

# HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HONENS PRESIDENT & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NAMED HONORARY FELLOW OF THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**

CALGARY, AB, January 22, 2013 – Stephen McHolm, President & Artistic Director of Honens, has been named an Honorary Fellow of Canada’s Royal Conservatory of Music. The honour will be conferred at the Conservatory’s 2011-12 Convocation and Gold Medal ceremonies in Calgary on Sunday, April 14. This distinguished Honorary Fellowship is presented to Canadians who have left an indelible mark on classical music and arts education around the world.

“Honorary Fellows of The Royal Conservatory have made a substantial contribution to the development of the arts in Canada, strengthening culture across the nation,” says Dr Peter Simon, President of The Royal Conservatory. “Their dedication to the development of their craft has earned them the affection of the arts community, the recognition of their peers, and the respect of this country.”

Stephen McHolm has been chief artistic and administrative officer of Honens International Piano Competition Foundation since 2004. His leadership and commitment to the development of emerging artists has positioned the Calgary-based organization as a distinct world leader. Today, Honens International Piano Competition awards the world’s largest prize of its kind—\$100,000 cash and an artistic and career development program valued at a half million dollars.

McHolm is one of six Canadians to be named Honorary Fellow for 2011-12. The other five are: Doc Severinsen, trumpet virtuoso and former Musical Director of The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson; violinist and Tokyo String Quartet member, Martin Beaver; Executive Director of the Vancouver Music Academy, Joseph Elworthy; Henry Lee of Tom Lee Music Co.; Toronto harpist, Judy Loman; and violist and University of British Columbia faculty-member, Gerald Stanick. They join a distinguished group including Oscar Peterson, Adrienne Clarkson, Feist, David Foster and Maureen Forrester.

For more information about the Royal Conservatory of Music, visit [rcm.ca](http://rcm.ca).  
For more information about Honens, visit [honens.com](http://honens.com).

- 30 -

#### **Background Information Attached**

##### **Alberta Media Relations**

Janet Bwititi  
Honens  
(403) 299-0130 ext. 138  
[jbwititi@honens.com](mailto:jbwititi@honens.com)

##### **National Media Relations**

Karen Lorenowicz  
KL Strategic Communications  
(416) 347-9661  
[karen.l@sympatico.ca](mailto:karen.l@sympatico.ca)

##### **USA Media Relations**

Nancy Shear  
Nancy Shear Arts Services  
(212) 496-9418  
[sheararts@nancyshear.com](mailto:sheararts@nancyshear.com)

##### **UK Media Relations**

Valerie Barber  
Valerie Barber PR  
+44 (0)207-7586-8560  
[valerie@vbpr.co.uk](mailto:valerie@vbpr.co.uk)

##### **Germany Media Relations**

Angelika Schindel  
KOMMUNICATIION  
+49 (0)89-410-7396  
[a.schindel@gmx.de](mailto:a.schindel@gmx.de)

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## **Stephen McHolm**

President & Artistic Director  
Honens

Stephen McHolm has been the chief artistic and administrative officer of The Esther Honens International Piano Competition Foundation (Honens) since 2004. His vision of discovering 21<sup>st</sup> century artists for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences and his commitment to the development of emerging artists have positioned the Foundation as a distinct world leader. Today Honens awards the largest cash prize and most comprehensive artistic and career development program of any international music competition of its kind.

McHolm's innovative business model, which includes donor chapters across Canada, and national and international strategic partnerships with businesses and diverse arts organizations, has increased earned and contributed revenues by more than 65 per cent since 2004, allowing Honens to become one of Canada's farthest-reaching arts organizations. Its profile continues to grow under McHolm's guidance through commissions, premieres and Laureate debuts on the world's most prestigious stages, including those of the Berlin Philharmonie, New York's Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall in London.

Music and the arts have been central to McHolm's life since an early age. He studied piano through the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music from age five, was a producer and host for campus radio and researched models of arts funding and the emergence of corporate sponsorship in Canada for his degree in Communications from the University of Ottawa. He also received a certificate in arts administration from Edmonton's Grant MacEwan College.

McHolm's career in arts administration began at the Canadian Arts Presenting Association (CAPACOA), a national service organization for the performing arts' presenting and touring sector. Through CAPACOA he met his mentor, Andrew Raeburn, who was then President of the Honens Foundation. Raeburn recruited him as Honens' Artistic Administrator in 1998.

McHolm is the 2012 winner of the Rozsa Award for Excellence in Arts Management, the only Canadian prize of its kind to recognize the development and implementation of outstanding administrative practices in the arts while encouraging artistic innovation. He is a past Vice President of the Canadian Arts Presenting Association (CAPACOA) and now serves his second term as a Vice President of the Geneva-based World Federation of International Music Competitions, a member of the International Music Council of UNESCO.

## **Honens**

Honens International Piano Competition is a leader in discovering and launching the careers of Complete Artists—21<sup>st</sup> century pianists for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences. The Honens Prize Laureate receives a \$100,000 cash prize and a comprehensive artistic and career development program valued at a half million dollars—the world's largest award of its kind.