

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 2017 HONENS FESTIVAL

AWARD-WINNING FESTIVAL OF PIANO RUNS SEPTEMBER 7 TO 10, 2017

CALGARY, AB, April 3, 2017— The 2017 Honens Festival, a celebration of piano brimming with innovative performance projects and dynamic community concerts, marks Canada's 150th birthday by showcasing some of the country's brightest classical music stars alongside Honens Laureates. The four-day festival of music runs September 7 to 10 in Calgary.

Highlights include a recital by Montrose Trio (pianist Jon Kimura Parker, violinist Martin Beaver and cellist Clive Greensmith); a performance by Katherine Chi—the first woman and the first Canadian to be named Honens Prize Laureate (2000); a collaboration between Canada's Cecilia String Quartet and 2015 Honens Prize Laureate Luca Buratto; a late-night cabaret featuring Sri Lankan-born, Canada-based composer-performer Dinuk Wijeratne; a full day of activities at Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre; and the popular Open Air—a free outdoor concert at Central Memorial Park.

"There's something for everyone at our 2017 Festival," said Neil Edwards, Honens' President. "It will be four days of music with a side of maple syrup! We're proud to showcase the wonderful music and musicians our great country has to offer."

Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$55 and are available online at 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 20% off regular price, are available.

The 2017 Honens Festival is presented by Nexen Energy, a CNOOC Limited company, and supported by TD Bank Group. Additional support is received from TransAlta Corporation, RBC Emerging Artists Project, WAX Partnership, Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust, Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos, Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary, Masters Gallery, FortisAlberta, New Works Calgary, Calgary Herald, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, Avenue Magazine, National Music Centre and Downtown Calgary. Government and Foundation Partners are Alberta Foundation for the Arts / Government of Alberta, Alberta Lottery Fund, Calgary Foundation, Community Fund for Canada's 150th, Rozsa Foundation, SOCAN Foundation, Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation, Calgary Arts Development / The City of Calgary and Canadian Heritage / Government of Canada.

Event Details and Backgrounder Attached

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BACKGROUNDER

ABOUT HONENS

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Artists—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.

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, which includes wide reaching programming through the annual Festival and enriching community outreach projects.

2017 HONENS FESTIVAL

Montrose Trio

September 7, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

205 Eighth Avenue S.E.

Calgary

Formed in 2014, the Montrose Trio is a collaboration stemming from a long and fruitful relationship between pianist Jon Kimura Parker and the Tokyo String Quartet. Mr Parker was the quartet's final guest pianist, and a backstage conversation with violinist Martin Beaver and cellist Clive Greensmith led to the Montrose Trio's creation. In 2015 the *Washington Post* raved about their "absolutely top-notch music-making, as fine as one could ever expect to hear ... they are poised to become one of the top piano trios in the world."

Montrose Trio

Jon Kimura Parker piano

Martin Beaver violin

Clive Greensmith cello

Program

Haydn Piano Trio in E-flat major Hob XV:29

Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor Op. 67

Arensky Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor Op. 32

Cecilia String Quartet with Luca Buratto

September 8, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Knox United Church
506 Fourth Street S.W.
Calgary

Cecilia String Quartet

Min-Jeong Koh violin
Sarah Nematallah violin
Caitlin Boyle viola
Rachel Desoer cello

Luca Buratto piano

The Toronto-based Cecilia String Quartet (CSQ) is applauded for their “powerful” (*Chicago Sun-Times*) and “dauntingly perfect” (*Berliner Zeitung*) performances. To celebrate the start of their second decade as an ensemble, the Quartet has initiated Celebrating Canadian Women in Music—a spotlight on a ‘quartet’ of immensely talented female Canadian composers from which it commissioned the creation of four new works, one of which will be premiered at this concert. CSQ is joined in this concert by 2015 Honens Prize Laureate Luca Buratto.

Program

Haydn String Quartet No. 1 in B-flat major Hob.III:1 ‘La chasse’
Curcin String Quartet No. 3 Calgary premiere
Chatman Lawren S. Harris Suite for Piano Quintet with Luca Buratto piano
Mendelssohn String Quartet No. 3 in D major Op. 44 No. 1

Bison Noir

September 8, 2017
10 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion No. 1
116 Seventh Avenue S.E.
Calgary

Music and Influences of Dinuk Wijeratne

Dinuk Wijeratne piano | Luca Buratto piano | Cecilia String Quartet | and guests

This edition of Bison Noir shines a spotlight on Sri Lankan-born, Canada-based composer-performer Dinuk Wijeratne, who has been described by the *Toronto Star* as “an artist who reflects a positive vision of our cultural future”, and by *The New York Times* as “exuberantly creative”. Mr Wijeratne made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2004 as a composer, conductor, and pianist performing with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. His boundary-crossing work sees him equally at home in collaborations with symphony orchestras and string quartets, tabla players and DJs.

Program

Bartók Out of doors Sz. 81
8 Improvisations on Hungarian Folk Songs Sz. 74

Wijeratne Out of the Karmic Blue
Two Pop Songs on Antique Poems
The Poetry of Squares
Colour Study in Rupaktaal
This way up ↓

Masterclass

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 9, 2017

9 a.m.

King Eddy

438 9 Ave S.E.

Calgary

Visiting pianist Katherine Chi instructs and inspires music students and teachers from across Alberta.

FREE ADMISSION

Storytellers

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 9, 2017

12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Drop In Zone at Studio Bell

Home of the National Music Centre

850 4 St. S.E.

Calgary

Tess

Dmitry Nesterov piano | Hazel Hutchins narrator

Tess loves the prairie, but her parents do not. Coming from an easier life, far, far away, they resent the bitter cold winter and the poverty that means burning cow dung for fuel. Based on a true incident, *Tess* combines authenticity with drama. Set during the 1930s in the Canadian West, it is a remarkable story of a family whose older members are immigrants but whose children are, in the truest sense, at home.

FREE ADMISSION

Xenia Concert

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 9, 2017

3 p.m.

Drop In Zone at Studio Bell

Home of the National Music Centre
850 4 St. S.E.
Calgary

Cecilia String Quartet

Min-Jeong Koh violin
Sarah Nematallah violin
Caitlin Boyle viola
Rachel Desoer cello

The Cecilia String Quartet's Xenia Concerts are designed to appeal to, and be welcoming of, children on the autism spectrum and their families. This series embodies the Quartet's philosophy that everyone should have equal access to quality chamber music performances.

FREE ADMISSION

Film

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 9, 2017

4 p.m.

Performance Hall at Studio Bell

Home of the National Music Centre

850 4 St. S.E.

Calgary

Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould

It's hard to think of any musician who captivates and fascinates audiences more than Glenn Gould. 2017 marks 35 years since the enigmatic musician's early passing. *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould*, casts light on a man whose ideas were as controversial, and his private life as passionate, as his music.

FREE WITH ADMISSION TO NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE

Katherine Chi

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 9, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Performance Hall at Studio Bell:

Home of the National Music Centre

850 Fourth Street S.E.

Calgary

Katherine Chi piano

In 2000, Katherine Chi became the first woman and only Canadian to win the Honens Piano Competition. She is now firmly established as one of Canada's foremost pianists, having performed throughout Europe and North America to great acclaim. "Ms Chi displayed a keen musical intelligence and a powerful arsenal of technique" (*The New York Times*).

Program

Louie Touch
Murphy Star Burning Blue
Beethoven Sonata No. 21 in C major Op. 53 'Waldstein'
Rachmaninov Études-tableaux Op. 39

Open Air

September 10, 2017
2 p.m.
Central Memorial Park
1221 2 St. S.W.
Calgary

Luca Buratto piano | Katherine Chi piano | Jens Lindemann trumpet | Dmitry Nesterov piano | Members of Kensington Sinfonia

Bring your sunglasses and your picnic blanket to soak up the final notes of the 2017 Honens Festival under the warmth of the September sun.

Program

Debussy L'isle joyeuse
Mozetich Scales of Joy & Sorrow for violin, cello and piano
Rachmaninov Suite No. 2 for two pianos Op. 17
Brahms Trio for piano, violin and horn in E-flat major Op. 40
Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor Op. 35

FREE ADMISSION