

THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION HNATYSHYN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MCGILL SCHULICH SCHOOL AND THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION LAUNCH NEW FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS**

**MONTREAL, September 22, 2017** – Thanks to an exciting initiative, graduate conducting students at McGill’s Schulich School of Music are now eligible to receive a substantial new grant – the [Hnatyshyn Foundation Christa and Franz-Paul Decker Fellowship in Conducting](#). The \$15,000 Fellowship will be awarded to an exceptional Canadian graduate student at Schulich as of the 2018-19 school year.

Together, the Decker family and the Hnatyshyn Foundation created the Fellowship to honour the late conductor Franz-Paul Decker and his wife, Christa, who both made a significant impact on the musical landscape in Canada and around the world. Maestro Decker, who held conducting positions at many orchestras of international repute (including an appearance as guest conductor of the McGill Symphony Orchestra), was also an advocate of music education and received an honorary doctorate of music from McGill University in 2002.

Alexis Hauser, conductor of the McGill Symphony Orchestra, was excited to share his perspective on the opportunities the Fellowship will provide.

*“Some of my very best former conducting students are Canadians and are now busy and very successful in Europe, the United States and in Canada. It is a big joy for me to remain in regular contact with them. Therefore, I wholeheartedly welcome the Hnatyshyn Foundation Christa and Franz-Paul Decker Fellowship in Conducting as an important means to encourage top students from around the country to come to Schulich to further develop their talents. Montreal has always been a unique starting place for young gifted conductors, and the Foundation will be an immense tool for assisting future careers.”*

With this new program, The Hnatyshyn Foundation continues to extend its support to exceptionally talented young Canadian students in the performing arts.

*“We are proud to be associated with the Schulich School of Music and the Decker family and provide new opportunities for exceptional students to complete their studies at one of the world’s finest educational institutions,” said Kim Lymburner, Executive Director of The Hnatyshyn Foundation.*

All Canadian applicants to the Schulich graduate conducting program will be considered for the Fellowship – no separate application is necessary.

### **About The Hnatyshyn Foundation**

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General, to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their education, training and professional development, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Its programs are funded by donations from the Department of Canadian Heritage, private foundations, corporations and individuals.

For more information:

Kim Lymburner  
Executive Director  
The Hnatyshyn Foundation

(613) 233-0108  
director@rjhf.com  
[www.rjhf.com](http://www.rjhf.com)