

Prix de Jazz 2012

In 2012, the Académie de musique du Québec (the “Académie”) organizes a competition offering a prize to the best Instrumental Jazz Ensemble. An ensemble must be a Trio, a Quartet, a Quintet or a Sextet. Performances will be evaluated on feel and maturity of the ensemble in respect to the jazz idiom; rhythmic and time precision; swing feel and applicable grooves; level of improvisation (soloists); original compositions; standard repertoire and assigned repertoire for the final round. The aim of the competition is to encourage young jazz musicians to develop their art.

Prize

The **Prix de Jazz**, a prize of \$5,000, is awarded on a competitive basis to the ensemble who receives the highest total of points.

Competition Sequence

Preliminary round: audition via an audio recording on compact disc by a three-member jury selected by the Académie.

Semi-finals: a live performance of 50 to 55 minutes before a three-member jury selected by the Académie.

Finals: a live performance of 30 to 40 minutes before a jury composed of at least three members selected by the Académie.

Competition Rules

Every candidate must:

- be aged between 18 and 30 as of June 1, 2012;
- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- be domiciled in Quebec for at least three years as of June 1, 2012;
- register by March 15, 2012 (date as confirmed by postmark).

The Volunteers Committee offers free accommodation to candidates from outside of Montreal; request must be made at the time of registration (space limited, candidates only).

At the time of registration, candidates' application must be complete. Candidates must include with their application form (completed in print types) the following documents:

1. a copy of the candidate's birth certificate;
2. if applicable, an attestation that the candidate is a Canadian citizen domiciled in Quebec for the last three years;
3. a curriculum vitae, a short biography (approximately 125 words) and a recent good quality photo;
4. if applicable, all diplomas received from a Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec or a Quebec university;
5. for the **preliminary round**, a compact disc recording of 4 pieces, 6-7 minutes each, of which 2 pieces must be from the Standard Jazz repertoire, and 2 original compositions entirely written by members of the ensemble. A maximum of six ensembles will be chosen from the preliminary round.
6. for the **semi-finals**, a live performance of 50 to 55 minutes (candidates must provide the exact timing of their programme). The jury may interrupt a performance if the time limit is exceeded. Repertoire must be 50% Standard Jazz repertoire and 50% Original Compositions. An ensemble's programme is final after May 1, 2012;
7. following the semi-finals, the jury will announce the names of the finalists. A maximum of three ensembles will be chosen from the semi-finals round;
8. for the **finals**, a live performance of 30 to 40 minutes. Total of 3 pieces, 2 chosen by the ensemble (no restrictions) and one "test" piece assigned by the Jury, chosen from the Jazz repertoire by renowned composers (ex: Thelonius Monk, Wayne Shorter, etc.). An ensemble's programme for the finals should not exceed 40 minutes in length and is final after May 1, 2012.
9. a non-refundable registration fee of \$200, payable by certified cheque or money order.

All candidates must be present for the announcement of the finalists and the awards ceremony.

Business attire is required for all the competition's official events.

Any candidate who provides false information will be disqualified.

By completing their application form, candidates agree to comply with the Prix de Jazz's rules and conditions, and with the jury's decisions which are final and without appeal.