert series and the Isabel Bader Centre, a guest soloist for the Durham Chamber Orchestra, as well as a performance at the National Commemorative Ceremony in honour of Queen Elizabeth II as an invited solo artist.

David Baik performs on the 1871 Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin, graciously on loan by the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

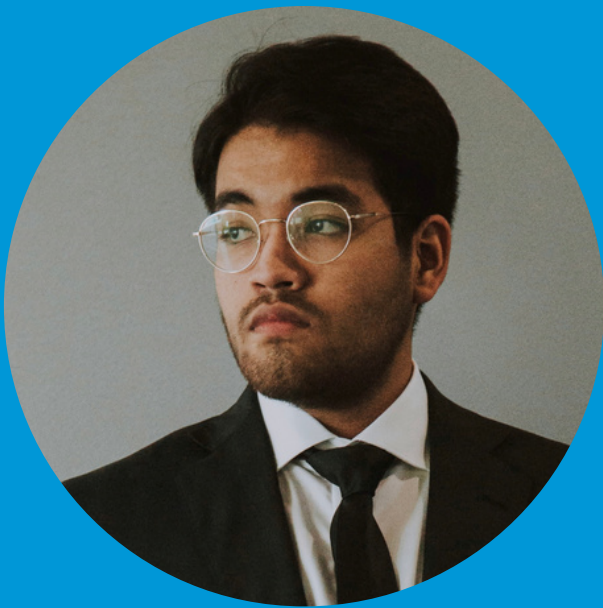


Amos Friesen

Cello

Amos Friesen performed in concerts across Canada and recorded three studio albums with the Friesen Family Band before the age of twelve. In 2015, Amos won the position of principal cellist with the Saskatchewan Honor Orchestra and the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra, before winning the position of substitute cellist for the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Amos has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada for three summers, and has played in masterclass for the likes of Johannes Moser, Gary Hoffman, Hans Jorgen Jensen, and Philippe Mueller. In 2022, Amos participated in the McGill International String Quartet Academy as cellist of Apricus Quartet, receiving coaching and masterclasses from members of the Alban Berg Quartet, Quator Ébène, and Meta4 Quartet.

Amos was recently awarded a full scholarship to pursue his master's in cello performance at the Schulich School of Music under the tutelage of Brian Manker.



Sebastian Gonzalez Mora

Viola

22-year-old violist Sebastian Gonzalez Mora is currently studying at McGill University with Victor Fournelle-Blain. In addition to the Pirastro Prize for an Outstanding Young Talent at the 2021 Oskar Nedbal International Viola Competition held in Czech Republic, the young violist is also the winner of the grand prize at the Chœur de la Montagne Competition (2018 and 2021) and the grand prize at the MDA-Québec Competition (2018).

Sebastian is often heard as a soloist and chamber musician at the Montée des Arts, a concert hall for which he was artist in residence for the 2019–2020 season, at the Festival Unisson and at the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. Sebastian Gonzalez Mora is also a member of the Vatra Quartet, winner of the grand prize at the Sherbrooke competition (2022) as well as first prizes in chamber music at the Canadian Music Competition (2021) and the Classival competition (2022).

Sebastian plays on a Francesco Presbler viola (1700–1730) and a Roger François Lotte bow courtesy of Canimex.



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