

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

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FIFTY PIANISTS CHOSEN AS QUARTERFINALISTS OF HONENS COMPETITION—THE RICHEST PRIZE IN THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS

CALGARY, AB, February 23, 2015—Fifty concert pianists from 21 countries have been chosen to perform in the Quarterfinals of Canada's Honens Piano Competition.

The Quarterfinals / International Audition Round takes place in New York (March 25 and 26 at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center), Berlin (April 10 and 11 at the Konzerthaus) and London (April 15 and 16 at The Guildhall School of Music & Drama). Each pianist performs a 40-minute solo recital made up of repertory of his or her choice. Performances are open to the public. Admission and schedule information is available at honens.com.

These 50 public performances are recorded on video for review by the First Jury, which is made up of both pianists and arts professionals: Inon Barnatan (pianist, Israel), Stewart Goodyear (pianist, Canada), Noriko Ogawa (pianist, Japan) and Mary Sigmond (President, The Frederic Chopin Society, Minneapolis-St Paul, United States). The First Jury evaluates the performances during deliberations at The Banff Centre in May and June. Ten pianists will be chosen to advance to the Semifinals in Calgary.

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Pianists—21st century artists for 21st century audiences. Calgary philanthropist Esther Honens dreamed of discovering and launching the careers of the world's most promising pianists. In 1991, she established the Honens Foundation with a gift of \$5 million, creating a legacy for musicians and music-lovers around the world. Today, the Honens Piano Competition takes place every three years as part of the Honens Festival—Canada's International Festival of Piano. The Honens Prize for Piano—\$100,000 CAN and an artistic and career development program valued at a half million dollars—is the largest prize of its kind.

The 2015 Honens Piano Festival & Competition is presented by Nexen Energy, a CNOOC Limited company; Lead Partners are TD Bank Group and TransAlta; Supporting Partner is RBC Foundation. Other Partners include: Arts Commons, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Enbridge Inc., WAX Partnership Inc., Deluxe Design Group, ecentricarts inc., Calgary Herald, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, The Banff Centre and The Fairmont Palliser. Honens also thanks Masters Gallery, Renaissance Wine Merchants Ltd, Nicole Gourmet Catering; and industry partners Travel Alberta, Tourism Calgary and Calgary Downtown Association. Piano partners: Fazioli, Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos, Steinway & Sons and Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary. Public and Foundation Partners include Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Lottery Fund, Calgary Arts Development Authority / City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust and the Rozsa Foundation. The Competition culminates with the Semifinals and Finals in Calgary, Canada from 3 to 12 September 2015.

Background information and schedule attached

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Alberta Media Relations

Janet Bwititi
Honens
Office: (403) 299-0130 ext. 138
Mobile: (403) 978-6510
jbwititi@honens.com

Canada (National) Media Relations

Karen Lorenowicz
KL Strategic Communications
Office: (416) 245-2475
karen.lorenowicz@gmail.com

BACKGROUNDER

QUARTERFINALISTS

<u>Pianist</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Nationality</u>
Suzana Bartal	28	Romania
Nora Bartosik	28	United States
Carson Becke	25	Canada
Giulio Biddau	30	Italy
Luca Buratto	22	Italy
Rachel Cheung	23	Hong Kong
Jun Cho	26	South Korea
Yung Hoon Chun	22	South Korea
Daniel Petrica Ciobanu	23	Romania
Scott Cuellar	25	United States
Roope Gröndahl	25	Finland
Elizaveta Ivanova	28	Russia
Oliver Jia	26	Sweden
Da Sol Kim	25	South Korea
Myunghyun Kim	25	South Korea
Yoon-Jee Kim	30	South Korea
Henry Kramer	27	United States
Rachel Naomi Kudo	27	United States / Japan
Umberto Jacopo Laureti	23	Italy
Ilya Lekhanov	29	Russia
Rudin Lengo	28	Canada
Brian Lin	23	China
Fanya Lin	25	Taiwan
Alexander Malikov	25	Canada
Martin Malmgren	28	Sweden
David Malusa	29	Italy
Tsarina Marinkova	27	Bulgaria
Gustavo Miranda-Bernales	23	Chile
Evan Mitchell	27	United States
Francisco Montero	23	Spain
Ivan Moshchuk	24	United States
Luka Okrostsvaridze	23	Georgia
Andrejs Osokins	30	Latvia / United Kingdom
Sejoon Park	24	United States
Leonardo Pierdomenico	22	Italy
Costanza Principe	21	Italy
Or Re'em	26	Israel
Karim Said	26	United Kingdom
Scipione Sangiovanni	27	Italy
Meng-Sheng Shen	24	Taiwan
Olga Stezhko	29	Belarus
Jiayan Sun	25	China
Jun Sun	26	China



Samson Tsoy	26	Russia
Alexander Ullman	23	United Kingdom
Larry Weng	27	United States
KaJeng Wong	24	Hong Kong
Todd Yaniw	29	Canada
Artem Yasynskyy	26	Ukraine
Denis Zhdanov	26	Ukraine

FACTS

Summary of Quarterfinalist Nationalities (21)

Belarus	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	4
Chile	1
China	3
Finland	1
Georgia	1
Hong Kong	2
Israel	1
Italy	7
Japan	1
Latvia	1
Romania	2
Russia	3
South Korea	5
Spain	1
Sweden	2
Taiwan	2
Ukraine	2
United Kingdom	2
United States	7

Summary of Quarterfinalist Ages

21	1
22	3
23	7
24	4
25	9
26	8
27	6
28	5
29	4
30	3

Summary of Quarterfinalist Genders

Male	40
Female	10

Number of Performances per Quarterfinals City

Berlin	13
London	17
New York	20

Other Facts

Number of Quarterfinalists living / studying in Canada: 1

Number of Berlin Quarterfinalists living / studying in Berlin: 1 of 13

Number of London Quarterfinalists living / studying in London: 6 of 17

Number of New York Quarterfinalists living / studying in New York: 9 of 20

QUARTERFINALS SCHEDULE

New York
Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center
129 W 67 Street
March 25 and 26, 2015
Performance Sessions at 10 a.m. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Admission: \$10/day
Tickets: merkinhall.com

March 25, 2015

10:00–10:40 **Jiayan Sun**
 Age 25
 CHINA

10:50–11:30 **Larry Weng**
 Age 27
 UNITED STATES

11:40–12:20 **Rachel Naomi Kudo**
 Age 27
 UNITED STATES / JAPAN

interval

14:00–14:40 **Ivan Moshchuk**
 Age 24
 UNITED STATES

14:50–15:30 **Rudin Lengo**
 Age 28
 CANADA

15:40–16:20 **Jun Sun**
 Age 26
 CHINA

16:30–17:10 **Oliver Jia**
 Age 26
 SWEDEN

interval

19:00–19:40 **Yung Hoon Chun**
 Age 22
 SOUTH KOREA

19:50–20:30 **Henry Kramer**
 Age 27
 UNITED STATES

20:40–21:30 **Todd Yaniv**
 Age 29
 CANADA

March 26, 2015

10:00–10:40 **Fanya Lin**
 Age 25
 TAIWAN

10:50–11:20 **Brian Lin**
 Age 23
 CHINA

11:40–12:20 **Gustavo Miranda-Bernales**
 Age 23
 CHILE

interval

14:00–14:40 **Meng-Sheng Shen**
 Age 24
 TAIWAN

14:50–15:30 **Francisco Montero**
 Age 25
 SPAIN

15:40–16:20 **Alexander Malikov**
 Age 25
 CANADA

16:30–17:10 **Scott Cuellar**
 Age 25
 UNITED STATES

interval

19:00–19:40 **Jun Cho**
 Age 26
 SOUTH KOREA

19:50–20:30 **Sejoon Park**
 Age 24
 UNITED STATES

20:40–21:20 **Evan Mitchell**
 Age 24
 UNITED STATES

Berlin
Konzerthaus: Werner-Otto-Saal
Gendarmenmarkt
April 10 and 11, 2015
Performance Sessions at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Tickets: 5 Euros per session | konzerthaus.de

April 10, 2015

14:00–14:40 **Myunghyun Kim**
Age 25
SOUTH KOREA

14:50–15:30 **Rachel Cheung**
Age 23
SOUTH KOREA

15:40–16:20 **Andrejs Osokins**
Age 30
LATVIA / UNITED KINGDOM

16:30–17:10 **Giulio Biddau**
Age 30
ITALY

interval

19:00–19:40 **Ilya Lekhanov**
Age 29
RUSSIA

19:50–20:30 **Elizaveta Ivanova**
Age 28
RUSSIA

20:40–21:30 **Or Re'em**
Age 26
ISRAEL

April 11, 2015

14:00–14:40 **KaJeng Wong**
Age 24
HONG KONG

14:50–15:30 **Luca Buratto**
Age 22
ITALY

15:40–16:20 **Artem Yasynskyy**
Age 26
UKRAINE

interval

19:00–19:40 **Da Sol Kim**
Age 25
SOUTH KOREA

19:50–20:30 **Nora Bartosik**
Age 28
UNITED STATES

20:40–21:20 **Leonardo Pierdomenico**
Age 22
ITALY

London
The Guildhall School of Music & Drama
Silk Street, Barbican
April 15 and 16, 2015
Performance Sessions at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Admission: Free

April 15, 2012

10:00–10:40 **Luka Okrostsvaridze**
Age 23
GEORGIA

10:50–11:30 **Costanza Principe**
Age 21
ITALY

11:40–12:20 **Martin Malmgren**
Age 28
SWEDEN

interval

14:00–14:40 **Carson Becke**
Age 25
CANADA

14:50–15:30 **Alexander Ullman**
Age 23
UNITED KINGDOM

15:40–16:20 **Daniel Petrica Ciobanu**
Age 23
ROMANIA

16:30–17:10 **Denis Zhdanov**
Age 26
UKRAINE

interval

19:00–19:40 **Scipione Sangiovanni**
Age 27
ITALY

19:50–20:30 **Suzana Bartal**
Age 28
ROMANIA

20:40–21:30 **David Malusa**
Age 29
ITALY

April 16, 2015

14:00–14:40 **Olga Stezhko**
Age 29
BELARUS

14:50–15:30 **Tsarina Marinkova**
Age 27
BULGARIA

15:40–16:20 **Umberto Jacopo Laureti**
Age 23
ITALY

16:30–17:10 **Samson Tsoy**
Age 26
RUSSIA

interval

19:00–19:40 **Yoon-Jee Kim**
Age 30
SOUTH KOREA

19:50–20:30 **Karim Said**
Age 26
UNITED KINGDOM

20:40–21:20 **Roope Gröndahl**
Age 25
FINLAND