SOCAN Foundation / MusCan Awards for Writings on Canadian Music

Competition Deadline: April 29, 2016

The SOCAN Foundation / MusCan Awards for Writings on Canadian Music are two $2500 prizes intended to encourage students’ research and writing on Canadian music topics and music professors’ mentorship of students in these endeavors. One prize will be for the best English-language paper and one for the best French-language paper. Topics in Canadian music will be understood as potentially deriving from a wide range of genres, including, but not limited to, such areas as concert, folk, jazz, and popular music.

Eligibility: The competition is open to anyone who, at the time of submission of the paper, fulfils the following requirements: (i) is registered in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (whether inside or outside Canada); (ii) is a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant to Canada; (iii) if a graduate student, is a member of MusCan (student membership will be $40 for 2016); (iv) does not yet hold a doctorate and does not hold a full-time teaching position.

Graduate students who plan to submit to the competition are particularly encouraged to submit a proposal to read their paper at the MusCan annual conference, which will take place at the University of Calgary, School of Creative & Performing Arts, Calgary, AB, June 1-3, 2016. The deadline for submission of proposals to the 2016 conference is November 23, 2015, five months prior to the deadline for submission of full papers to the Awards competition (see Deadline, below).

Undergraduate students who plan to submit to the competition are encouraged to become members of MusCan, and to submit a proposal to read their paper at the MusCan annual conference by the November deadline. The conference proposal may be based on your intended submission to this competition.

Papers on Canadian music topics that have previously won the MusCan George Proctor Prize are not eligible to enter the SOCAN Foundation / MusCan Awards for Writings on Canadian Music. Any person who, while a graduate student, previously won an Award for Writings on Canadian Music will be ineligible to compete for another Award for Writings on Canadian Music but, potentially remains eligible to compete for the SOCAN Foundation/George Proctor Prize. A paper chosen for an Award for Writings on Canadian Music in a given year may also be eligible for the SOCAN Foundation/George Proctor Prize in the same year (see the “Call for Papers for the SOCAN Foundation/George Proctor Prize at < www.muscan.org > for details on eligibility). Please also consult there the “Official Rules for the SOCAN Foundation / MusCan Awards for Writings on Canadian Music for further information.
For more information on Canadian University Music Society membership benefits and for the “Call for Papers, Sessions and Round Tables” for the 2016 conference consult <www.muscan.org>.

A submission to the SOCAN FOUNDATION / MusCan AWARDS FOR WRITINGS ON CANADIAN MUSIC competition will be a written document that:

• presents, in a formal paper of scholarly tone, an account of original research that was carried out by the student;
• contains no more than 3000 words;
• contains complete scholarly apparatus, including footnotes and a bibliography;
• excludes all mention of the author’s name and the author’s university/college affiliation (even from any cover page or first-page heading);
• is in PDF form (not more than 1 MB in size), preferably with examples and figures (if any) inserted into the running text of the document;
• is submitted online at https://scpa.ucalgary.ca/muscan2016/. The online form will ask for the author’s (i) full name, (ii) full postal address, (iii) name and level of degree program, (iv) institutional affiliation and (v) e-mail address.


The jury to judge submissions will consist of four members of MusCan, chaired by a member of the MusCan Board. In 2016, Dr. Mary Ingraham (University of Alberta) will chair the jury. The other three members will be chosen so as to avoid conflict of interest and to represent as many different branches of music research as possible.

The winners will be announced during the MusCan conference in June, 2016. The jury reserves the right to withhold an award if, in its judgment, there is no suitable submission.

Winning papers will be posted to the MusCan web site, <www.muscan.org> in an electronic archive devoted to this purpose, and to the SOCAN FOUNDATION web site. Acceptance of a paper for posting to the archive may require a winner to make small, recommended corrections to the paper by the necessary deadline, for posting as soon as possible, or no later than early autumn of the same year.

Funding for the SOCAN FOUNDATION / MusCan AWARDS FOR WRITINGS ON CANADIAN MUSIC is generously provided by the SOCAN FOUNDATION. Administration of the competition for the Awards is carried out by the CANADIAN UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY.