



News release | For immediate release

## ECM+/Orford *Generation* composition Prize

*ECM+ unveils the winner*

**Montréal, August 20, 2020** – Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+) and its artistic director Véronique Lacroix are pleased to announce that, following Orford Musique’s Summer Academy 2020, **Jules Bastin-Fontaine’s** work *L’Heure Joyeuse* for solo piano wins the new *Generation* ECM+/Orford Composition Award.

Jules Bastin-Fontaine’s piece was selected among the new works of seven other talented young composers: Antoine Goudreau, Massimo Guida, Paul Kawabe, Pallas-Athena Loredó, Ron Berman, Jenny Tian and Tomás Díaz Villegas. The winner will have the opportunity to see his composition performed by the ECM+ as part of its *Generation2020* concert at Orford Music on October 29, 2020 at 2 p.m.. He also wins a \$500 scholarship valid for the 2021 Academy.

With a very high level of artistic quality overall, the final choice has proved quite challenging for the jury comprising the three members of the artistic staff of the Orford New Music Academy: composers Dorothy Chang and Jocelyn Morlock and ECM+ artistic director Véronique Lacroix.

« Jules Bastin-Fontaine’s composition for solo piano, *The Joyful Hour*, is incisive, beautiful, and disturbing. Stark and understated, the work haunts the listener with its delicate poignancy. »  
Comments of the jury, Orford, August, 2020

### **L’Heure Joyeuse** program note

*L’Heure Joyeuse* (in English *The Joyful Hour*) is a piece about helplessness, fatality, but also hope. Except for the central section, which offers another point of view to the drama of the piece, *The Joyful Hour* is entirely composed using 3 quotes (the Brahms’s *Lullaby*, *Musique* by Michel Berger and sung by France Gall and *Swimming Pools* by Kendrick Lamar). The piece is the portrait of a complex situation, with its hopes and disenchantments, from the perspective of the witness. In the context, the three quotes are like reassuring and fleeting gleams in the darkness, intermittently turning on and off.

### **A few words about Jules Bastin-Fontaine**



Jules Bastin-Fontaine is a 20 year old composer and tuba player from Quebec City now studying these two disciplines at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, under the supervision of composer Jimmie Leblanc.

In 2019, his piece *Trio en hommage à Bruckner* was awarded the “Relève VVA 2019 Prize” by E27 musiques nouvelles within the Viens voir ailleurs Festival, as well as the SOCAN Foundation “Serge Garant Young composer Prize” for a Canadian chamber music work.

### **About the *Generation* project**

The only project of its kind in Canada, *Generation* discovers young composers and provides them with a unique environment for musical research and exploration involving live experimentation with musicians as well as a large exposure to the Canadian professional musical scene. Since 1994, the *Generation* project has steered 61 Canadian composers with 71 concerts, 10 Canadian tours and 83 composition workshops.

Since 2010, the *AUDIENCE Choice Award* allows the audience of each city to vote for their favorite composition. The author of the winning work receives a \$2,000 grant. Created in 2014 for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, the *JURY Award* is awarded by votes from approximately 40 experts from the Canadian new music scene. As part of a new partnership with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal launched for *Generation2020* and in addition to the \$3,000 grant given by ECM+, the winner of this prize will receive a commission worth \$8,000 from the prestigious OSM. The 10 min. orchestral piece will be presented in the OSM’s 2021-2022 season.

#### ***Generation2020* Tour**

**Autumn 2020:**  
MONTREAL – October 20, 7:30 p.m.  
QUEBEC – October 21  
ORFORD – October 29, 2 p.m.

**Spring 2021:**  
OTTAWA – May 6  
TORONTO – May 14  
KITCHENER WATERLOO – 1 May 5  
VANCOUVER – June 5

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