



**PIANIST FROM
OTTERBURN PARK, QUÉBEC
TAKES \$8,000 TOP PRIZE**

Edmonton, AB – On **Saturday, May 19, 2018** – after two days of amazing and very high calibre competition – pianist **Élisabeth Pion** (22 years old), from Otterburn Park, Québec, who just finished at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal and will be going to study at Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, UK, was awarded the **\$8,000 top prize** in **The Shean Piano Competition**. She has also won the opportunity to play with the **Edmonton Symphony Orchestra** at a future date. Ms. Pion was one of 6 finalists chosen from the 16 submitted entries to compete in The 2018 Shean Piano Competition on May 18 and 19 in Edmonton, AB, Canada.

The complete results of the Competition are as follows (hometowns in parentheses):

- **First Place** and \$8,000, plus the opportunity to play with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra – **Élisabeth Pion** (Otterburn Park, QC)
- **Second Place** and \$5,000 – **Kerry Waller** (Ardrossan, AB)
- **Third Place** and \$4,000 – **David Potvin** (Toronto, ON)
- **Fourth Place** and \$3,000 – **Bryn Blackwood** (Simcoe, ON)
- **Fifth Place** and \$2,000 – **Karnsiri Laothamatas** (Chiang Rai, Thailand)
- **Sixth Place** and \$2,000 – **Nicole Linaksita** (Vancouver, QC)

Bryn Blackwood won the **\$1,000 Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for Best Performance of the Test Piece** – *Paraphrase de concert sur Rigoletto*, S.434 by Franz Liszt.

The adjudicators for this year’s Shean Piano Competition were **David Hoyt**, Chair; **Brian Preston**, and **Elier Suárez**.

The 2019 Shean Strings Competition (for violin, viola, and violoncello) takes place May 17 and 18, 2019 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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