



Press release | For immediate circulation

GENERATION2018: The jury and the audience crown two winners!

Montreal, November 14, 2018 – On Sunday, November 11, at the Toronto Music Gallery, Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+), conducted by Véronique Lacroix, held the final of eight concerts of the *Generation2018 Tour* after a journey in the country's major cities and a 5-day residency at the Banff Centre. This performance marked the end of this 10th Canadian Tour and propelled the national careers of four young Canadian composers. At the end of the tour, two prizes were also awarded and to celebrate this special event, these two coveted prizes were enhanced: the **Generation National JURY Award** was increased to \$6,500 and the **Generation National AUDIENCE Choice Award** is now a \$2,000 grant. The latter was awarded by the cumulative votes of the audience throughout the tour and the first was awarded by votes from 38 experts¹ from the Canadian new music world, spread out through the tour's eight concerts. This award includes an ECM+ commission for a new chamber music work to be premiered in one of its future seasons.

NATIONAL JURY AWARD

The piece *Close / Close*, by British Columbia-born composer **James O'Callaghan**, was awarded top honours by the national jury. Featuring solo cellist Chloé Dominguez in the foreground, accompanied by an ensemble of 9 musicians (flute (picc., alto), clarinet, bassoon, horn, piano, percussion, 2 violins and viola), *Close / Close* also integrates an electronic part that explores the sound atmospheres of the different halls and places visited during the *Generation2018* tour thus inviting listeners to re-examine their relationship with their sound environment.

The jury saluted “a subtle and sophisticated mix of sounds creating a seamless deep, organic connection between the material and the form”. Adding that “while electronics fuses with live performance beautifully, the concept of natural sounds conveyed effectively through orchestration and extended techniques, tape recording and stunning singing from cellist”.

“The most complexly crafted piece of the evening was also among the best orchestrated.”

Pierre-Luc Senécal, VOIR, [Nique mes oreilles blog](#), November 3, 2018, Montreal

“When it comes to creativity, James O'Callaghan is most fertile. His interweaving of recorded electronic sounds and the imitation of these same sounds by the instruments is very clever. [...] As part of his process, O'Callaghan pushes experimentation to its limits and makes use of a solo cellist also hooked up to electronics.”

Christophe Huss, [Le Devoir](#), November 2, 2018, Montreal

NATIONAL AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Like the jury, the 520 spectators who availed themselves of their vote also expressed their appreciation for *Close / Close*, but it was equally conferred on *Elles ont peint le crépuscule de noir et de blanc* by **Sophie Dupuis**, originally from New Brunswick. As a result, the Award will be shared by both composers. Inspired by Gregory Crewdson photographs, Sophie Dupuis' work was perceived as “an attractive work with lots of instrumental colors and effects, to reflect successively brightness and darkness.” Others noted that *Elles ont peint le crépuscule de noir et de blanc* “manages to put the listener in a position similar to an exhibition where each work would make the visitor experience a different emotion, form joy to discomfort.”

“In a sumptuously orchestrated piece, the composer Sophie Dupuis brings us into an emotional maelstrom.”

Normand Babin, [Neomemoire](#), November 13, 2018, Toronto

NATIONAL LAUNCH GRANTS

To highlight their full commitment to the project as well as the remarkable quality of their respective pieces, *L'inévitable idéalisme* and *Sweet Tooth*, **Patrick Giguère** (QC) and **Thierry Tidrow** (ON), each received a **Generation National LAUNCH Grant** of \$500, on top of the original funding of the *Generation* commission, as is the case for the other composers.

The Canadian tour in review

During this cross-country journey, a total of **750 spectators** attended the eight ECM+'s *Generation2018* concerts. The program, hosted with expertise and humour by composer and vocalist **Gabriel Dharmoo**, fired the enthusiasm of the different audiences and jury members who mentioned the high level of each of the *Generation2018* pieces as well as the now-recognized essential nature of the ECM+ project in developing Canada's young musical creativity.

“True to its reputation, ECM+ has proven how this music, when thoroughly crafted, can spread its wings in an engaging, joyful and lush performance [...]. At the helm of this adventure, conductor Véronique Lacroix looms above as a caring bird.”

Éric Champagne, [cettevilleétrange](#), November 11, 2018, Montreal

A few words about James O'Callaghan

James O'Callaghan is a composer and sound artist based in Montreal praised for his “mastery of materials and musical form” (Electromania, Radio France). His music has been described as “very personal ... with its own colour anchored in the unpredictable.” (Goethe-Institut) and has been the recipient of many national and international first prizes, including the ISCM Young Composer Award (2017), the Salvatore Martirano Award (2016), the Robert Fleming Prize (2015), the Jeu de Temps/Times Play Awards and the SOCAN Foundation John Weinzweig Grand Prize (2014). He received his Master's in composition from McGill University in 2014. <http://www.jamesocallaghan.ca>

A few words about Sophie Dupuis

Born in New Brunswick, Sophie Dupuis was awarded the 2016 Karen Kieser Prize in Canadian Music for her work *Perceptions de la Fontaine*. Her orchestral music has been performed by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia and the Orchestre philharmonique du Haut-Saint-Jean, while her music for ensemble has been premiered by such renowned outfits as Caution Tape Sound Collective, the Thin Edge New Music Ensemble, the Array Ensemble and Architek Percussion. <https://www.sophiedupuismusic.com>

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¹ See the list of experts on the following page.

Voting members of the *Generation2018* National JURY Award

Quebec

Sandeep Bhagwati, Composer and Professor – Concordia University
Guillaume Bourgogne, Conductor and Professor – McGill University
Nicolas Gilbert, Composer and Professor – Conservatoire de musique de Montréal
Chris Paul Harman, Composer and Professor – McGill University
Jean Lesage, Composer and Professor – McGill University
Éric Morin, Composer and Professor – Université Laval
Yannick Plamondon, Composer and Professor – Conservatoire de musique de Québec
John Rea, Composer and Professor – McGill University
Pierre-Olivier Roy, Artistic Director – Erreur de Type 27
Ana Sokolović, Composer and Professor – University of Montreal
Marc Wieser, Conductor, Special Artistic Projects – Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Ontario

John Armstrong, Composer and Professor – University of Ottawa
Brian Current, Composer and Conductor
Ian Cusson, Composer
Alice Ho, Composer
Kelly-Marie Murphy, Composer and Professor – University of Ottawa
Gregory Oh, Pianist and Conductor
Alex Pauk, Musical Director, Conductor and Founder – Esprit Orchestra
Ryan Scott, Artistic Director and Percussionist – Continuum Contemporary Music
Stefani Truant, Associate Artistic Administrator – National Arts Centre Orchestra
James Wright, Composer and Professor – Carleton University, Ottawa

Manitoba

Gordon Fitzell, Composer and Professor – University of Manitoba
Orjan Sandred, Composer and Professor – University of Manitoba

Alberta

Pierre Boulet, Consultant and Professor – Ashbury College, Ottawa
Kyle Brenders, Program Manager for Performing Arts – Banff Centre for arts and creativity
Vincent Ho, Composer
Mark McGregor, Flutist – Tempest Flute Ensemble
Laurie Radford, Composer and Professor – University of Calgary
Mark Wold, Managing Director, Artistic Program Planning – Banff Centre for arts and creativity

British Columbia

Dorothy Chang, Composer and Professor – University of British Columbia
Keith Hamel, Composer and Professor – University of British Columbia
Jocelyn Morlock, Composer in residence at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Bob Pritchard, Composer and Professor – University of British Columbia
Jeff Ryan, Composer
Farshid Samandari, Composer and Artistic Director – Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra
Rodney Sharman, Composer
Owen Underhill, Composer, Professor and Artistic Director – Simon Fraser University / Turning Point Ensemble

