



## Winners Announced for the 2026 Bader & Overton Canadian Piano Competition

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 11, 2026

**Kingston, ON** – The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen’s University is pleased to announce the winners of the 2026 Bader & Overton Canadian Piano Competition, held May 6–9, 2026.

Following four days of inspiring performances by some of Canada’s most promising young pianists, **Eric Guo** was awarded First Prize, **Kevin Wang** was awarded Second Prize, and **Naomi Wong** was awarded Third Prize at the conclusion of the Final Round on Saturday evening.

Made possible through the generosity of Bader Philanthropies, Inc., the Bader & Overton Canadian Piano Competition champions the next generation of Canadian pianists while advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and Indigenization. Reflecting the Isabel’s 2025–2026 season theme, *Extending the Rafters*, the 2026 competition featured diversified repertoire requirements, a newly commissioned semi-final work by acclaimed Indigenous composer Cris Derksen, and special prizes recognizing outstanding performances of works by BIPOC and women composers.

“These remarkable young pianists demonstrated extraordinary artistry, imagination, and individuality throughout the competition,” said **Gordon E. Smith**, Director of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. “It has been a privilege to welcome them to Kingston and to celebrate the depth of musical talent emerging across Canada.”

The winners of the 2026 Bader & Overton Canadian Piano Competition are:

### Prize Winners

#### FIRST PRIZE

**The Isabel Overton Bader, Clifford Overton and Francoise Landry Prize** (\$20,000 CAD)

#### **ERIC GUO**

In addition to the cash prize, the first-prize winner receives a future engagement to perform with the Kingston Symphony, a future recital engagement at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, and to be recorded by CBC Music for national broadcast.

## **SECOND PRIZE**

**The Margaret Foster and Katherine Foster Prize (\$10,000 CAD)**

**KEVIN WANG**

## **THIRD PRIZE**

**The Marion Dick Memorial Prize (\$5,000 CAD)**

**NAOMI WONG**

**THE BADER FAMILY AUDIENCE PRIZE (\$1,000 CAD)**

**KEVIN WANG**

**The Woodland Wealth Prize for the Outstanding Performance of the Commissioned Work by an Indigenous Composer (\$1,000 CAD)**

**ERIC GUO**

**The Irène Bujara Prize for the Most Outstanding Performance of a Work by a Woman Composer (\$1,000 CAD)**

**NAOMI WONG**

**The Director's Prize for Most Outstanding Performance of a Work by a BIPOC Composer (\$1,000 CAD)**

**LINDA RUAN**

The 2026 competition featured six semi-finalists selected from applicants across Canada: Lauren Esch, Eric Guo, Linda Ruan, Charissa Vandikas, Kevin Wang, and Naomi Wong. Three finalists advanced to the Final Round, where they presented both a musical work inspired by diversity and a creative dimension, as well as a concerto performance before a live audience and distinguished jury.

For more information about the Bader & Overton Canadian Piano Competition, visit [queensu.ca/theisabel](https://queensu.ca/theisabel).

For further information, please contact Alyssa de Hoop, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at [a.dehoop@queensu.ca](mailto:a.dehoop@queensu.ca)

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous support from

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