

Verna Mae Janzen

19th annual
music competition 2024



***Final Round* | March 21, 7:00 PM**

Laudamus Auditorium, Canadian Mennonite University
500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB

Jurors: Lizzy Hoyt, Andrea Bell

Pianists: Verna Wiebe, Cheryl Pauls | **Guitarist:** Dan Keding

Verna Mae Janzen

MUSIC COMPETITION 2024

ARIELLE BEAUPRÉ

“Hold On”	Alabama Shakes (b. 1988)
“Manhã de Carnaval”	Luiz Bonfá (1922 - 2001)
“Warmer”	Arielle Beaupré (b. 1997)
“Tough Lover”	Etta James (1938 - 2012) and Joe Josea (1925 - 2013)

AVA CAMPBELL-ENNS

“The Glory of the Day Was In Her Face”	Florence Price (1887-1953)
“La pastorella dell’Alpi”	Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
“La promessa”	Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
“Pierrot”	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

EMILY MYERS

“Un poete disait” from <i>Clarières dan le ciel</i>	Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)
“My Mother’s Hands” from <i>A Red, Red Heart</i>	John Greer (b. 1944)
“I più bei fior comprate” from <i>La diorama fiorentina</i>	Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

JACOB KENNY

“Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast” from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)
“La flor de aguapé” from <i>Flores Argentinas</i>	Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000)
“Black is the color of my true love’s hair”	John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

CAROLYNNE BRACKEN

Preach Sister, Preach

Evan Mack (b.1981)

“Simone de Beauvoir”

“Mae West”

“Daphne du Maurier”

“Je te veux”

Erik Satie (1866-1925)

“Maybe This Time” from *Cabaret*

John Kander (1927), Fred Ebb (1928-2004)

VINA DIMAYUGA

“Gimme Gimme” from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*

Jeanine Tesori and Dick Scanlan (b. 1961 & b. 1960)

“Never Enough”

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (b. 1985)

“Ano Kaya Ang Kapalaran”

Francisco Santiago (1889-1947)

“Astonishing” from *Little Women The Musical*

Jason Howland and Mindi Dickstein (b. 1971 & b. 1993)

WILL HARDER

Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Allegro

Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Major

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Allegro molto

Competitor Biographies

Born and raised in Montreal, **Arielle Beaupré** started singing at a young age. She also took piano lessons for a few years, and was singing Kelly Clarkson at the piano by age 7. It wasn't until high school that she began to teach herself guitar and relearn piano to self-accompany. She sought out opportunities to perform in talent shows and musicals into Cegep, and went on to study jazz at Bishop's University before moving to Winnipeg in 2019. She was singing and playing in bands in the city when she discovered Canadian Mennonite University's music therapy program. Her vocal style and training has varied a lot over the years from pop to jazz to folk-rock, and now leans heavily into blues. These styles intermingle in her personal compositions. She is grateful for the opportunity to participate, and excited to showcase a variety of styles in this year's Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition!

Ava Campbell-Enns (soprano) is in her final semester of a Bachelor of Social Science (counselling) degree at Canadian Mennonite University. She began taking voice lessons for credit in fall of 2023 with Judy Oatway and has quickly found a passion for vocal technique. Growing up, Ava enjoyed singing in choirs both in school and with Pembina Trails Voices and has always has at least one instrument on the go whether they be for casual or competitive purposes. At the age of four she was introduced to the piano until switching to violin at 8 years old which she continued to play until after her time with the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra. Music has always been a large part of Ava's life and she is excited and thankful for opportunities such as the Verna Mae Janzen Competition that allow her to explore her relationship with music.

Emily Myers is a soprano in her final semester of a Bachelor of Music Education degree at Canadian Mennonite University. She began taking private voice lessons at the age of 8, however her house was filled with music from as early as she can remember. Some of Emily's most impactful musical experiences have been performing at David Geffen and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, competing in The Winnipeg Music Festival and NATS every year, and working with Manitoba Opera as a Student Ambassador and chorus member in their production of 'Li Keur'. Emily is beyond grateful to be performing in this year's Verna Mae Janzen competition and would like to thank everyone who has supported her throughout her time at CMU.

Jacob Kenny is a second year student at CMU, studying for his undergraduate degree in music. He began singing when he was 8 years old with the Winnipeg Boys Choir. Often leading music and worship at his church, he decided at the age of 16 to begin singing solo repertoire in order to be able to lead better, and primarily to offer a gift to God. Studying with Amber Morphy, Jacob quickly developed a love for singing beyond worship music and has pursued his studies with eagerness and excitement. Currently studying with Dr. Matthew Pauls, Jacob is looking forward to learning more about the voice through practice and performance, and is excited to perform in this year's Verna Mae competition.

Carolynne Bracken, mezzo-soprano, is in her 4th year of a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in early years music education. She began to pursue singing at an early age due to her grandfather's love for karaoke. She performs different styles but has a particular love for musical theatre. She has been studying voice with her teacher Judy Oatway for seven years and was inspired to attend CMU because of her. Carolynne spends her weekends singing Disney songs as a party princess for children's birthdays! Carolynne is honored to be performing in the Verna Mae Janzen competition.

Vina Dimayuga (she/her) is pursuing a Bachelor of Music Therapy degree, studying voice with Katy Hedalen-Shariff. Vina began her musical journey at a young age by joining school, church, and community choirs, as well as participating in the Pearl of the Orient Philippine Pavilion during Folklorama, where she is currently in her fourth year of teaching performing arts and Philippine folk dance. Outside of CMU, Vina is also pursuing musical theatre and was awarded first place in the 2023 Provincial Music and Arts Festival for Advanced Musical Theatre, as well as a runner-up for Winnipeg Music Festival's Rainbow Stage Trophy. Last Summer, she also starred in MA-BUHAY! The Road to Rainbow Stage in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Vina is excited to be performing in this year's Verna Mae Janzen music competition.

Violinist **Will Harder** is currently studying music at Canadian Mennonite University. He has been playing the violin since age 5, and is studying with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Gwen Hoebig. He has played in the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra 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 2023, William was the recipient of the Victor Feldbrill Trophy, awarded for the most outstanding Solo String performance during the Winnipeg Music Festival.

Adjudicator Biographies

LIZZY HOYT

Few vocalists authentically cross genres at the highest levels and maintain professional careers in both areas—but Lizzy Hoyt is one of them.

Praised by Opera Canada for both her dramatic depth and keen comedic gifts, Ms. Hoyt’s recent performances include her “dazzling” debut as Cinderella in Rossini’s *La Cenerentola* for Manitoba Opera and Brott Opera, her role debut as Ruggiero in Handel’s *Alcina* for Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Rossini’s dramatic cantata *Giovanna d’Arco* with Orchestra Borealis, as well as a world-premiere performance of *The Ruins of Time* by Kevin Lau, commissioned for *Lizzy* by the MCO. Other notable roles include Julia Child in Hoiby’s *Bon Appétit* (Little Opera Company), Dido in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, and Béatrice in Berlioz’s *Béatrice et Bénédict* (Manitoba Underground Opera).

A nationally recognized Celtic songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist (fiddle, guitar, harp), she won the “Traditional Singer of the Year” award at the 2023 Canadian Folk Music Awards. In addition to her five independent albums, Lizzy has released multiple music video projects, and has given countless concert tours throughout the country since transitioning to full time in 2009. She has been recognized with numerous other awards/nominations including the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding contribution to commemorating Canadian veterans and history through music, Canadian Folk Music Awards, Western Canadian Music Awards, International Acoustic Music Awards, and Independent Music Awards.

@LizzyHoytMusic

ANDREA BELL

Born in Winnipeg, Andrea Bell holds Bachelor Degrees in Music and Education from the University of Manitoba and a Masters Degree in Cello Performance from the University of British Columbia.

Andrea is the founding member and cellist of the Rembrandt String Quartet. A passionate music educator, Ms. Bell is the Director of the String Orchestra Program at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, where she also teaches French. She maintains a vibrant private cello studio and is the Director of the “Mini-Rosie” program at the Rosamunde Summer Music Academy at CMU. Andrea has taught cello, conducted youth orchestras and adjudicated music festivals across Manitoba and Saskatchewan and in Perth, Australia. Andrea is the conductor of the Winnipeg Mennonite Community Orchestra and the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra.



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

- April 10** Alumni Tacos and Trivia Night | 5:00–8:00 PM | Marpeck Commons, 2299 Grant Ave.
- April 16** Face2Face – Let’s Get Dirty: The Lowdown on Earth’s Fabric in your own Yard | 7:00 PM | Marpeck Commons, 2299 Grant Ave.
- April 26** Spring at CMU | 7:00 PM | Loewen Athletic Centre and via livestream
- April 27** CMU Convocation | 6:00 PM | Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford Street
- June 12** CMU 23rd Annual Golf Classic | Bridges Golf Course
- June 19** Faspa on the Lawn | 6:30 PM | Marpeck Commons area