



CANADIAN MUSIC CENTRE  
CENTRE DE MUSIQUE CANADIENNE

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## Bekah Simms wins the 2017 CMC Toronto Emerging Composer Award



**(Toronto)** – The Canadian Music Centre (CMC) is pleased to announce that composer Bekah Simms is the winner of the 2017 CMC Toronto Emerging Composer Award. Bekah will receive \$6000 towards a self-directed project: she will be writing a piece for 10-13 musicians with electronics mirroring the ensemble from Fausto Romitelli's *Professor Bad Trip Lesson II*.

The Award jury comprised of Stephanie Chua (pianist), Menon Dwarka (composer, Managing and Artist Director at 918 Bathurst), and James Rolfe (composer) reviewed many applications in what was the most competitive round of the Award in recent years. They jury found Bekah's proposal particularly compelling given her adventurous soundworld, and her ability to benefit from the award at this stage in her career.

The award allows Bekah to devote herself more fully to her writing; in addition, Bekah plans to spend more time engaging in intensive score study, while continuing her private composition lessons with mentor Martin Bédard—Bekah is currently working with Martin through the CLC Pivot program.

As part of the award, Bekah will have her music featured during a pre-concert performance by the Madawaska Quartet during the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's [New Creations Festival](#) (March 11, Roy Thomson Hall).

### About Bekah Simms:

Bekah Simms (b. 1990) is a Toronto-based composer and educator originally from St. John's, Newfoundland who was recently named by CBC as one of Canada's hot 30 classical musicians under 30. With work described as "deliciously disorienting" and possessing "a tremendous ear for foreground, background, blending and instrumental colour" (Nick Storrington), Bekah's music



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consists of a highly varied output using a wide variety of mediums, including solo works with electronics, chamber music, opera, wind ensemble.

Bekah's music has been featured from coast to coast in Canada, the United States, and Europe. She is an alumna of several prestigious composer training institutes, including Yale's Norfolk New Music Workshop, June in Buffalo, and the Array Young Composers' Workshop. She is a member of the Toy Piano Composers and Co-Artistic Director and co-founder of Caution Tape Sound Collective, an endeavour inspired by her commitment to experimentation and exploration within her practice. Caution Tape Sound Collective has received the support of both the Ontario Arts Council and the SOCAN Foundation.

[Click here for Bekah's complete biography.](#)

**About the CMC Toronto Emerging Composer Award**

The CMC Toronto Emerging Composer Award recognizes the excellent work of emerging concert music creators in the Greater Toronto Area. The award includes a \$6000 prize to support the creation of a new musical work, and is offered to the candidate who best demonstrates artistic excellence matched by innovation, experimentation, and a willingness to take risks. The CMC Toronto Emerging Composer Award is made possible through the generous support of **Roger D. Moore**.

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**About the Canadian Music Centre:**

The Canadian Music Centre is a catalyst that connects you to the ever-evolving world of Canadian musical creation through performance, education, and promotion.

The CMC provides unique resources for exploring, discovering, and performing Canadian music. We are passionate about nurturing a musical community that honours our legacy and supports the professional development of Canadian musicians and composers.

The Canadian Music Centre inspires fresh perspectives, celebrates inventive composers, and provides transformative experiences. We champion artistic diversity and embrace Canada's rich cultural heritage in creative centres across the country and internationally.



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