

Verna Mae Janzen

18th annual
music competition 2023



***Final Round* | March 23, 7:00 PM**

Laudamus Auditorium, Canadian Mennonite University
500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB
Jurors: Lida Szkwarek, Jenny Regehr | **Pianist:** Verna Wiebe

Verna Mae Janzen

MUSIC COMPETITION 2023

EMILY LANGE, SOPRANO

“On the Steps of the Palace” from *Into the Woods*
Rêverie

Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

“Batti, batti, o bel Masetto” from *Don Giovanni*
Nacht und Träume

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

GEORG NEUHOFER, PIANO

8 Concert Etudes Op. 40

Nikolai Kapustin (1937-2020)

Etude No. 7 – “Intermezzo”

Sonata No. 2 “Sonata-Fantasia” Op. 19

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

I. Andante

Nocturne

Liam Berry (b. 1995)

Bagatelle no. 8

Mazurka in F-sharp minor Op. 6 No. 1

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

CARRIE SCHULTZ, SOPRANO

“Chi sa, chi sa, qual sia”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Verborgenheit

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

“Ich hab in Penna”

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

“No One Else” from *Natasha, Pierre, and The Great Comet of 1812*

Dave Malloy (b. 1976)

ANNE GRACE KELM, *PIANO*

Bagatelles op. 126

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

I. Andante con moto

II. Allegro

Miroirs

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Une Barque sur L'Océan

Etude in D-sharp minor Op. 8 no. 12

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

WILLIAM HARDER, *VIOLIN*

Violin Partita no. 3

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Preludio

Whispering

Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928-2016)

Violin Sonata No. 3: Ballade

Eugene Ysaye (1858-1931)

HUDSON THIESSEN, *PIANO*

Toccatina in E minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

I. Un poco allegro

II. Adagio

Decorations

John Ireland (1879-1962)

I. The Island Spell

Ships

Eugene Goossens (1893-1962)

I. The Tug

MAGNOLIA HOLLANDER, *SOPRANO*

“Laudamus te” from *Mass in C minor*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

“Je veux vivre” from *Romeo and Juliet*

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

“So much better” from *Legally Blonde*

Laurence O’Keefe (b. 1969)

Competitor Biographies

Violinist **William Harder** is currently studying music at Canadian Mennonite University. He has been playing the violin since the age of five, and is studying with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Gwen Hoebig. He has played in the Winnipeg Youth Symphony for three years, and has held the position of Assistant Concertmaster. William has been playing in the Winnipeg Music Festival for many years and has played in numerous trophy classes, including the Aikins Memorial Trophy. In 2018, he was the winner of the intermediate instrumentalist category for the MRMTA Scholarship Competition. In May 2022, William performed the first movement of Paganini's first Violin Concerto with the Mennonite Community Orchestra. In addition, he has attended Rosamunde Summer Music Academy for four years, and has attended Valhalla Summer School of Music.

Born and raised in Winnipeg Manitoba, **Magnolia Hollander** has been involved in music for as long as she can remember. Starting with piano lessons at age five and voice lessons at age 10, Magnolia has always had a love for music. Growing up, she was involved in countless festivals and school music programs. Magnolia has had the privilege of studying at both the University of Manitoba and CMU. During her time at the U of M she studied piano in the classical program as well as voice in the jazz program. In the past year, Magnolia has transferred to CMU and is studying classical voice. She is currently pursuing two degrees, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Magnolia is looking forward to performing at Verna Mae this year, her first post-pandemic performance.

Anne Grace Kelm is in her final semester of a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance degree at Canadian Mennonite University. She has been playing the piano since age four and is currently studying with Shirley Elias. Her musical interests and experiences include playing piano recitals in the community (or on YouTube during lockdowns), teaching piano students, singing in choral and church settings, leading music for worship services, directing a small choir, collaborating with other musicians, and organizing a music-themed summer camp for kids. Guiding her approach and vision in music are Bach's timeless words: "The chief and final end of all music ought to be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

Emily Lange has been singing since age three. Growing up, she was introduced to the Jazz, Classical, and Opera TV music channels; around age seven, after seeing her first opera, Carmen, at the Centennial Concert Hall, she declared that she would one day be an opera singer. At age nine, after much pleading, Emily's mother signed her up for voice lessons with Judy Oatway at the Community School of Music and Arts. Now in university, Emily has slowly been learning the wonders of portraying a song's character with her voice and as she continues to work on the character analysis, she is learning to appreciate each song's unique character created by the composers.

Georg Neuhofer (he/him) is a 22-year-old pianist from Inglis, Manitoba who is currently in his fourth year at CMU studying classical piano with Shirley Elias as part of a Bachelor of Music Education degree. Georg has performed in several competitions, winning the AMAF provincial festival in 2013 and attaining second place in CMU's Verna Mae Janzen competition in 2021. Georg is currently a Manitoba Opera Student Ambassador and was selected this year as one of Virtuosi's 2022/23 Young Artists. Georg currently teaches piano at the Community School of Music and the Arts. Besides piano, Georg also enjoys singing in CMU Singers, the TB Chamber Choir, and playing saxophone in the jazz band at CMU. Georg is excited to be performing in this year's Verna Mae Janzen competition.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, **Carrie Schulz** (she/her) is finishing her undergraduate degree, studying music and psychology, this spring. Carrie began singing at a young age, participating in community choirs, and being involved in various school music programs. Throughout this time, she began performing in musicals as well as provincial and Winnipeg music festivals. This past year, Carrie was awarded first place in the MB NATS Scholarship competition for Advanced Musical Theatre, as well as a runner-up in the Winnipeg Music Festival's Tudor Bowl. Carrie loves opportunities to perform, having sung in the 2022 National Youth Choir of Canada, and is a member of the award-winning choir Prairie Voices. This summer, Carrie is looking forward to travelling to Edmonton to participate in Opera NUOVA's five-week musical theatre program for emerging artists. Carrie is excited and grateful to be performing at Verna Mae this year.

Hudson Thiessen has been playing the piano since he was three years old. He has won three medals of excellence for achieving the highest mark in Conservatory Canada Piano examinations for the province. He currently studies with Shirley Elias. Hudson enjoys collaborating with other musicians, with a particular fondness for musical theatre productions. Some of his favourite works are by Rachmaninoff, Dvořák, and Holst. While not at a piano, Hudson loves to perform with choirs, whether they be vocal or handbell ensembles. Hudson is very excited for the opportunity to compete in the Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition, and would like to thank everybody who supports him.

Adjudicator Biographies

LIDA SZKWAREK, SOPRANO

Ukrainian-Canadian soprano Lida Szkwarek has established herself as a prominent artist on the Canadian opera scene. Most recently she performed in Manitoba Opera's production of Menotti's *The Telephone* in the role of Lucy as part of their 2021/22 season. Other recent performances include soloist in Manitoba Opera's *Sopranos of Winnipeg Concert* (2020), Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* with Edmonton Opera (2019) and the title role in Estacio's *Filumena* with Calgary Opera (2017). Other past performances include Micaëla (*Carmen*) Edmonton Opera, Erste Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*) Calgary Opera, Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) Saskatoon Opera and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) The Banff Centre. Ms. Szkwarek has also performed with several of Canada's finest symphonies including Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Guelph Symphony Orchestra and Niagara Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the Calgary Emerging Artist Program, Ms. Szkwarek had the opportunity to sing on the Met stage as a semi-finalist in the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions.

In addition to performing, Ms. Szkwarek is currently a voice instructor at the Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts since 2019. She has taught voice with several schools across Canada since 2011 while also maintaining a private voice studio out of her home.

JENNY REGEHR, PIANO

Jenny Regehr is well known across Canada for her solo recitals, duo and chamber music performances and Lieder collaborations. She has performed with many of Canada's leading musicians in university and concert series across the country. For many years she was the harpsichordist and pianist of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

As a faculty member of the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ms. Regehr was a senior piano and pedagogy instructor. As a versatile and highly effective teacher, her studio has included those embarking on performance careers, gifted young pianists and teachers wishing to further their training, as well as students, who are active in other professions while avidly pursuing the piano. Her students have gone on to performing careers in major international centers and to be leading teachers in their communities. All have been inspired by her ability to tailor her teaching to their particular situation, and by her wholehearted dedication.

She is beloved for the master classes and teacher workshops she has given across Canada and is highly respected as an adjudicator of festivals and competitions. Ms. Regehr was also a long standing senior piano examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has performed and taught at summer music festivals in Canada, the United States and Europe and has been invited for a number of teaching residencies at the renowned Central Conservatory in Beijing as well as at the Shanghai Conservatory. She has also served on an international panel of adjudicators at the prestigious Hong Kong Schools Music Festival.



Verna Mae Janzen

Verna Mae Janzen was born in Chicago, Illinois. Her studies and career focused on teaching gifted children and later working with children with learning disabilities. We met at the University of Illinois and married in 1966. Our life together took us to Ottawa, then to Chalk River, Ontario. Sadly, Verna died of cancer in 1989.

Although we were not always part of a Mennonite community, I followed the creation of Canadian Mennonite University with great interest. This sponsorship is my small contribution towards its success. But why a music competition? Verna and I met through our interest in choral singing, and everywhere we settled we joined or started a house-singing group. This is my way of supporting the singing we loved.

I always dreamed of someday dedicating a memorial to my wife—a wonderful loving, sensitive, intelligent and happy companion. Through the Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition at CMU, I can keep her memory alive.

Upcoming CMU Events

- March 28** Open House | 10:00 AM
- March 29** Virtual Open House | 6:00 PM CDT
- April 6** Tacos and Trivia: A CMU Alumni Event | 5:30 PM
- April 26** Virtual Open House | 6:00 PM CDT
- April 28** Spring at CMU | 7:30 PM
- May 25** Alumni Open Gym Night | 7:00 PM
- June 1** Learn & Connect Alumni Webinar | 12:00 PM CDT
- June 5-16** Canadian School of Peacebuilding
- June 14** Public Lecture: Going Local with International Crises:
The Storytelling Dilemma with Monika Kalcsics | 7:00 PM
- June 14** CMU Golf Classic | Bridges Golf Course
- June 14** Professional Development Event | Dignifying Story Angles: The Ethics
of Representation Dilemma | 8:30 AM–5:00 PM