

## PRESS RELEASE

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### INAUGURAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST A SUCCESS

THE esteemed clarinet and guitar duo Jâca had over 20 applicants from 7 countries to their first-ever Emerging Composers Competition (ECC) to compete for 3 top prizes.

Toward the end of 2020, Jâca opened a call for new, original compositions written for clarinet and guitar relating to the theme of “culture.” Not limited to the culture of any one region, applicants were asked to explore the theme in any aspect—traditions, customs, values, lifestyles, etc.—and apply their personal cultural and musical experiences. The only additional requirements were that the pieces be 5–12 minutes in length.

Submissions came from across the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada as well as Western Asia from Kuwait and Turkey.

Jaxon Williams, the duo’s guitarist, said: “There were so many different styles that it was difficult to judge them all on the same criteria.” Wesley Ferreira, the duo’s clarinetist, said: “It was wonderful to see so much personal music written for our group. Even though we only chose 4 finalists, I’d be happy to perform many of the works we received.”

The first prize of \$1,000 with a publishing deal through Potenza Music and a guaranteed future performance and recording of the work by Jâca was awarded to Candace Bustard in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada) for *Melodies from my Mother*.

The second prize of a guaranteed recording of the work and a potential publishing deal with Potenza Music was awarded to Charles Edholm in Chattanooga, TN, for *Echo Dance*. The third prize of a guaranteed recording and a potential publication through Potenza Music was awarded to both Adnan Marafi in Kuwait for *Arabesque* and Mike Caudill in Boston, MA for *The Wanderer*.

With the amount of works received this year from so many different cultural backgrounds, Jâca is excited to continue this competition in the future and wishes to thank the competition sponsors: Vandoren, Selmer Paris, and Potenza Music.

For media enquiries, contact Zach Franklin, Jâca through email at [info@jacamusic.com](mailto:info@jacamusic.com), or via phone at (916) 719-9973.

#### Notes to editors:

- Jâca will be releasing the winners’ biographies and information about their works over the three days following this release
- Jâca is a music duo that performs and arranges classical music for their instrumentation of clarinet and guitar
- For more information about the duo and the competition, visit [www.jacamusic.com](http://www.jacamusic.com)