



McGill



Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich

Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Concerts and Publicity
555 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1E3
Phone: (514) 398-8101; Fax: (514) 398-5514

P R E S S R E L E A S E

**VIOLINIST AARON SCHWEBEL
WINS TOP AWARD FOR MCGILL STRING MUSICANS**

For immediate release

Montreal, January 20, 2010 – The Schulich School of Music announces violinist **Aaron Schwebel** as the 2009-2010 recipient of the **Golden Violin Award**. Schwebel is the fourth winner of the \$20,000 award, presented annually to a top McGill string player who is close to completing studies and has demonstrated the potential for a successful performing career.

The award will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 9th, as part of the university's *Bravo* event, and Schwebel will perform the *Preludio* movement from the Bach *Partita No. 3* during the proceedings. *Bravo* honours McGill researchers who have won prizes during the past year.

Violinist Aaron Schwebel is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Performance at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University under the tutelage of Jonathan Crow. Born and raised in Toronto, his other teachers have included Yossi Peleg, Mark Skazinetsky and Montréal's Yaela Hertz. Mr. Schwebel made his solo debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at 17 and has since performed the McGill Symphony Orchestra as winner of the 2007 McGill Concerto Competition. In May of 2009 he won the \$4000 3rd prize at the Shean Strings Competition, held in Edmonton, Alberta. He has also won prizes from various provincial and national competitions, including the Concours de musique de Repentigny, Concours de l'Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières, the Canadian Music Competition and the National Music Festival. He was a semi-finalist at the 2008 Stulberg International String Competition. Other awards and scholarships include the Lloyd Carr-Harris String Scholarship, the 2007 CBC/McGill Award and the Ben Steinbring Musical Legacy Award. He has served as concertmaster for the McGill Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Schwebel is a project director of Chamber Music Without Borders, a group of young musicians that brings the transformative experience of music to underprivileged members of our community through performances at agencies supported by Centraide and others. As Don McLean, Dean of the Schulich School of Music, states: "Aaron is a superb musician and a valued member of the community. He has given me personally, and all of us at the School, some great musical moments as a soloist, orchestral player, and string quartet member. He now joins our three previous Golden Violin Award winners as another great ambassador for McGill." Mr. Schwebel is also a founding member of the Roddick String Quartet, an ensemble formed and coached by the Schulich School of Music Chair of Performance, André Roy. In April 2009, the Roddick String Quartet competed at the London International String Quartet Competition.

The Golden Violin award was provided in 2006 by businessman and philanthropist Seymour Schulich, the year after he donated \$20 million to McGill's School of Music. The Golden Violin, made of pewter and gold plate, remains on permanent display in McGill's Marvin Duchow Music Library. Its recipients, chosen through a rigorous selection process, receive a smaller likeness in the form of a 14-karat gold lapel pin. The three previous Golden Violin recipients have been violinist Emmanuel Vukovich, violist Lambert Chen, and cellist Chloé Dominguez.

----- 30 -----

Media Contact: Alain Labonté Communications: 514-523-9922
McGill Contact: Louise Ostiguy, Concerts and Publicity, 514-398-8933