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**2018 BRIAN ISRAEL/SAM PELLMAN winners announced**

A record number of young composers **(60)** from throughout New York State submitted scores for the 32nd annual BRIAN ISRAEL prize. Saad Haddad, a student at Columbia University, won the New York Federation of Music Clubs Israel prize of $750 for his “Kaman Fantasy”. Juilliard student Jack Frerer won the BRIAN ISRAEL/SAM PELLMAN prize of $1000 for his “Downloads”. In addition to the prizes, both composers will have their music performed during the Society for New Music’s 2018-19 season, the 47th season.

The judges were also very impressed with music by 3 other composers, and named them Honorable Mentions. They are Noah Kahrs at the Eastman School, Michael Seltenreich at New York University, and Douglas Hertz at Bard College/Univ. of Michigan.

Jack Frerer was born in 1995 and is an Australian-American composer of music for concert, film and dance, as well as a producer and filmmaker based in Manhattan where he is currently pursuing his BM in Composition at Juilliard, and studying with Pulitzer Prize winner John Corigliano. Saad Haddad, born in Georgia in 1992 and raised in California, holds degrees in composition from Juilliard and the University of Southern California. Both composers have won a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, among several other awards and prizes.

Winners are determined by the judges looking at the scores and listening to the sound files. The names of the composers and their affiliation are only revealed after the judges have selected their winners. SNM is grateful to Sam Pellman’s former student Ben Salzman for handling the submissions. Judges were Heather Buchman, conductor, Hamilton College; Ryan Chase, a 2016 Israel winner, now on Colgate University’s faculty; and Sar Shalom Strong, a lecturer in piano at Hamilton College.

The prizes are named for Brian Israel, who was a commissioned composer and regular performer with SNM until his untimely death at age 35 in 1986. His close friend, composer Sam Pellman, served as chair of the competition for many years until the fall of 2017, when he also met an untimely death while riding his bicycle. SNM’s board increased the prize money and re-named its prize the BRIAN ISRAEL/SAM PELLMAN prize.

**Photos of Jack Frerer & Saad Haddad attached.**