

# Opera creator winners announced for \$50,000 Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2022-23

Montreal, Quebec, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022



The 2022-23 winners for the third edition of the **\$50,000 Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes** announced today in Montreal will create four new contemporary Canadian operas to be premiered in 2024. Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2022-23 is awarded to teams of emerging Canadian female or non-binary composers and librettists in three categories: French Language work, work by BIPOC creators (Black, Indigenous or Person of Colour), and English Language work. Winners receive seed funding, mentorship and dramaturgy by opera composer & dramaturg Luna Pearl Woolf, and funding support for a musical workshop.

## Winners 2022-23 Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes: (winner details on following page)

**French Language** work: Analia Llugdar, composer (Montréal/Argentina)

**Indigenous** (BIPOC) work: Alejandra Odgers, composer (Montréal/Mexico) & Nicole O'Bomsawin, librettist (Odanak, Québec)

**English Language** work: Rebecca Gray, composer and Rachel Gray, librettist (Ottawa)

**French Language** work - ***Encouragement Prize***: Danaë Ménard-Bélanger, composer & Maïa Ménard-Bélanger, librettist (Montréal)

## ABOUT MÉCÉNAT MUSICA PRIX 3 FEMMES

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes is an initiative by Montreal's Musique 3 Femmes (M3F), Ensemble Vocal Arts-Québec and Mécénat Musica dedicated to developing new operas by emerging female and non-binary Canadian creators who demonstrate extraordinary promise in opera creation. The biennial award supports emerging female and non-binary composers and librettists through commission funding for new works, mentorship with industry professionals, and funding support for a musical workshop. The 2022-23 jury comprised of M3F's Kristin Hoff and Jennifer Szeto, and guest jurors Luna Pearl Woolf, composer, dramaturg, CEO of Oxingale Music, and Jaap Nico Hamburger, Mécénat Musica Composer-In-Residence.

## ABOUT MUSIQUE 3 FEMMES

Founded in 2018, Musique 3 Femmes (M3F) is a non-profit ensemble fostering the next generation of Canadian female and non-binary opera creators. Led by artists Kristin Hoff and Jennifer Szeto, M3F will present a Canadian world premiere double-bill Sept 2022 in Berlin with ufaFabrik in operas by Anna Pidgorna and Laurence Jobidon and a co-production of Keiko Devaux's first full-length opera, with JUNO Award-nominated Ensemble Paramirabo in February 2023.

## ABOUT ENSEMBLE VOCAL ARTS-QUÉBEC

Recipient of PRIX OPUS Musical Event of the Year 2020, Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec is a professional choir steeped in the grand traditions of choral music in Québec, with the mission to present professional choral music in Quebec, Canada and internationally.

## ABOUT MÉCÉNAT MUSICA

**Mécénat Musica** is a cultural program by donors for donors. Mécénat Musica program has created \$81,000,000 of in perpetuity capital for Québec cultural organizations with large donations from more than [500 Mécénat Musica individuals and families](#).

## Winners of the 2022-23 Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes

**French Language** work: Analia Llugdar, composer (Montréal/Argentina)

**ANALIA LLUGDAR** is a Canadian-Argentinian composer who is currently based in France. Her catalogue of music includes some 60 pieces for voice, orchestra, chamber music, solo instrument, ballet, opera and mixed music. In her music, we hear: concern for gestures, roughness (Ashpa Rupaj); timbre, density, fineness (Juana); illusion, surrealism (Quimera); musical theater (La Faim Artaud). Her ballet Juana was created as part of the Monaco Danse Forum. In 2017, her piece Ashpa Rupaj was recorded at Radio France studios. She has received several awards for her work throughout her career, including the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Opus Prize for Composer of the Year 08/09 from the Quebec Music Council, the Jules Léger Prize 2008.

**Indigenous (BIPOC)** work: Alejandra Odgers, composer (Montréal/Mexico) & Nicole O'Bomsawin, librettist (Odanak, Québec)

**ALEJANDRA ODGERS**, Mexican-Canadian composer, received her training in both Mexico and Canada - a path which has given her tools to create an expressive and direct musical language which takes its inspiration from different sources. Odgers has composed over 50 works and has been performed by various ensembles and orchestras. Notably, the Orchestre Métropolitain commissioned her to create a new work for the 375th anniversary of Montreal and another work for the opening of Espace 67, which was led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Odgers has won first prizes in composition competitions across Mexico and Canada.

**NICOLE O'BOMSAWIN**, Abenaki anthropologist and author, received her training from University of Montréal. For almost 50 years, Nicole has sought to explore and share the richness of her traditional culture. In the realm of dance, she has toured across Canada, United States, and Europe. She now engages in storytelling through tales and legends. Nicole has received many awards and distinctions for her committed work as an ambassador of First Nations culture in Quebec.

**English Language** work: Rebecca Gray, composer and Rachel Gray, librettist (Ottawa)

**REBECCA GRAY** is a soprano, composer, and improviser passionate about performing and creating fresh, complex, and inclusive new works. As a soprano, she has performed with Pacific Opera Victoria, Esprit Orchestra, Tapestry Opera, Opera Q, and is a member of FAWN chamber creative. She loves contributing to Canada's queer opera scene as a performer and composer, and has presented compositions at Nuit Rose, the Montreal Contemporary Music Lab, the Toronto Creative Music lab, the Atlantic Music Festival, and the Banff Centre. She participated in the Canadian League of Composer's PIVOT mentorship program and the Soundstreams' Young Composer Workshop in 2021.

**RACHEL GRAY** is a Canadian interdisciplinary artist based in Ottawa. Navigating the world with Dyslexia has led her to explore art as a way to create customized language. Her work tries to speak into the places that language leaves blank. She works in drawing, animation, painting, puppetry, podcasting, printmaking, and comics. Her projects have been exhibited at City Hall Art Gallery (Ottawa), General Assembly (Ottawa), Blackhouse (Montreal), Tangled Arts + Disability (Toronto), and in the AIRIE Nest Gallery as part of a residency in the Everglades National Park (Florida). In 2020, Rachel completed her first graphic novel Jess, sections of which are available online.

**French Language** work – *Encouragement Prize*: Danaë Ménard-Bélanger, composer and Maïa Ménard-Bélanger, librettist (Montréal)

**DANAË MÉNARD-BÉLANGER** is a Quebec-based composer inspired by the symbolic world of narrative and visual arts. Her creations depict rich emotional worlds using timbre, time, and wide musical gestures. The master's degree she is currently completing explores silence, stasis, and paucity. Her early career is marked by her passion for the human voice. Her fascination with paralanguage inspires her academic research and compositions. Since 2022, she is the assistant director of the vocal ensemble Kô and will begin a PhD on lullabies at the University of Montreal in the fall of the same year.

**MAÏA MÉNARD-BÉLANGER** is a scenographer and scriptwriter. After finishing her studies in Set and Costume Design at the Cégep Lionel-Groulx, she now explores puppetry, illustration, and screenwriting, as well as craft costumes for both stage and television. Her work is led by a fascination for light and shadows, and she uses invisible ink, transparencies and superpositions to create artistic universes that reveal themselves gradually in layers. Through her art, she casts a tender and compassionate gaze on the strangenesses and failings of our world with the conviction that it is still worth celebrating in all its oddity.

# MUSIQUE 3 FEMMES



**Kristin Hoff, mezzo-soprano**, is noted for her “appealing clarity and emotional heft” (New York Times) and “extraordinary vocal range” (Westfaelische Nachrichten). A versatile performer with a diverse repertoire and commitment to new music, Kristin is a graduate of Vancouver Opera’s Yulanda M. Faris Program, where her debut as Tebaldo in *Don Carlo* was praised as “absolutely charming in voice and person”. Credits include Dryade in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the prestigious Tanglewood Music Festival and the title role in *Carmen* for Jeunesse Musicales du Canada. At home on the concert stage, Kristin made her Carnegie Hall debut with the MET Chamber Ensemble in Elliot Carter’s *Syringa* as part of the composer’s centennial celebration conducted by James Levine, which garnered praise for her “searing commitment and impressive vocal command” (The Republican). Other engagements include the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra, Tanglewood Symphony Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Company, Chants Libres, Ensemble Caprice, New York Festival of Song. Highlights in new works include *One to One to One* by Luna Pearl Woolf (world premiere), *White Wines* by Dorothy Chang (world premiere), Claude Vivier’s *Kopernikus*, and *Vision* by Jose Evangelista with Nouvel Ensemble Moderne and SMCQ. Her critically acclaimed interpretation of Ana Sokolovic’s *Love Songs*, a 50-minute opera for unaccompanied solo female voice, has been seen in 9 different Canadian cities, including at Lanaudiere Festival, Watershed Festival and Montreal’s Salle Bourgie. Kristin is Executive Director of the vocal Mécénat Musica Mini-Opéras Santé, a pandemic-born project which has brought more than 10,000 outdoor mini-concerts to over 70,000 people since summer 2020.

**Jennifer Szeto, pianist**, has been praised for an “immense sweetness and precision which appears to be flawless” (L’Opéra) and “amazing versatility” (Opera Ramblings). She is graduate of San Francisco Opera’s prestigious Adler Fellowship, Merola Opera Program, Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, and Atelier Lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal. Highlights include conducting Triptyque, a triple bill world-premiere for Musique 3 Femmes in collaboration with La société de musique contemporaine du Québec (with operas by Sonia Paço-Rocchia, Parisa Sabet, Anna Pidgorna), music directing the world premiere of Laurence Jobidon’s *L’hiver attend beaucoup de moi* for Opéra de Montréal (described by Montreal Theatre Hub as “exactly what opera needs”), *Written on Skin* (Opéra de Montréal), and assistant conducting John Estacio’s *Ours* (Opera on the Avalon). Jennifer is a staff coach for Opera McGill and in 2022, joins the faculty of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Tennessee. A passionate administrator, Jennifer sits on the Board of Directors of the Association for Opera in Canada, and helms two programs for Toronto’s Tapestry Opera: the Canadian Opera Resource and Women in Musical Leadership Program, a multi-year fellowship for female and non-binary conductors in partnership with Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Pacific Opera Victoria. She holds a M.Mus. in Piano Accompaniment (McGill) and a B.Mus Performance (University of Toronto).

**Luna Pearl Woolf**, composer/producer/dramaturg, has long used her creative voice to advocate for social and political change. Her music, characterized by its penetrating focus on music’s capacity as a storytelling language, has been praised for its “psychological nuances and emotional depth” (The New York Times) and “brilliant, wrenching... profoundly moving” (Opera Going Toronto). In her 2021 GRAMMY-nominated composer-portrait album, LUNA PEARL WOOLF: Fire and Flood, The Times’s Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim writes, “Woolf trains a zoom lens on the collective experience, plunging us right into the midst of destruction and anarchy only to pull back, in one swoop, to a clear-eyed plane of compassion.” Woolf’s opera commissions include DORA award-winning Jacqueline, on the legendary cellist Jacqueline du Pré, for Tapestry Opera, and Better Gods, about Hawaii’s Queen Lili’uokalani, for Washington National Opera. Her opera, The Pillar, was awarded Opera America’s inaugural Discovery Grant, and her current opera The Limit of the Sun has been workshopped at Opera McGill and is pre-selected for Europe’s ENOA Opera Creation Journey. Noted collaborators include librettists/writers Royce Vavrek, Cornelia Funke, Andrea Stolowitz and Eleanor Wilner, and actors/performers Jeremy Irons, Matt Haimovitz, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Frederica von Stade and Joyce Didonato, among many others. Her music is recorded on PENTATONE and the PENTATONE Oxingale Series. Woolf co-founded the ground-breaking Oxingale Records in 2000, and launched publisher Oxingale Music in 2010, publishing the sheet music of select award-winning international composers and arrangers. An accomplished recording producer, Woolf has produced albums for the Analekta, Atma, Leaf and Oxingale labels, ranging from Renaissance to contemporary, tango and crossover projects. Working with Musique 3 Femmes and others, she coaches new opera projects as a dramaturg and teacher on the intersection of music and text.

Photos : © Kevin Calixte © Kevin Calixte © Nadine Hennelly

# Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes

Compositrices et librettistes émergentes

## Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 50 000 \$

Le [Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes](#) est un prix consacré au développement de nouveaux opéras contemporains créés par des équipes émergentes féminines ou non binaires de compositeurs et librettistes canadiennes, témoignant de perspectives d'avenir extraordinaires dans la création d'opéra. Les prix sont attribués aux équipes pour des compositions originales en français, en anglais, une œuvre [juive](#) et une œuvre PANDC (noir, autochtone ou de couleur).

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes est le seul prix au Canada où une combinaison de tous ces éléments est encouragée financièrement :

- Créatrices
- Artistes émergentes
- Composition
- L'écriture libretto
- Atelier
- Performance

La valeur du Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes s'élève à 50 000 \$ :

- 36 000 \$ en espèces – trois équipes 12 000 \$ chacun
- 14 000 \$ en bourses de voyage, programme de mentorat avec Luna Pearl Woolf et atelier musical

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes est l'initiative de Musique 3 Femmes de Montréal et de l'Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec dont ses donateurs fournissent au prix 5 000 \$ de chaque don de 25 000 \$.

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2020-2021 inclut des ateliers avec les Universités McGill et Queens, le mentorat de la célèbre compositrice Luna Pearl Woolf et des coproductions avec l'Opéra 5, l'Opéra McGill, la Société de musique contemporaine du Québec et l'École de musique DAN de l'Université Queen's.

52

Les cinq opéras contemporains Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2018-2019 ont été vus dans des performances et des productions par des compagnies d'opéra à travers le Canada : l'Opéra de Montréal, Canadian Opera Company's Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in Toronto, Tapestry Opera, Opera.ca's Changing Worlds Summit, et dans le cadre de résidences éducatives d'opéra aux universités McGill, Queen's, Mount Allison, Ottawa et Calgary.

## Compositrices & Librettistes 2022-2023



Analía Lugdar<sup>1</sup>, Montréal/Argentine

Alejandra Odgers<sup>2</sup>, Montréal/Mexique & Nicole O'Bomsawin<sup>3</sup>, Odanak, Québec

Rebecca Gray<sup>4</sup> & Rachel Gray<sup>5</sup>, Ottawa

\*Danaë Ménard-Bélanger<sup>6</sup> & Maïa Ménard-Bélanger<sup>7</sup>, Montréal

\*Prix d'encouragement

# Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes

Emerging female composers and librettists

## Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes \$ 50,000

[Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes](#) is dedicated to developing new contemporary operas by emerging Canadian female or non-binary Canadian teams of composers and librettists who demonstrate extraordinary promise in opera creation. The prizes are awarded to teams for original opera compositions in English, in French, a [Jewish](#) work and a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Colour) work.

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes is the only prize in Canada where a combination of all these elements is encouraged financially:

- Female creators
- Emerging artists
- Composition
- Libretto Writing
- Workshop
- Performance

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes is a total of \$50,000 \$ in cash:

- \$36 000 in cash – three teams \$12 000 each
- \$14 000 in travel stipends, mentorship with Luna Pearl Woolf and musical workshop

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes is the initiative of Montreal-based Musique 3 Femmes and Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec whose donors provide the prize with \$5,000 from each \$25,000 donation.

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2020-2021 prizes include contemporary opera workshops with the Universities of McGill and Queen's, mentorship from acclaimed opera composer Luna Pearl Woolf and a co-production with Toronto's award-winning Opera 5, Opera McGill, Société de musique contemporaine du Québec, and Queen's University DAN School of Music.

The five Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes 2018-2019 contemporary operas were seen in performance and productions by opera companies across Canada, including l'Opéra de Montréal, Canadian Opera Company's Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in Toronto, Tapestry Opera (Canada's leading producer of new operas), Opera.ca's Changing Worlds Summit, and as part of opera educational residencies at the Universities of McGill, Queen's, Mount Allison, Ottawa and Calgary.

### Compositrices & Librettistes 2020-2021



Anna Pidgorna<sup>1</sup> & Maria Reva<sup>2</sup>, New Westminster, BC/CB

Parisa Sabet<sup>3</sup>, Toronto & Nika Khanjani<sup>4</sup>, Montréal

Sonia Paço-Rocchia<sup>5</sup>, Laurentides, Québec & Marie-Ève Bouchard<sup>6</sup>, Saint-Jérôme, Québec

# Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes

Compositrices et librettistes émergentes / Emerging female composers and librettists

## Compositions

Les partitions du Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes compositrices et librettistes sont fournies aux interprètes émergents du Québec et du Canada, sans redevances, à perpétuité. Les compositrices et librettistes Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes ont composé /compose 33 mouvements de compositions Mécénat Musica.

Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes composers and librettists compositions' scores and notes are provided to emerging Québec and Canadian artists, without royalties, in perpetuity. Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes composers and librettists have/are composing 33 movements of Mécénat Musica Compositions.

The Chair	Maria Atallah & Alice Abracen
Singing Only Softly	Cecilia Livingston & Monica Pearce
Book of Faces	Kendra Harder & Michelle Telford
L'hiver attend beaucoup de moi	Laurence Jobidon & Pascale St-Onge
Suites d'une ville morte	Margareta Jeric & Naima Phillips
Plaything	Anna Pidgorna & Maria Reva
Vanishing Point	Parisa Sabet & Nika Khanjani
Justine et les machines	Sonia Paço-Rocchia & Marie-Ève Bouchard
Dans le doute	Analía Llugdar
Opéra en trois légendes	Alejandra Odgers & Nicole O'Bomsawin
Racoon Opera	Rebecca Gray & Rachel Gray
La ligne morte	Danaë Ménard-Bélanger & Maïa Ménard-Bélanger

## Compositrices & Librettistes 2018-2019

54



Maria Atallah<sup>1</sup>, Ottawa & Alice Abracen<sup>2</sup>, Montréal

Cecilia Livingston<sup>3</sup>, Toronto & Monica Pearce<sup>4</sup>, Île-du-Prince-Édouard /Prince Edward Island

Kendra Harder<sup>5</sup> & Michelle Telford<sup>10</sup>, Saskatoon

Laurence Jobidon<sup>7</sup>, Québec & Pascale St-Onge<sup>6</sup>, Montréal

Margareta Jeric<sup>8</sup>, & Naima Phillips<sup>9</sup>, Montréal

# Mécénat Musica program has created \$81,000,000 of in perpetuity capital for Québec culture

- *including \$31,000,000 in the two years since the pandemic start*



**Montréal, April. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – To date, Mécénat Musica program has created \$81,000,000 of in perpetuity capital for Québec cultural organizations with large donations from more than [500 Mécénat Musica individuals and families](#). In the two years since the pandemic start, \$31,000,000 of in perpetuity capital has been generated for Québec cultural organizations and administered by three partner community foundations: Foundation of Greater Montreal, the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal and Fondation Québec Philanthrope.

*Mécénat Musica: Mini-Galas* – duos of professional singers and instrumentalists deliver surprise thank you concerts presenting statuettes to Mécénat Musica donors, outside their door in gratitude.

Mécénat Musica is a cultural program by donors for donors to keep culture healthy, in perpetuity, for generations to come. Mécénat Musica encourages individuals to make an in-perpetuity donation of \$25,000 to a cultural organization that is important to them and encourages philanthropic families to match these individuals' donations with donations of \$250,000 or \$2,500,000. This is a major shift in cultural philanthropy.

An individual's net cost of a \$25,000 cash donation after personal tax credits is \$6,750<sup>B</sup> (or \$5,425<sup>B</sup>) and is due, with other credits, to an additional Revenue Quebec tax credit for one large cultural donation, which can only be claimed by the individual once in his or her lifetime. Also, the net cost to an individual of a \$25,000 donation of public company shares (with large non-realized gains) can be as low as \$7,521<sup>C</sup> and can be done by the donor multiple times.

<sup>B</sup> and <sup>C</sup>: [Notes<sup>B</sup> and<sup>C</sup> are in the Mécénat Musica program.](#)

Watch video [Mécénat Musica in Perpetuity 2022](#).

During the pandemic, Mécénat Musica program has launched several health, music, and community initiatives to reduce the impact of this unparalleled crisis on the psychological, social, and mental health of communities, including *Mécénat Musica: Mini-Concerts Santé* (*Prix Opus Événement musical 2020*), *Mini-Opéras Santé*, *Mini-Galas*, *Artists in residence*, *Educators in residence*, *Donors in residence*, *Art Choral*, *Prix Santé* and *Prix 3 Femmes* – dedicated to developing new operas by emerging women Canadian women composers and librettists. The number of *Mini-Opéras Santé* & *Mini-Concerts Santé* delivered to 70,000 children, adolescents, elderly, adults, and families in underserved neighbourhoods is 10,000.

Mécénat Musica's aim is to make a sustainable contribution to the health of all by supporting health, music, and culture.

###

For more information [Mécénat Musica](#) :

Matthias Maute, Mécénat Musica Ambassadeur in résidence [mmaute@ensemblecaprice.com](mailto:mmaute@ensemblecaprice.com)