



The Robert W. and G. Ann Corcoran Concerto Competition Finals

January 22, 2025 | 7:00 PM
Koerner Hall



ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Robert W. and G. Ann Corcoran Concerto Competition is an important annual flagship event at The Glenn Gould School, which is one of the finest post-secondary schools focused on classical music performance in the world. Competing for the coveted opportunity to perform in Koerner Hall with the Royal Conservatory Orchestra, dozens of young artists participated in rigorous competition this week, before an international jury that chose the four finalists you will hear tonight.

Soloists, Sabina Sandvoss, Jonathan Alter, Zane Mallett and Eric Guo will each perform next season with the Royal Conservatory Orchestra. Tonight's final round of the competition will determine which of these talented artists will receive the coveted \$5,000 Corcoran Grand Prize.

Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Ann Corcoran, The Glenn Gould School's prestigious Concerto Competition continues to offer exceptional learning and performance opportunities for our students.



"My wife Ann and I were pleased to support these exceptional students and promote their talent so that they may receive the recognition they deserve."

Robert W. Corcoran

CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALISTS



Sabina Sandvoss, cello

4th Year, Bachelor of Music (Honours)
Studio of Hans Jørgen Jensen and Andrés Diaz
Recipient of The Ihnatowycz Emerging Artist Scholarships



Jonathan Alter, piano

2nd Year, Bachelor of Music (Honours)
Studio of John O'Connor and Michael Berkovsky
Recipient of The Margaret Parsons-Poole and Clifford Poole Scholarship, The Nicholas Weldon Kilburn Memorial Scholarship, The Hilda D. Borman Scholarship, The Helen Valenska Memorial Scholarship, The Mona Bates Scholarship, The Madeline M. Field Piano Scholarship, The Women's Art Association of Canada - Jill Maynard and Paul Lee Scholarship, The Audrey Darlington Crone Scholarship, and The Stanley De'Ath Memorial Scholarship



Zane Mallett, harp

2nd Year, Artist Diploma Program
Studio of Judy Loman
Recipient of The Rayla & George Myhal Scholarships



Eric Guo, piano

1st Year, Artist Diploma Program
Studio of John Perry and James Anagnoson
Recipient of The Renette & David Berman Scholarships

Please find full biography information for each finalist at rcmusic.com/Corcoran

PROGRAM

Sabina Sandvoss, cello
Benjamin Smith, piano

Schelomo: *Rhapsodie Hébraïque*, B. 39

Ernest Bloch
(1880-1959)

Jonathan Alter, piano
Benjamin Smith, piano

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, op. 37
I. Allegro con brio
II. Largo
III. Rondo: Allegro – Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

INTERMISSION

Zane Mallett, harp
Jialiang Zhu, piano

Harp Concerto, op. 25
I. Allegro giusto
II. Molto moderato
III. Liberamente capriccioso – Vivace

Alberto Ginastera
(1916-1983)

Eric Guo, piano
Benjamin Smith, piano

Piano Concerto in F Minor, op. 21

I. Maestoso
II. Larghetto
III. Allegro vivace

Fryderyk Chopin
(1810-1849)

JURY DELIBERATIONS & AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our faculty collaborative pianists this evening—**Benjamin Smith** and **Jialiang Zhu**. To read their full biographies, see them at rcmusic.com/bios

ADJUDICATORS – FINAL ROUND



Nicholas Kitchen, violin

Nicholas Kitchen is one of the most active and innovative performers in the music world today. He is a solo violinist, chamber musician, teacher, video artist, technology innovator and arts administrator. At 16, Nicholas began studying at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. At the end of his studies at Curtis in 1989, Nicholas joined his schoolmates and founded the Borromeo String Quartet. Nicholas has played for many years on the A.J. Fletcher Stradivarius, a violin purchased for long term loan to Nicholas by the A.J. Fletcher Foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Lucy Fitz Gibbon, soprano

Noted for her “dazzling, virtuoso singing” (*Boston Globe*), soprano Lucy Fitz Gibbon delights in the range of sonic possibility inherent in the human voice. Lucy serves on the faculty of Bard College Conservatory and has been in residence at the Marlboro Music Festival annually since 2016. She is honored to be the recipient of a 2024 Fellowship from the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, whose generous support will enable upcoming commissioning, recording, and performance projects.



Todd Palmer, clarinet

Clarinetist Todd Palmer is a three-time Grammy nominee and has appeared as soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator, educator, arranger, and presenter in a variety of musical endeavors around the world. As a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and grand prize winner in the Ima Hogg Young Artist Auditions, he has appeared as soloist with many symphony and chamber orchestras... he recently appeared with members of the *Sweeney Todd* cast on NPR's Tiny Desk.



Pedja Mužijević, piano

Pianist and curator Pedja Mužijević has defined his career with creative programming and lasting collaborations with artists and ensembles, performing with the Atlanta Symphony, Dresden Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Residentie Orkest in The Hague, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Shinsei Nihon Orchestra in Tokyo. He also directs workshops around the world, in which he looks at the concert experience, both in programming and presentation, in an attempt to make it more accessible and relevant today.

Please find full biography information for each adjudicator at rcmusic.com/Corcoran

ADJUDICATORS – PRELIMINARY AND SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS



Brett Polegato, baritone

Brett Polegato's artistic sensibility has earned him the highest praise from audiences and critics: “his is a serious and seductive voice” says *The Globe and Mail*, and *The New York Times* has praised him for his “burnished, well-focused voice” which he uses with “considerable intelligence and nuance.” In 2019, Brett made his long-awaited debut at the Metropolitan Opera in Massenet’s *Manon*. The final performance was broadcast live in cinemas around the world and was later televised on PBS’s *Great Performances*. In 2024, Mr. Polegato became a recipient of an Opera Canada Ruby Award.



Benjamin Bowman, violin

American-Canadian violinist Benjamin Bowman is the Concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera. He is a member of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and until 2017 he was also Concertmaster of the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Benjamin is very active and engaged as a chamber musician, recitalist and soloist. Bowman received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Benjamin plays a very fine Nicolò Bergonzi from Cremona, ca 1780.



James Austin Smith, oboe

Performer, curator and on-stage host, James Austin Smith “proves that an oboist can have an adventurous solo career.” (*New Yorker*) Praised for his “virtuosic,” “dazzling,” and “brilliant” performances (*New York Times*), Smith appears regularly at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York City and at leading national and international chamber music festivals, at Carnegie Hall and on tour as Co-Principal Oboe of the conductor-less Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and as an artist of the International Contemporary Ensemble.



Stéphane Lemelin, piano

Pianist Stéphane Lemelin is well-known to audiences throughout Canada and regularly tours in the United States, Europe and Asia as soloist and chamber musician. He is now Chair of the Department of Performance and Professor of Piano at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. A dedicated pedagogue, he has been invited to give master classes around the world. Stéphane Lemelin was a member of Trio Hochelaga from 2003 to 2012 and the founder and artistic director of the Prince Edward County Music Festival from 2004 to 2017.

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Remaining 2024-25 Glenn Gould School Performances

The Glenn Gould School Vocal Showcase

January 25, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

Mazzoleni Masters: GGS Brass & Friends

February 2, 2025 | 2:00 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

The Royal Conservatory Orchestra with conductor Naomi Woo and Jerry Hu, piano

February 7, 2025 | 8:00 P.M.

Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory

Mazzoleni Masters: GGS Percussion & Friends

February 23, 2025 | 2:00 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

The Glenn Gould School Spring Opera presents Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*

March 19 & 21, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory

The Glenn Gould School Chamber Competition Finals

March 26, 2025 | 7:00 P.M.

Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory

Rebanks Family Fellowship Concert

April 2, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

ARC Ensemble: *Hollywood Exiles*

April 6, 2025 | 2:00 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

The Glenn Gould School New Music Ensemble

April 22, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Temerty Theatre, The Royal Conservatory

The Glenn Gould School Piano Showcase

April 26, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory

The Royal Conservatory Orchestra with conductor William Eddins and Colin Mackey, baritone

May 2, 2025 | 8:00 P.M.

Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory



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