

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONENS INTRODUCES PIANIST LUCA BURATTO ON NEW LIVE RECORDING

CALGARY, AB, February 12, 2016—A recording of Italian pianist Luca Buratto's winning performances from the 2015 Honens Piano Competition was released today on the Honens label. The two-disc album features Buratto's solo recital of works by Debussy, Ligeti, Prokofiev and Schumann and his collaborative recital with soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, clarinetist James Campbell, and violist Hsin-Yun Huang featuring works by Brahms, Hindemith, Lutoslawski, Mozart, Obradors and Viardot.

Luca Buratto was among ten pianists from seven countries, aged 20 to 30, to perform in the Semifinals of the 2015 Honens Piano Competition in Calgary. After advancing to the Finals, he was named Honens Prize Laureate, receiving a cash award of \$100,000 (CAN) and an artistic and career development program valued at a half million dollars.

LUCA BURATTO: LIVE AT HONENS 2015

Honens © © 201601CD (2CD 66.12' & 63.55' • DDD)

Disc One

SCHUMANN

Fantasy in C major Op. 17

LIGETI

Étude pour piano (troisième livre) No. 15 'White on White'

DEBUSSY

L'isle joyeuse

LIGETI

Étude pour piano (troisième livre) No. 16 'Pour Irina'

PROKOFIEV

Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major Op. 83

SCHUMANN

Dauidsbündlertänze Op. 6 No. 14 Zart und singen

Disc Two

VIARDOT

Madrid (text by Musset)

'Aime-moi' on Mazurka Op. 33

No. 2 by Frédéric Chopin (text by Pomey)

Isabel Bayrakdarian soprano

OBRADORS

La mi sola, Laureola (text by Ponce)

El vito (text by Anon.)

Isabel Bayrakdarian soprano

LUTOSLAWSKI

Dance Preludes (1954)

James Campbell clarinet

MOZART

Trio for clarinet, viola and piano in E-flat major K. 498

'Kegelstatt'

James Campbell clarinet

Hsin-Yun Huang viola

HINDEMITH

Sonata for viola and piano in F major Op. 11 No. 4

Hsin-Yun Huang viola

BRAHMS

Geistliches Wiegenlied Op. 91 No. 2 (text by von Geibel)

Isabel Bayrakdarian soprano

Hsin-Yun Huang viola

Luca Buratto: Live at Honens 2015 was recorded live at Calgary's Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons during the 2015 Honens Piano Competition. It was made possible through the Artist Development Program of Canada's Honens Piano Competition—underwritten by Honens Laureate Circle and RBC Emerging Artists Project—and Honens Competition recording and broadcast supporters.

The Honens label features studio and live recordings by Honens Laureates and is distributed by Naxos of America Inc., Naxos of Canada Ltd. and Select Music UK.

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Pianists—21st century artists for 21st century audiences. The Honens Piano Competition takes place every three years and is considered one of the world's most prestigious events of its kind. Honens prepares its Laureates for the rigours and realities of professional careers in music and creates opportunities for growth and exposure. The annual Honens Festival is one of Canada's premier piano events. The next edition takes place in Calgary, September 8 to 11, 2016.

Esther Honens created a legacy of musical excellence to be enjoyed for generations. In 1991, knowing she was near the end of her life, Mrs Honens gave \$5 million to endow an international piano competition in her hometown of Calgary, Canada. Her generosity, vision and love of music continue to touch the lives of Calgarians, Canadians and musicians and music-lovers around the world. Honens Legacy Partners follow in Esther Honens' footsteps by securing Honens' future. They support achievements in realizing Esther Honens' vision, including wide reaching programming through the annual Festival and enriching community outreach projects.

Backgrounder Attached

- 30 -

Alberta Media Relations

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

Canada (National) Media Relations

Karen Lorenowicz
KL Strategic Communications
(416) 347-9661
karen.lorenowicz@gmail.com

Germany Media Relations

Bettina Schimmer
Schimmer PR
+49 (0)221-16879623
bettina.schimmer@schimmer.com-pr.de

United Kingdom Media Relations

Madeleine Hammond
Valerie Barber PR
+44 (0)207-7586-8560
madeleine@vbpr.co.uk

United States Media Relations

Raphael Zinman
Nancy Shear Arts Services
(212) 496-9418
raphael.zinman@gmail.com

BACKGROUND

LUCA BURATTO

Luca Buratto, 2015 Honens Prize Laureate, is a pianist of “fiery imagination and finesse” (*Musical America*). In addition to his success at Canada’s Honens Piano Competition, Buratto was awarded third prize at the International Robert Schumann Competition (Zwickau) and the special ‘Acerbi’ prize, awarded to a distinguished Finalist at Milan’s Shura Cherkassky Competition, both in 2012. He took inspiration from Italian tennis player Roberta Vinci’s upset over Serena Williams at the U.S. Open just hours before his Honens win. “There are many similarities between the psyches of tennis players and pianists,” he says, referring to David Foster Wallace’s epic novel, *Infinite Jest*.

Buratto first caught the public’s attention at the Conservatory of Milan’s Sala Verdi where, for a Holocaust Remembrance Day event in 2003, he performed music of Renzo Massarani, his great grandfather. Massarani (1898–1975), a student of Ottorino Respighi, was a promising young composer whose career was interrupted by the imposition of racial laws in 1938. “My great-grandfather had to stop writing music because he was Jewish,” says Buratto. “And in Italy before World War II, his music was banned. Though he survived the war and the persecution, he decided to stop writing music because he was disgusted with mankind.” Massarani became a music reviewer in Rio de Janeiro. “This has been a big influence on me. I don’t feel a sense of responsibility, but I understand that music can be very powerful.”

Buratto has gone on to give the Milan premiere of the youthful Beethoven *Piano Concerto in E-flat major WoO 4* with I Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra, performances with Orchestra Sinfonica Giuseppe Verdi, Magdeburgische Philharmonie, and recitals throughout France, Italy and Switzerland. He has also been featured on national radio broadcasts on Radio Classica and Radio 3 RAI. He will be a resident artist at the 2016 Marlboro Music Festival (Vermont). In 2017, Buratto gives his Wigmore Hall and Carnegie Hall recital debuts. His debut studio recording of works by Schumann will be released on the Hyperion label, also in 2017.

Buratto earned his piano Diploma from Milan Conservatory and his master’s from Bolzano Conservatory. He was a Theo Lieven Scholar at the Conservatory of Lugano, from which he received his Master of Advanced Studies. His teachers have included Davide Cabassi, William Grant Naboré and Edda Ponti.

Buratto’s affinity for the music of Robert Schumann is balanced by his curiosity for works of today’s composers such as Thomas Adès. He enjoys jigsaw puzzles and table tennis and has an interest in physics and American post-modern literature.