



News release  
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## Guitar fever at Théâtre Outremont! Naming of the winners of the Montreal Guitar Grand Prize

Montreal, Monday, October 2, 2006 – Last weekend was the **1st Montreal Guitar Grand Prize**, held as part of the **Montreal Musician and Musical Instrument Show (MMMIS)**. The contest, which seeks to lend a helping hand to talented young musicians by giving them a unique on-stage experience, handed out awards to **Quebec's young guitarists aged 18 to 29**. Following **on-stage auditions** held before a judges' panel on **September 29 and 30, and October 1**, 12 musicians (three per category) reaped the honours and took home some incredible prizes. Guitar lovers were totally gratified at **Théâtre Outremont**, where, to close the event on Sunday evening, the public was treated to the audition finals and a free show starring famous guitarists Charlie Hunter, Rob Lutes and Rob MacDonald!

The audience, made up of all manner of guitar lovers, even bestowed the **People's Choice Award** of the **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal** on its favourite guitarist, **Jean-François Lemieux**, on acoustic guitar. Here are the names of the other winners who blew the judges and the public away:

### Electric guitar:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Max Georgiev**  
(19 years old – Vanier College)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Pat Cristiano**  
(28 years old – Concordia University)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Aless Labasi**  
(21 years old – Cégep Lionel-Groulx)

### Nylon string guitar (classical):

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Hugo Larenas**  
(29 years old – Université de Montréal)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Karl Marino**  
(18 years old – Cégep de Saint-Laurent)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Simon Auger**  
(24 years old – UQAM)

### Jazz guitar:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: François Jalbert**  
(18 years old)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Sylvain Lapointe**  
(25 years old – Conservatoire de musique de Montréal)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Marc-André Séguin**  
(22 years old - Concordia University)

### Acoustic guitar:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Jean-François Lemieux**  
(25 years old – Vincent D'Indy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Adam Karch**  
(28 years old)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Simon Marion**  
(24 years old – UQAM)

The judges' panels, made up of professionals and guitar aficionados such as **Antoine Berthiaume, Luc Fortin, Rick Haworth, Sébastien Dufour** and **Daniel Lemay** for the final auditions, as well as **Fred Di Santo, Steve Nadeau, Jean-François Hamel** and **Jean-Sébastien Williams** for the preliminary auditions, faced the difficult task of choosing the best guitarists from among the many candidates who came to play their favourite tunes or their own compositions.

In addition to offering these young guitarists a rare opportunity for a unique musical experience, the contestants shared up to **\$20,000 in prizes**, offered by the event presenters, **Godin Guitars** and **Steve's Music Store**, and the official suppliers, **Marshall Amplification** and **DigiTech Guitar Effects**, in collaboration with the MMMIS and the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. Moreover, the grand-prize winner in each category benefits from a one-year loan, from the MMMIS, of one of the guitars in the **Ste-Cat permanent collection**, a collection specially created by the best luthiers participating in the MMMIS as a gesture of concrete, free support to talented young musicians.

The MMMIS is proud, through the Montreal Guitar Grand Prix, to have hosted young guitarists who were passionate about this extraordinary experience and to have brought together all these guitar fans... who found themselves on stage, backstage and in the audience! So we'll see you at **next year's edition of the Montreal Guitar Grand Prix on September 28, 29 and 30, 2007**. The Montreal Guitar Grand Prix took place in the context of the 10th anniversary of Quebec's **Journées de la culture**. For information about the contest, visit [www.montrealguitargrandprize.com](http://www.montrealguitargrandprize.com).

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