

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LESS THAN ONE MONTH TO GO UNTIL THE 2016 HONENS FESTIVAL

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PIANO RUNS SEPTEMBER 8 TO 11

CALGARY, AB, August 17, 2016—Named Calgary's *Festival of the Year* in 2015 (Tourism Calgary's White Hat Awards), Honens returns 8 to 11 September 2016 with a four-day festival of piano in Calgary. Highlights include a recital by renowned Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin; performances by 2006 Honens Prize Laureate Minsoo Sohn and 2015 Honens Competition Finalist Artem Yasynskyy; a late night cabaret featuring David Lang's *death speaks*; a full day of activities at Calgary's newest music hub, Studio Bell: Home of the National Music Centre; a performance of the longest piano piece in history; and a free outdoor concert at Central Memorial Park.

"Our 2016 Festival line-up proves that the piano is for everyone," said Stephen McHolm, Honens' Artistic Director. "We're bringing music to the streets, parks, late-night watering holes and Calgary's premier music venues. It truly will be four days to make your ears smile."

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. Limited Festival passes, offering tickets at 20% off regular price, are available.

The 2016 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, Enbridge Inc., Masters Gallery, Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos, Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary, Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, FortisAlberta, Sunesis Consulting Inc., Deluxe Design Group, New Works Calgary, Avenue Magazine, Calgary Herald, CBC Radio 2, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, Arts Commons, National Music Centre, Contemporary Calgary, Banff Centre and Downtown Calgary. Government and Foundation Partners are Alberta Foundation for the Arts / Government of Alberta, Alberta Lottery Fund, Calgary Foundation, Calgary Arts Development / The City of Calgary and Canadian Heritage / Government of Canada.

Backgrounder Attached

- 30 -

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
(416) 245-2475
karen.lorenowicz@gmail.com

BACKGROUND

ABOUT HONENS

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.

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.

2016 HONENS FESTIVAL

Presented by Nexen Energy, a CNOOC Limited Company

Vexations

September 8, 2016
4:30 a.m. to midnight
Contemporary Calgary
Stephen Avenue
Calgary

Celebrate composer Erik Satie's 150th birthday and Calgary's Year of Music with a performance of the longest piano piece in history. *Vexations* runs continuously for over 18 hours, played in shifts by 40 pianists dubbed 'Esther's Piano Relay Team'.

Schedule*

4:30 a.m.	Derek Chiu	11:02 a.m.	Stephen McHolm	5:34 p.m.	Annie Cen
4:58 a.m.	Les Der	11:30 a.m.	Kelly Schuler	6:02 p.m.	Hilary Tong
5:26 a.m.	Bridget Robinson	11:58 a.m.	Madeline Giroudeau	6:30 p.m.	Cathy Sun
5:54 a.m.	Mila Brandman	12:26 p.m.	Michelle Gregoire	6:58 p.m.	Claire Butler
6:22 a.m.	Angela Baker	12:54 p.m.	Carmen Morin	7:26 p.m.	Rhea Deanne
6:50 a.m.	Andrea Bosñjak	1:22 p.m.	Rena Ahmadova	7:54 p.m.	Angela Gosselin
7:18 a.m.	Wendy Liu	1:50 p.m.	Logan Mills	8:22 p.m.	Keke Zhang
7:46 a.m.	Nathan Cho	2:18 p.m.	Michèle Stanners	8:50 p.m.	Taylor Lang
8:14 a.m.	Donna Williams	2:36 p.m.	Angelo Toselli	9:18 p.m.	Linh Tran
8:42 a.m.	Marley Gillies	3:14 p.m.	Kevin Tucker	9:46 p.m.	Artem Yasynskyy
9:10 a.m.	Michael Coburn	3:42 p.m.	Alix Tucker	10:14 p.m.	Minsoo Sohn
9:38 a.m.	Chris Vander Pyl	4:10 p.m.	Russ Weninger	10:42 p.m.	Marc-André Hamelin
10:06 a.m.	Mark Limacher	4:38 p.m.	Carlos Foggin		
10:34 a.m.	Lisa Cheng	5:06 p.m.	Bruce Petherick		

* subject to change

FREE ADMISSION

Supported by Contemporary Calgary and Downtown Calgary

Minsoo Sohn

September 8, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Cathedral Church of the Redeemer

604 First St. S.E.

Calgary

Ten years since winning the top prize at the 2006 Honens Piano Competition, Minsoo Sohn returns to Calgary with a convincing and moving recital of Beethoven's last three piano sonatas.

Minsoo Sohn piano

Program

Beethoven Sonata No. 30 in E major Op. 109
 Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major Op. 110
 Sonata No. 32 in C minor Op. 111

TICKETS: \$35, SENIORS \$31.50, A440 MEMBERS \$18, YOUTH \$10

Supported by Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust

Marc-André Hamelin

September 9, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

205 8 Ave S.E.

Calgary

Marc-André Hamelin piano

"Is it possible for a pianist to be too good? If anyone faces jeopardy with that question, it's Marc-André Hamelin" (*The New York Times*). This is Mr Hamelin's first Calgary performance since his sold-out Honens recital in 2010.

Program

Haydn Sonata in C major Hob. XVI/48
Feinberg Sonata in No. 2 in A minor Op. 2 (1916)
 Sonata in No. 1 in A major Op. 1 (1915)
Beethoven Sonata No. 23 in F minor Op. 57 'Appassionata'
Scriabin Sonata No. 7 Op. 64 'White Mass'
Chopin Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor Op. 35

TICKETS: \$55, SENIORS \$49.50, A440 MEMBERS \$18, YOUTH \$10

Supported by Sunesis Consulting Inc.

Bison Noir

Co-presented by New Works Calgary

September 9, 2016

10 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion No. 1

116 7 Ave S.E.

Calgary

Schubert and The Haunting Destiny

Megan Schubert soprano | Laura Reid violin | Ralf Buschmeyer electric guitar | Minsoo Sohn piano | Aeolus Quartet

Inspired by the art songs of Franz Schubert, composer David Lang enlisted four classically trained artists active in alternative-pop circles to perform a new song cycle called *death speaks*. Commissioned by and premiered at Carnegie Hall and Stanford Lively Arts in 2012, *death speaks* makes its Canadian premiere at this late-night cabaret alongside Schubert's monumental 'Death and the Maiden' String Quartet.

Program

F. Schubert	Der Tod und das Mädchen D. 531
M. Schubert	the least unsmile
Lang	death speaks Canadian Premiere
F. Schubert	String Quartet No. 14 in D minor D. 810 'Death and the Maiden'

TICKETS: \$25, SENIORS \$22.50, A440 MEMBERS \$18

Supported by TD Bank Group, New Works Calgary and Banff Centre

Masterclass

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 10, 2016

9 a.m.

King Eddy Hotel

438 9 Ave S.E.

Calgary

Visiting pianist Minsoo Sohn instructs and inspires music students and teachers from across Alberta.

Program

Catherine Sun	
Fauré	Barcarolle No. 1 in A minor Op. 26

Felicia Deng
Ginastera Danzas Argentinas Op. 2

Kevin Chen
J. S. Bach *from* Partita No. 2 in C minor BWV 826
Sinfonia
Sarabande
Rondeaux
Capriccio

FREE ADMISSION

Supported by FortisAlberta

Storytellers

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 10, 2016
12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Drop in Zone at Studio Bell
Home of the National Music Centre
850 4 St. S.E.
Calgary

Peter and the Wolf

Artem Yasynskyy piano | Christian Goutsis narrator

Honens marks the 80th birthday of a bird, a cat, a duck, a hunter, a wolf and a boy named Peter at the telling of Sergei Prokofiev's classic *Peter and the Wolf*.

FREE ADMISSION

Supported by Enbridge Inc. and FortisAlberta

Film

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 10, 2016
3:30 p.m.
Special Exhibitions Gallery at Studio Bell
Home of the National Music Centre
850 4 St. S.E.
Calgary

Seymour: An Introduction

Director Ethan Hawke documents the career of Seymour Bernstein, a classical pianist who abandoned his rising performance career at age 50 to retreat to a modest, private life as educator and composer.

FREE WITH ADMISSION TO NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE

Artem Yasynskyy

Co-presented by National Music Centre

September 10, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Performance Hall at Studio Bell

Home of the National Music Centre

850 4 St S.E.

Calgary

Artem Yasynskyy piano | Clarice Evans narrator

Artem Yasynskyy left us spellbound as Finalist of the 2015 Honens Piano Competition. Back by popular demand, this encore recital pays tribute to Erik Satie's 150th birthday and the composer's underrated musical influence.

Program

Satie	Trois Gnossiennes
Cage	In a Landscape
Pesson	La lumière n'a pas de bras pour nous porter
Satie	Sports et divertissements
Debussy	<i>from</i> Préludes (premier livre) No. 1 Danseuses de Delphes. Lent et grave No. 4 Les sons es les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir. Modéré No. 5 Les collines d'Anacapri. Très modéré
Ravel	Prélude À la manière ... de Chabrier À la manière ... de Borodin Sonatine
Alain	L'Œuvre de piano (tomme 3)
Satie	Gnossiennes Nos. 4, 5, 6

TICKETS: \$30, SENIORS \$27, A440 MEMBERS \$18, YOUTH \$10

Open Air

September 11, 2016

2 p.m.

Central Memorial Park

1221 2 St. S.W.

Calgary

Minsoo Sohn piano | Artem Yasynskyy piano | Members of Kensington Sinfonia

Bask in the sounds of exquisite chamber music at this free concert under the late summer sun. Don't forget your picnic basket!

Program

Satie	Sonnerie pour réveiller le roi des singes - lequel ne dort toujours que d'un oeil
Mozart	Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat major K. 493
Schubert	Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat major. D. 929
Satie	Musique d'ameublement: Tapisserie en fer forge Musique d'ameublement: Carrelage phonique Trois Gymnopédies
Milhaud	Cinéma-fantaisie d'après <i>Le Boeuf sur le toit</i> Op. 58b

FREE ADMISSION

Supported by Canadian Natural Resources Limited

BIOGRAPHIES

Aeolus Quartet

The New York-based all-American Aeolus Quartet was formed in 2008 at the Cleveland Institute of Music. It has been awarded prizes at nearly every major competition in the United States and performed across the globe with showings "worthy of a major-league quartet" (*Dallas Morning News*). From 2013 to 2015, the Aeolus was Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School. The ensemble has released two albums of classical and contemporary works on the Longhorn/Naxos label. It is named for the Greek god Aeolus, who governed the four winds; this idea of a single spirit uniting four individual forces serves as an inspiration to the members of the Quartet as they pursue their art.

Ralf Buschmeyer

Calgarian Ralf Buschmeyer picked up his first guitar at the age of 13 and hasn't set it down since. Buschmeyer has been influenced by artists like Ray Charles, Eric Clapton and Booker T & the MGs. His musical style has evolved from blues and rock to R&B and jazz, resulting in a unique sound that resonates with any music lover. As an accomplished jazz guitarist, instructor and composer, Mr Buschmeyer's music echoes the eclectic journey he's taken and graciously invites the audience along for the ride. Mr Buschmeyer studied with Lorne Lofsky at Hamilton's Mohawk college. He spent 15 years on faculty of the Mount Royal University Jazz Diploma Program, has taught for the University of Calgary, and now serves on faculty for Ambrose University's BMus. Degree program. He leads his own bands, co-leads the Manic Thematic Trio, the contemporary-jazz quartet Terrain, and was musical director and composer for the Rogers Cable TV program *The Metal Mike Show*. Mr Buschmeyer won the 2004 TD Canada Trust Jazz Festival Writers Commission Award, was nominated for the Instrumental Album of the Year at the 2007 Hamilton Music Awards and has earned two WCMA nominations.

Clarice Evans

Clarice Evans Siebens is a versatile actor with experience in a wide variety of musical theatre, dramatic and comedic roles. She has been a fixture on Calgary's theatre scene for more than 50 years, performing in productions including those with Vertigo Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Lunchbox Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects and Storybook Theatre as well as being active in

Calgary's community theatres. She taught music and drama for the Calgary Board of Education, was a member of the Knox United Church Choir, Director of the Silver Threads choral group and has taken part in many reviews and variety shows. In 2006, Ms Evans was awarded the Martha and Harry Cohen Award for sustained and significant contribution to theatre in Calgary. Her favourite roles, however, are as mother of three and grandmother of eight.

Christian Goutsis

For 23 years, Christian Goutsis has worked across Canada, the United States and abroad as an actor, director, designer, musician and teacher. He has worked at every major theatre in Calgary including Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Calgary, Vertigo Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Ground Zero, Hit and Myth, Ghost River Theatre, Stage West, Quest Theatre, Shakespeare in the Park, The Shakespeare Company, and many, many others. Mr Goutsis has also worked across Canada: The Belfry Theatre, The Vancouver Playhouse, The Citadel Theatre, Mayfield Theatre, TMB Productions, The Globe Theatre, Stage West Mississauga, The Tarragon Theatre, Neptune Theatre. He twice toured the United Kingdom with the original Ghost River Theatre production of *Mesa* and has appeared in numerous television and radio programs. He has directed plays, musicals, animations, commercials, and everything in between, both in Canada and in Los Angeles, where he directed Emmy and Oscar winners in audio books and animations. He has composed music for many theatres and has taught acting, movement, and voice-over classes for both children and adults at public and private schools and post-secondary colleges and universities. Mr Goutsis is a multiple Betty Mitchell Award recipient, two time Calgary Critic award recipient and an AMPIA award nominee.

Kensington Sinfonia

Kensington Sinfonia was founded in 1988 by John Lowry, Associate Concertmaster of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and freelance musicians. Its programs cover a wide range of chamber music and string orchestra repertoire, from the Baroque to present day. Since its inception, this unique professional ensemble has frequently commissioned works by Calgary composers, as well as presenting the Calgary premieres of many Canadian compositions. The Sinfonia has been broadcast on both regional and national CBC Radio programs. Its debut recording *Views from the Americas*, was recorded by CBC Radio. Donovan Seidle serves as the ensemble's Artistic Director/Leader.

Marc-André Hamelin

Pianist Marc-André Hamelin is ranked among the elite of world pianists for his unrivaled blend of musicianship and virtuosity in the great works of the established repertoire, as well as for his intrepid exploration of the neglected music of the 19th and 20th centuries. *The Washington Post* wrote that his "technical facility is breathtaking: The piano quivers and trembles under his thunderous assault, but his sensitivity is also superb." He appears with the top orchestras and in the most prestigious concert halls of the world, including recent appearances with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Lucerne Symphony, and at Alte Oper Frankfurt, Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Salzburg Mozarteum and Wigmore Hall. Mr Hamelin records exclusively for Hyperion Records, Ltd. His discography of more than 50 recordings includes concertos and works for solo piano for which he has won multiple awards and accolades, including the 2014 ECHO Klassik Instrumentalist of the Year and multiple Grammy Award nominations. Born in Montreal and a resident of Boston, Marc-André Hamelin is the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the German Record Critics' Award Association. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Marc-André Hamelin appears by arrangement with Colbert Artists Management, Inc., 307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2006, New York NY 10001.
Marc-André Hamelin records exclusively for Hyperion Records, Ltd.

Laura Reid

Violinist Laura Reid is a versatile and active member of Calgary's music community. She has played eight years as a member of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and countless performances and collaborative work with ensembles in the city, including Kensington Sinfonia. Her musical efforts extend beyond classical repertoire, having recorded with Cam Penner,

AM Static, Rachel Fannan, Ethan Cole, and playing regularly with local band The Northwest Passage. She has helped organize Classical Revolution Calgary, hosted public interviews as part of Calgary Philharmonic pre-concert programming, teaches violin and coaches student chamber groups, and co-hosts the radio show *Unprocessed* with Mark Limacher on CJSW.

Megan Schubert

Megan Schubert is an American soprano who has performed world premieres at Carnegie Hall, music by Stockhausen for an audience under umbrellas in a torrential downpour for Make Music New York, with robots while locked inside a Van de Graaff Generator at Boston's Museum of Science, on a bike flying by the audience in an installation piece at McCarren Park Pool (Brooklyn), in a giant potato sack while video was projected onto her frontside at Webster Hall (New York), for inmates at a maximum security prison, with puppets at E 4th Street Fab! Fest (New York), for Elliot Carter at a celebration of his 100th birthday, in live concert footage used as promotional material for Alex Ross' book, *The Rest is Noise*, and with many ensembles championing art music and experimental jazz of today. Ms Schubert assists Moog synthesizer pioneer, composer, conductor and pianist Gershon Kingsley and opera director Rhoda Levine, and holds degrees from Bennington College and Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Lucy Shelton. She co-founded the Avant Music Festival and co-curated years 2010 to 2015. She now studies opera with tenor/actor Anthony Laciura (Boardwalk Empire, MET opera). Ms Schubert posts her own experimental and pop tracks on Soundcloud as 'theleastunsmile'.

Donovan Seidle

Violinist Donovan Seidle is a versatile musician—performing as concertmaster, or in the soloist spotlight; on the conductor's podium of a scoring stage; composing or arranging for film, large-scale spectacle shows or video game scores; orchestrating and editing. As Assistant Concertmaster of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and Artistic Director/ Leader of Kensington Sinfonia, Mr Seidle maintains a busy orchestral performance schedule. He is often involved in chamber music events and festivals, solo recitals, recording and jam sessions, and composing projects. His collaborations with other performers and composers has enabled him to take part in many large scale productions—spanning fireworks shows, musicals, ballets and large scale production shows. His wide skill-set made him an invaluable part of the music production team for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Minsoo Sohn

Minsoo Sohn's poetic vision and musical intelligence continue to garner praise from critics and audiences alike for his masterful virtuosity and deep musicianship. *The New York Times* called his Honens-label CD of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* a "beautifully articulated, radiant interpretation" and named it one of the top classical recordings of 2011. Sohn was born in Korea and moved to Boston in his teens to study with Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun at the New England Conservatory where his studies extended from his freshman year to the Conservatory's most prestigious degree, Artist Diploma, in 2004. Ten years ago, Sohn was named Laureate of the 2006 Honens Piano Competition. He was also a top prizewinner at the Rubinstein, Cleveland, and Busoni international piano competitions. He recently taught at Michigan State University before returning to Seoul where he is now on faculty at the Korean National University of Arts.

Artem Yasynskyy

Artem Yasynskyy was born in Donetsk, Ukraine into a family of professional musicians. At age seven he became a student of Albina Oryshuk at the Special School for Gifted Children in Donetsk, and later continued his musical studies at the Donetsk State Musical Academy. Since 2010, he has studied with Patrick O'Byrne at the University of Arts in Bremen. Mr Yasynskyy has won prizes at several major international piano competitions, including the Gina Bachauer, Sendai, Gian Battista Viotti, Horowitz, First German Competition of Polish Music and Cincinnati World Piano Competition. He was a Finalist at the 2015 Honens Piano Competition. He has performed at festivals including Bremer Musikfest, the Maggio Piano Festival Vercelli, the Summer Night Music Festival of Kiev, the Festival 'Days of Slavic Culture' in Rome and Hamburg's Polish Music Festival and has made appearances in Australia, Japan, South Korea, the United States and throughout Europe.