

# HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HONENS ANNOUNCES STELLAR LINE-UP OF ARTISTS FOR INAUGURAL FESTIVAL**

#### **TICKETS AND FESTIVAL PASSES NOW ON SALE**

CALGARY, AB, June 2, 2014—Honens, known for its prestigious Prize for Piano, has expanded its repertoire to present an annual festival. Dubbed as 'Canada's International Festival of Piano', the inaugural event will take place September 4 to 7 in Calgary.

"Honens 2014 will be four days of boundary-pushing music and the finest talent the world has to offer," said Stephen McHolm, Honens President & Artistic Director. "We are excited to expand Honens' offerings to include an annual festival at a time when Calgary is gaining its reputation as a cultural centre."

Honens 2014 explores music of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century—one hundred years ago when the world teetered on the edge of conflict—and the First World War's impact on shaping music for years to come. The headlining artist is dynamic French pianist, Alexandre Tharaud—known by many for his appearance in the Oscar-winning film *Amour*. In addition to a solo recital, Mr Tharaud will join popular singer Martha Wainwright for a collaboration of songs from the cabarets of 1914 Paris at 'Hullabaloo'—Calgary's newest can't-miss party for the musically and gastronomically curious. Alex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, joins veteran broadcaster Eric Friesen for a conversation on the Great War's impact on the music of the last century, and Laureates of the Honens, Munich ARD and Santander music competitions will thrill with their musicality and virtuosity. Honens Open Air closes the festival with an afternoon of chamber music in Central Memorial Park featuring Wild West New Music Ensemble, Calgary's newest chamber ensemble led by Mélanie Léonard. This special outdoor concert is free for the entire community.

Tickets to Honens 2014 range in price from \$10 to \$250 and are available online at [honens.com](http://honens.com) or by calling the Honens Box Office at (403) 299-0140. Discounts are available for youth under age 18, 'A440' members, aged 18 to 39 and seniors aged 65 or older. Festival passes, offering tickets at 10% off regular price, are available.

Honens 2014 is presented by Nexen Energy, a CNOOC Limited Company, with support from TD, TransAlta, ARC Financial Corp., RBC Foundation, Calgary Herald, Deluxe Design Group, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, Renaissance Wine Merchants Ltd, The Fairmont Palliser, WAX Partnership Inc. Government and Foundation Partners are Alberta Foundation for the Arts / Government of Alberta, Alberta Lottery Fund, The Calgary Foundation, Calgary Arts Development / The City of Calgary and Canadian Heritage / Government of Canada.

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# **BACKGROUNDER**

## **ABOUT HONENS**

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Artists—21<sup>st</sup> century pianists for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences.

In 1991, philanthropist Esther Honens established the Honens International Piano Competition Foundation in her hometown of Calgary, Canada, with a gift of \$5 million. Her dream was to discover and launch the careers of the world's most promising pianists—a dream that has become a Canadian success story. Honens Laureates are acclaimed the world over and the triennial 'Search for the Complete Artist' awards the largest prize of its kind—\$100,000 and an artist development program valued at a half million dollars. Honens also presents Canada's International Festival of Piano each year in Calgary. Every third year, the prestigious Honens Prize for Piano is awarded during an extended nine-day festival. The Eighth Honens Prize will be awarded in 2015.

## **HONENS 2014 EVENTS**

### **Hullabaloo**

September 4, 2014  
Heritage Park  
Celebration Tent  
Calgary  
7 p.m.

### **MARTHA WAINWRIGHT** voice

Hullabaloo is Calgary's newest can't-miss party for the musically and gastronomically curious—all in support of Honens and the rising talent it discovers and develops. Hullabaloo brings innovative artists from the pop, rock and indie music world together with guest festival artists for unforgettable and unimaginable collaborations. It also celebrates Calgary's growing reputation for culinary excellence by showcasing the city's top chefs and restaurants. The inaugural Hullabaloo will transport you to 1914 Paris, where the heady world of cabaret is in full swing. Popular Canadian chanteuse, Martha Wainwright, performs from the cabaret songbook of 1914, selections from her acclaimed Edith Piaf revue and, of course, her original hits. Special appearances by festival headliner, Alexandre Tharaud and cabaret host Denise Clarke. Calgary's top chefs will delight with their twist on modern French cuisine all night long.

**Tickets: \$250 VIP | \$125 Regular**

VIP ticket holders receive premium concert seating, complimentary beverages and an opportunity to meet the artists.

Presented by TD with support from Renaissance Wine Merchants Ltd.

Featured restaurants, chefs and breweries: Alloy, Anju, Big Rock Brewery, Bocce, Charcut, Corbeaux Bakehouse, Last Best Brewery, Model Milk, Nicole Gourmet, Ox & Angela, Phil & Sebastian, River Café, Rodney's Oyster House, Selkirk Grille, Village Brewery, Village Ice Cream, Wurst and Yellow Door Bistro.

## Julian Steckel & Georgy Tchaïdze

September 5, 2014

On Stage

Jack Singer Concert Hall

EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts

Calgary

7:30 p.m.

JULIAN STECKEL cello, First Prize ARD Music Competition

GEORGY TCHAIÐZE piano, Honens Prize Laureate

Medtner	Sonata No. 9 in A minor Op. 30 (1914)
Prokofiev	Sonata No. 4 in C minor Op. 29 (1917)
Scriabin	Sonata No. 7 Op. 64 'White Mass' (1911)
	Vers la flamme Op. 72 (1914)
Webern	Drei kleine Stücke Op. 11 (1914)
Debussy	Sonata for cello and piano (1915)
Bridge	Sonata in D minor for cello and piano H. 125 (1913–1917)

Meet two of Europe's most dynamic artists on the rise in this exploration of music in response to the Great War. The all-Russian all-piano first half of the concert features 'war' sonatas by Medtner and Prokofiev, and Scriabin's celestial '**White Mass**' sonata and fatalistic piano poem, **Vers la flamme**. To many, Webern's *Three little pieces Op. 11* for cello and piano was the sound of a society in decay. To others, this modernist music stood for renewal, novelty and new possibility. Debussy's **Sonata for cello and piano** was a response to Webern and Schoenberg's "miasma spreading through art." He told Stravinsky that when the cannons fall silent, a new beauty should fill the air. Bridge's reflections of despair over the futility of war and the general state of the world conclude this richly diverse concert.

Tickets: \$10 to \$55

Music as a Second Language pre-concert chat at 6:30 p.m. Supported by ARC Financial Corp.

## Alex Ross in Conversation

### Tsoy & Kolesnikov Duo

September 6, 2014

On Stage

Jack Singer Concert Hall

EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts

Calgary

2 p.m.

ALEX ROSS author

ERIC FRIESEN host

SAMSON TSOY piano, Santander Competition Laureate  
PAVEL KOLESNIKOV piano, Honens Prize Laureate

Debussy                      En blanc et noir piano duo (1915)  
Stravinsky                  Le sacre du printemps piano four-hands (1913)

If you are new to 20<sup>th</sup> century music or have never quite 'got it', take this chance to discover the Great War's impact on the music of the last century. Alex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, joins veteran broadcaster Eric Friesen to discuss how war, nationalism and politics shaped the century's most important music. Stick around after the conversation for a hurricane of ultravirtuosity by Laureates of two of the world's great international piano competitions in performances of Debussy's war-themed two-piano work **En blanc et noir** and Stravinsky's scandalous and legendary **Le sacre du printemps** (*The Rite of Spring*), which Debussy described as a "beautiful nightmare."

Tickets: \$10 to \$55

Supported by RBC Emerging Artists Project.

### Alexandre Tharaud

September 6, 2014  
On Stage  
Jack Singer Concert Hall  
EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts  
Calgary  
7:30 p.m.

ALEXANDRE THARAUD piano

Mozart                      Sonata No. 11 in A major K. 331 'Alla turca' (1783)  
Beethoven                Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major Op. 110 (1821)  
Satie                        *selections from* Gnossiennes (1889–1893)  
Ravel                        Oiseaux tristes  
                                  Une barque sur l'océan  
                                  Alborado del grazioso  
                                  *from* Miroirs (1904–1905)

Our festival headliner, Alexandre Tharaud, has a growing fan base thanks to his versatility, intelligent programming and acclaimed recordings for harmonia mundi and ERATO. A whole new audience met this talented French pianist when he appeared in Michael Haneke's Oscar-winning film *Amour* and with the release of *Le boeuf sur le toit*, his recording celebrating the legendary 1920s Paris cabaret hotspot of the same name. Mr Tharaud's concert begins with works that were likely absent from the concert halls of Allied countries. The shock of Germany's campaign of total war created resentment for even the most popular Austro-German musical works—those by Mozart and Beethoven included. The all-French second half features works by Satie and Ravel, composed in the years leading up to the Great War.

Tickets: \$10 to \$65

Presented by TD.

Music as a Second Language pre-concert chat at 6:30 p.m. Supported by ARC Financial Corp.

## **Honens Open Air**

September 7, 2014  
Central Memorial Park  
Calgary  
2 p.m.

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV piano, Honens Prize Laureate  
GEORGY TCHAIKIDZE piano, Honens Prize Laureate  
SAMSON TSOY piano, Santander Competition Laureate  
WILD WEST NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Ravel	Piano trio in A minor (1914)
Elgar	Piano quintet in A minor Op. 84 (1918)
Hindemith	Kammermusik Op. 24 No. 1 (1922)

Calgary's oldest park, Central Memorial, is home to Honens Open Air. Spread out your picnic blanket and soak up the sunshine while enjoying chamber music in the heart of the city. This free concert, which takes you on a musical journey from war to post-wartime, features collaborations between our guest festival pianists and the Wild West New Music Ensemble, Calgary's newest chamber ensemble led by Mélanie Léonard. A musical afternoon for the entire community.

**Free admission**

**Supported by The City of Calgary.**