

National Mary Gardiner Award of Performance Excellence

It was my pleasure to adjudicate the first annual National Mary Gardiner Award of Performance Excellence, presented by friends and family in celebration of the life and work of the distinguished composer Mary Gardiner. Mary was committed to music and its performance at the highest levels of technique and inspiration, but she wasn't fond of the idea of competition "winners" with its implications of "winners" --- and "losers". For Mary, everyone involved in music was part of a life-enhancing creative endeavor of great and lasting value.

In this spirit I want to commend all the young musicians who have made the music of a number of Canadian composers live through their performances and to encourage others to try for this prestigious award in future years. I would like to single out three participants for having created interpretations of extraordinary distinction.

The recipients of this first-ever Mary Gardiner Award are:

Senior level (tie):

Quinn Gomez, piano (Calgary)

Elaina Moreau, soprano (Toronto)

Junior level:

Cameron Hay, piano (Toronto)

David G. Duke

adjudicator