



**St. Catharines, August 31, 2020**

**For Immediate Release**

**WINNERS of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's 2020  
JAZZ 4 the AGES Youth Competition Announced**

On Saturday August 29th the TD Niagara Jazz Festival invited thirteen individual and group youth performers and musicians to compete in the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's **JAZZ 4 the AGES ONLINE Youth Finals**. The event was a private event open only to the family members of the performers at an undisclosed location in the Niagara Region and was set up in the TENTative concert style ([www.tentativeconcerts.com](http://www.tentativeconcerts.com)) for a safe listening experience. The JAZZ 4 the AGES program has been operating since 2015 and encourages young musicians to be actively involved with one of the region's most successful music festivals. Every year the competition invites singers, bands, and solo instrumentalists to compete for cash prizes and an opportunity for both finalists and winners to perform throughout the festival. This is a unique and major opportunity to showcase the rich talent of young musicians from the Niagara Region and beyond, as well as offering the musicians a chance to mentor with established artists.

Finalists were selected by a panel of professionals in the industry, from auditions that were pre-recorded and uploaded to YouTube. The 13 finalists were then invited to compete in the socially distanced finals, where the competition was broadcast live on the festival's Facebook and YouTube accounts. This year's judges included Ashley St. Pierre (piano, vocals), Bryan Covey (saxophone, flute, clarinet), Clark Johnston (bass), George Tirpko (guitar), John Sherwood (piano, trombone), Lesley-Mitchell Clarke (vocals), Peter Shea (drums, piano, vocals), Randy Stirtzinger (piano, bass, vibraphone), and Order of Canada recipient Terry Clarke (drums). The finalists all performed 2 contrasting pieces and then received feedback from the panel of judges.

'The competition was extremely tight this year!' says Juliet Dunn, Executive Director / Artistic Producer and Co-creator of the festival. 'Some of the scores were only 2 -3 points apart! Such a high level of talent! Peter Shea (Co-Creator and Artistic Consultant) was one of the judges again this year. 'We were absolutely blown away by all of the finalists this year. We're delighted to see the growth in the contestants that we are already familiar with and were thrilled to see many new faces out. Everyone did a great job!' says Shea.

The festival is extremely grateful for the continued support of the Town of Lincoln. With their support the festival is able to offer cash prizes to the finalists and winners, honorariums for the judges and cover costs for production, stage and sound to provide a professional environment for the youth performers.

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival would also like to thank everyone who tuned in online to show their support for the youth performers for sharing their musical talent as part of the competition.

This year's winners of the **2020 JAZZ 4 the AGES Youth Competition** are:

Ages 12 and Under

Solo Instrumentalist (Piano): **Emilio Geremia**

Vocalist: **Evan Lewis Dolinski**

Ages 13-17

Band: **Kircona**

Vocalist: **Isabella Milano**

Ages 18-23

Solo Instrumentalist: **Brenon Parmar**

Band: **Harry Bartlett Trio**

Vocalist: **Dominique Lalama**

All of the winners and finalists are listed on the jazz festival website:

<https://niagarajazzfestival.com/2020-jazz-4-the-ages-youth-contest/>

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*\*\*\* For quotes from winning youth performers please do not hesitate to contact Juliet Dunn \*\*\**

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