

Montreal, Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Arija Stiver  
President  
COVC Jean A. Chalmers Award Fund  
227 Front Street East – Suite 402  
Toronto, ON

Through the financial support of the Canadian Opera Volunteer Committee (COVC), the Montreal International Musical Competition (MIMC) awards a \$10,000 prize to the Best Canadian Artist of its voice edition.

For singers, it is a great honour to be chosen from among the candidates of the MIMC to receive the COVC Jean A. Chalmers Award, as it not only allows them to look towards the future with enthusiasm but also to put into place the structures essential for the realization of projects that will have a determining effect on their careers. Thus, winners of the award can continue their studies, which can involve further training in vocal technique, the learning of a new repertoire, participation in renowned master classes, etc. In addition, the award allows winners to take part in auditions in Canada, the United States, and Europe, raising awareness of these artists among agents and opera companies. The COVC's support therefore makes a real difference in the artists' career development and is perfectly in keeping with the MIMC's tradition.

With the support of the COVC, the Government of Quebec, and various corporations, the MIMC is today a great success. The only downside to the situation is the absence of financial support from the Canadian government. We therefore hope for a change of vision in our favour, and an awareness of the importance of this artistic achievement, which, since 2002, has promoted our country around the world.

Thank you to the Canadian Opera Volunteer Committee!

Joseph Rouleau, O.C., G.O.Q., Dr h.c.  
Co-founder and Artistic Advisor  
Montreal International Musical Competition  
President  
Jeunesses Musicales of Canada