

2018 SMFA PROVINCIAL FINALS JUDGES

Erin Bardua (Voice)



Soprano Erin Bardua is a frequent concert soloist, who has performed with the Talisker Players, Nota Bene Baroque Players, Pax Christi Chorale, the Toronto Sinfonietta, the Oshawa-Durham Chorus, the Arcady Baroque Ensemble, the St. James Cathedral Choir, Capella Intima, London Pro Musica and the Menno Singers, among others. Her oratorio repertoire includes Handel's Messiah, Esther and Judas Maccabaeus, Zelenka's Missa Omnium Sanctorum, Beethoven's Mass in C Major, Vaughan Williams' Hodie, Haydn's Creation, Mozart's Requiem and Vesperae solennes de confessore, Bach's Magnificat and Passions, Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio, and Vivaldi's Gloria.

Erin is the co-founder of Essential Opera, a concert opera company performing great works in Ontario and the Atlantic. Her operatic roles with EO and other companies have included Nannetta (Verdi's Falstaff), Antonia and Giulietta (Offenbach's Les contes d'Hoffmann), numerous Mozart including Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), the Countess (Le nozze di Figaro) and Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Alcina (Handel), Constanza (Haydn's L'isola disabitata) and Elena (Gluck's Paride ed Elena). Erin has also premiered leading roles in several new compositions, including Frankenstein by Andrew Ager, Regina by Elisha Denburg, Etiquette by Monica Pearce, and Heather: Cindy + Mindy = BFFs 4EVER by Christopher Thornborrow.

Erin has provided dramatic coaching and stage direction for Mount Allison University's Opera Workshop and the Halifax Summer Opera Festival, where she directs The Coronation of Poppea for the 2018 season. She operates a private voice studio in Sackville and is a regular festival adjudicator. Erin is represented by Knowles Artists.

Donna Fletcher (Musical Theatre and Speech Arts)

Donna Fletcher is an accomplished actor, singer, and concert performer with a wide range of national experience in theatre, musical theatre, and symphonic work. Proud of her prairie roots, Donna received her early training in Winnipeg and earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Manitoba, a diploma in Music Theatre from The Banff Centre for the Arts, and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The University of Toronto. She has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony; the Florida Orchestra, and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and was featured on the CBC Radio's Saturday Afternoon at the Opera.



As an actor, Donna has been acclaimed in principle roles from east to west with the Charlottetown Festival, Drayton Festival, Rainbow Stage, Theatre Calgary, Stage West Calgary, the National Arts Centre, Manitoba Opera, MTC, PTE, MTYP, the Belfry Theatre and Persephone Theatre. Recent performing credits include Sister Act and Buddy Holly (Rainbow Stage) and A Little Night Music and Follies (Dry Cold Productions). As a director Donna has helmed productions of Brundibar for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Rainbow Stage/WSO concert presentation of South Pacific, Carousel for NUOVA, The Sound of Music for Opera on the Avalon, The Bridges of Madison County, The Addams Family and A Man of No Importance for Dry Cold Productions and conceived the WSO presentation of Send in the Clowns: The Music of Stephen Sondheim where she took the stage with TONY Award winner Len Cariou. This season, Donna will direct Into the Woods for Opera on the Avalon.

In July of 2012 she was inducted into the Rainbow Stage Wall of Fame and directed their acclaimed production of Annie. Always seeking new challenges, Donna co-created Dry Cold Productions which is celebrating its 18th season with a coproduction of the Manitoba Premiere of Falsettos with Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. Donna is a Faculty member of the NUOVA Opera and Musical Theatre Training Programme, a Sessional Voice and Musical Theatre Instructor at the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music as well as the University of Winnipeg Theatre Department.

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Michael Oike (Intermediate Piano)



MICHAEL OIKE maintains a busy and fulfilling musical life in his hometown of Winnipeg, Manitoba. He began his piano studies there with Alice Nakauchi and Sydney McInnis, and with Boris Lysenko at the Royal Conservatory of Music and University of Toronto where he was awarded the Forsythe Award as the outstanding graduating pianist. Michael was very fortunate to have worked with the renowned pedagogue Jeaneane Dowis, covering both the solo and piano chamber repertoire at her New York City studio and twice as a fellowship recipient at the Waterloo Festival held at Princeton University. Michael has a special affinity towards the vocal art song field and has worked with the highly regarded vocal pianists Rudolf Jansen and Martin Isepp.

Michael currently maintains a private piano teaching studio at the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts (MCMA), conducts workshops and master classes, and is heard in performances of chamber music and as vocal/instrumental accompanist. For over twenty-five years, Michael has adjudicated at music festivals provincially and nationally across Canada, where he greatly enjoys working with students of all levels.

Away from his music, Michael enjoys golfing, curling, downhill skiing, NFL football, and is continually tinkering to make the perfect butter tart, blueberry or apple pie and refine his sushi making skills

Rachel Rensink-Hoff (Choral)

Dr. Rachel Rensink-Hoff is Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music Education at Brock University and Artistic Director of the Avanti Chamber Singers. Former conductor of the McMaster University Choir and founder of the McMaster Women's Choir, Dr. Rensink-Hoff completed her Doctorate and Master of Music degree at Western University, pursuing additional studies at the Eastman School of Music Conducting Institute, the Voice Care Network of St. John's University, Minnesota, and the University of Toronto. She has engaged in master-classes under conductors Helmuth Rilling, Joseph Flummerfelt, Anton Armstrong, Dale Warland and the late Sir David Willcocks. Vice-



President of Programming for Choral Canada, Rachel Rensink-Hoff is the 2014 winner of the prestigious Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting awarded by the Ontario Arts Council. In 2015, her McMaster Women's Choir was awarded first prize in the National Choral Competition for Amateur Choirs of the CBC and Choral Canada. That same year she was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award at McMaster University. She publishes regularly in the Choral Journal of the American Choral Directors' Association as well as in Choral Canada's Anacrusis and The Canadian Music Educator. Rachel works frequently as guest conductor, adjudicator, conference presenter and workshop clinician. Most recently, she presented a lecture on Canadian and American women choral composers at the 2017 national conference of the American Choral Directors' Association, offered a presentation on behalf of Choral Canada at the 2017 World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona, and served as guest conductor of the 2017 Nova Scotia Provincial Youth Choir.

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Sharon Stanis (Strings and Guitar)



Sharon Stanis has a multi-faceted career as a chamber musician, soloist, and educator. As Artist-in-Residence, Sharon is a full time faculty member at the School of Music, University of Victoria, where she teaches violin and coaches chamber music. Sharon has gained a reputation as a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher; her experience as an active performer informs her abilities as a teacher to fully prepare her students for successful careers. Her students have established themselves as professional orchestral and chamber musicians, soloists, musicologists and music teachers. Sharon is in demand as an adjudicator at festivals across Canada and gives master classes throughout North America and Europe.

As co-founder of the Lafayette String Quartet, Sharon has toured extensively with this ensemble in North America and Europe. The quartet garnered prizes from the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the Portsmouth (England) International String Quartet Competition. The members of the Lafayette Quartet have been together for 31 years, the only all-female String Quartet of this longevity to comprise the original four members. In 2017, the Lafayette Quartet performed two

cycles of the 15 quartets of Shostakovich. A founding member of the contemporary music ensemble Aventa, Sharon has performed in Europe and North America with this ensemble.

As a guest artist at Basses Loaded IV, Ms. Stanis performed the Bottesini Grand Duo with the virtuoso bassist Gary Karr. Sharon has also appeared as soloist and concertmaster with the Victoria Symphony and the Palm Court Orchestra. In addition Sharon has performed at the Eine Kleine Summer Music Festival and the Friday Harbor Chamber Music Festival.

Prior to moving to Victoria, Sharon was a member of the Renaissance City Chamber Players, on the music faculty at Oakland University and Artist-in-Residence at the Institute of Music and Dance in Detroit.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Sharon studied with Linda and David Cerone, Gary Kosloski, Henryk Kowalski, and Peter Salaff. She received her BM and MM from Indiana University, where she worked with Rostislav Dubinsky, first violinist of the Borodin String Quartet, who was integral in the formation of the Lafayette String Quartet. While pursuing her graduate degree, she served as an associate instructor in the music history department at Indiana University. Sharon has also studied with members of the Cleveland, Alban Berg, and Amadeus String Quartets.

In addition to multiple recordings with the Lafayette Quartet, Sharon has recorded the Murray Adaskin Second Violin Sonata, the John Mills-Cockell Concerto of Deliverance, and the soundtrack of Criminal Acts by Tobin Stokes. She is the violinist in the theme music from the television show Bob and Margaret, composed by Patrick Godfrey.

Catherine Wood (Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion)

Canadian clarinetist Catherine Wood has performed and taught throughout Canada, the USA, Taiwan, China, Italy and France. She has been a guest artist at many festivals including the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFests, Nuna Iceland Canada Art Convergence, the Blueridge Chamber Music Festival, and the Montana Clarinet Festival. An enthusiast of new music, Dr. Wood has commissioned and premiered many works; recent commissions include Canadian composers Sid Robinovitch, Fjóla Evans, and T. Patrick Carrabre. She has performed at numerous festivals that celebrate new music, including the Winnipeg New Music Festival and the Dark Music Days Festival in Reykjavik, Iceland. An advocate of Canadian music, she presented A Clarinetist's Guide to Canadian Music: Resources for Performers and Educators at the 2007 ICA ClarinetFest in Vancouver. A sought-after adjudicator, Wood has served on competition juries throughout Canada and the United States. In 2011, she was invited to China to adjudicate for the first International Mozart Clarinet Competition at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. An avid chamber musician, Catherine performs regularly with the Brandon Chamber Players, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and with Victoria Sparks in their percussion/clarinet duo Viðarneisti. Wood is on faculty at Brandon University and serves as the National Chair of Canada for the International Clarinet Association.



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Thomas Yu (Intermediate and Senior Piano)



Thomas Yu is one of the most recognized amateur musicians in the world. He has redefined what it means to be an amateur pianist, having performed with the BBC Orchestra of Wales, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He has appeared as a guest soloist at Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, Munich Gasteig, BBC Hoddinott Hall, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Symphony Hall in Chicago, Hakuju Hall in Tokyo, as well as Roy Thomson Hall, National Arts Centre and Glenn Gould Studio in Canada. He continues to delight audiences across four continents while maintaining a full-time career as a periodontist.

In 2016, Yu was the unanimous winner of the prestigious 7th Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition in Texas, taking home the gold medal as well as Press and Audience Awards. Ten years earlier, he also swept the Paris International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs. In the span of this decade, Yu also won the 2015 CBC's Piano Hero, 2014 Honens Pro Am Competition (Calgary), 2012 International Amateur Piano Competition (Manchester), 2010 B&B International Piano Competition (New York), and 2009 Bösendorfer International Piano Competition (Vienna). Yu is also a winner of several national competitions, including the Canadian Music Competition and the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Association Piano Competition.

In addition to his musical pursuits, Dr. Yu obtained his DMD with Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. He then completed a General Practitioner Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto before obtaining his Master's Degree in Periodontics at the University of Toronto. He owns a busy private practice in Calgary, teaches at the Foothills Medical Hospital, and is a sought-after lecturer across Canada.