

# Eckhardt-Gramatté National Competition 2024 Winner's Tour

**Justin Saulnier** *violin*  
**Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse** *piano*

Wednesday, October 30, 2024  
Roy Barnett Recital Hall, UBC





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2024 Winner's Tour

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Justin Saulnier *violin*  
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Program

Violin Sonata No. 4 "Children's day" Charles Ives  
(1874-1954)

Let the Stain Remain Melody McKiver

Violin Sonata Dinuk Wijeratne  
(b. 1978)

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*Please remember to turn off your phones, and note that photography  
and recording are not permitted.*

We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this  
performance on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the  
x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam).

# Justin Saulnier *violin*

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Justin Saulnier is an 18-year-old Canadian violinist. He made his orchestral solo debut at age 12 with the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra and has since performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Canada's National Arts Center Orchestra, The Pembroke Symphony Orchestra and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra. He has also been invited to play with the Orchestre Métropolitain under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin this spring. Justin has received many awards, notably the first prize in the NACO Bursary Competition, second prize in the Concours OSM, the grand prize in the Orchestre Métropolitain OMNI Competition, and the OMFA's provincial competition.

Justin has also enjoyed being concertmaster in the Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra, and the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra, among others.

He is pursuing his undergraduate degree at McGill University with Andrew Wan. Justin plays on a 1680 Ruggeri violin from Cremona, generously loaned to him by Canimex.

*"I am thrilled to have been selected for the final round of the Eckhardt-Gramatté. I am excited to present a varied repertoire containing works from Sokolovic, Schnittke, and Wijeratne. It would mean a lot to me to be able to perform my program in the Canadian tour because I want to share these wonderful works with audiences across the country and make contemporary music more accessible." ~ Justin Saulnier*

# Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse *piano*

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Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse is one of the most requested collaborative pianists and chamber musicians in the Montreal scene. Professor at the Trois-Rivières Conservatory of Music Rivières, he also accompanied numerous instrumentalists and singers from the University of Montreal and McGill during their musical training. He also collaborated with several recognized Quebec institutions, notably I Musici de Montreal, the OSM Competition, Ballet-Opéra-Pantomime or Orford Music.

Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse holds a doctorate in music performance from the University of Montreal and a master's degree from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. Among his teachers are Jean Saulnier, Roland Keller, Marc Durand and Christiane Claude. His musical activities have led him to perform across Quebec and to the rest of the Canada. He has also won prizes in several national and international competitions, such as the Shean Competition in Edmonton, the Trois-Rivières Symphony Orchestra competition, the Prix d'Europe and the Julia Crane international competition in the United States.

# Program notes

## Charles Ives - Violin Sonata No. 4 "Children's Day"

Charles Ives was among the first American composers to achieve recognition at the global stage. Born in Danbury, Connecticut, Ives's family was prominent in business and civic improvement. He, himself, became an actuary and businessman later in life. Very young, Ives was inspired by his father's marching band, and the latter taught him and his brother theory and counterpoint, exploring bitonality and polytonality, one of Ives's most idiomatic musical attributes. Ives wrote many songs and chamber pieces about his childhood, the fourth violin sonata being one of them. Nicknamed "Children's Day at Camp Meeting", Ives wrote that he was intending for it to be played by Moss White, then only about twelve years old, but he was unable to play the last two movements. Each movement is inspired by a different traditional American hymn. Ives's work was mostly ignored during his lifetime. Notably, this sonata was composed circa 1916, the last of his four, and was only premiered in 1940.

## Melody McKiver - Let the Stain Remain

Melody McKiver is establishing themselves as a prominent figure in the Canadian musical scene. An Anishinaabe composer, violist and drummer/percussionist based in Treaty #1, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Melody is currently Associate Professor of Indigenous Music at the Desautels Faculty of music and the University of Manitoba. They are praised for their unique sound world and refreshing creativity both in composition and in performance. Growing up as a classically trained violinist in Ottawa, Melody quickly started experimenting with other types and genres of music. They frequently use electronic music and improvisation to blur the lines between performance and composition. *Let the Stain Remain* pushes the performer to question the truths of classical music as we know it today, and consider new ways of "reading", listening, and interpreting music. It draws inspiration from Indigenous artists such as André 3000 and Nicholas Galanin. It also addresses Ferdinand Eckhardt's unrightful appointment to the order of the Buffalo Hunt. It was recently discovered that Eckhardt, Sophie-Carmen Eckhart-Gramatté's husband, had pledged an oath of allegiance to the Nazis, and that his name should therefore be scratched from the Order of Manitoba. Premier Wabanakwut Kinew made a speech in which he deems Eckhardt unworthy of the title and that it would be disrespectful to let his name disappear into history. Instead, we must Let the Stain Remain.

## Dinuk Wijeratne - Violin Sonata

JUNO award winner Dinuk Wijeratne is one of Canada's most versatile contemporary musicians. A composer, conductor and pianist, his works are regularly performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Opera Bastille, Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center. Wijeratne studied composition at the Juilliard school with Oscar-winning composer John Corigliano. He currently teaches composition and conducting at the University of Ottawa. He composed his *Violin Sonata* at the ripe age of 19. Although its form is quite classical, it uses elements of oriental music such as Indian mode scales and irregular rhythms. The first movement, although metered, has constantly changing figures of sixteenth notes, blurring the bar lines and projecting a hypnotic quality. The second movement, titled "Flautist on the rock", aims to mirror the sound of a beautiful wooden flute playing through the wind. The calm atmosphere is suddenly broken by a fury of notes in the piano and violin that propel the piece to a close in perpetual motion sickness!



The 2025 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition is open to piano (See <http://e-gre.ca> for details). The first-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$6,000 and a Canadian tour (recital fees approximately \$5,000).



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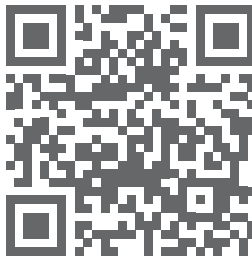
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