



CALGARY VIOLONCELLIST TAKES \$8,000 TOP PRIZE

Edmonton, AB – On **Saturday, May 16, 2015** – after two days of amazing and very high calibre competition – violoncellist **Mari Coetzee** (18 years old), originally from South Africa and currently studying in Calgary, was awarded the **\$8,000 top prize** in **The Shean Strings Competition**. She has also won the opportunity to play with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at a future date. Ms. Coetzee was one of 6 finalists chosen from the 20 submitted entries to compete in The 2015 Shean Strings Competition on May 15 and 16 in Edmonton, AB.

The complete results of The Shean Strings Competition are as follows:

- First Place and \$8,000 – Mari Coetzee, violoncello (Calgary, AB)
- Second Place and \$5,000 – Esther Hwang, violin (Vancouver, BC)
- Third Place and \$4,000 – Edmund Chung, violin (Vancouver, BC)
- Fourth Place and \$3,000 – Christina (Jung Yun) Choi, violin (Toronto, ON)
- Fifth Place and \$2,000 – Tate Zawadiuk, violoncello (Coquitlam, BC)
- Sixth Place and \$2,000 – Enoch Ng, viola (Vancouver, BC)

Mari Coetzee also won the **\$1,000 Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for Best Performance of the Test Piece** – *Variations on a Theme by Rossini*, H. 290 by Bohuslav Martinů.

The adjudicators for this year's Competition were **David Hoyt**, Chair; **Nathan Cook** (violoncello), and **Gil Sharon** (violin).

The 2016 Shean Piano Competition takes place May 20 and 21 in Edmonton with an \$8,000 Top Prize and the opportunity to perform with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. The \$1,000 Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for Best Performance of the Test Piece will also be awarded.

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