

# HONENS MEDIA ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **A BISON, A RUSSIAN COMPOSER AND HIS DJ GRANDSON WALK INTO A BAR ...**

#### **HONENS BISON NOIR: THE PROKOFIEVS AT LOCAL 522 PUBLIC TAVERN, OCTOBER 5 AND 6**

CALGARY, AB, September 27, 2013—Honens brings cool to classical music through its first 2013 installment of Honens Bison Noir on October 5 and 6. Honens Bison Noir: The Prokofievs, which takes place at Local 522 Public Tavern, features turntable artist/electro-acoustic composer Gabriel Prokofiev (grandson of Sergei), pianist Katherine Chi (Honens Prize Laureate 2000) and celebrated Canadian cellist Shauna Rolston. Gabriel Prokofiev's sound is as distinctive as his prolific grandfather Sergei's. The genius of both game-changers is featured in this Prokofiev family Honens Bison Noir. Gabriel Prokofiev performs and DJs between live sets.

#### WHAT

##### **HONENS BISON NOIR: The Prokofievs**

Katherine Chi piano, Gabriel Prokofiev turntables, Shauna Rolston cello,  
Michael Bursey viola, Stan Climie clarinet/bass clarinet, Laura Reid violin, Donovan Seidle violin

#### WHERE

Local 522 Public Tavern  
522 Sixth Avenue SW, Calgary

#### WHEN

Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 10:30 p.m. doors at 9 p.m.  
Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 8:30 p.m. doors at 7 p.m.

#### TICKETS

\$25

#### ABOUT HONENS BISON NOIR

With a nod to 'Le Poisson Rouge'—New York's 'it' venue for cutting-edge performing arts in a bar/club setting—Honens Bison Noir fuses performances of classical and post-classical music in a cabaret setting and removes formal traditions, allowing audiences to feel comfortable wearing casual clothing, getting there when they can, and not worrying about small noises made during the concert.

#### ABOUT HONENS

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Artists—21<sup>st</sup> century pianists for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences. Honens Laureates are critically acclaimed the world-over and the triennial 'Search for the Complete Artist' awards the largest prize of its kind. Honens also presents concerts throughout the year in Calgary and community outreach programs nationwide.

#### **Backgrounder Attached**

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#### **Information**

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# BACKGROUNDER

## Program

GABRIEL PROKOFIEV      *Selections from Piano Book I*  
Two Dances for Bass Clarinet, turntables, piano and string trio  
Cello Multitracks

SERGEI PROKOFIEV      *Selections from Visions Fugitives Op. 22*  
Overture on Hebrew Themes Op. 34

## Katherine Chi piano

Calgary-native Katherine Chi became the first woman and the first Canadian to be named Honens Prize Laureate in 2000, a triumph that brought her international attention. She has become one of Canada's foremost musical interpreters having performed throughout Europe and North America to great acclaim. "Ms Chi displayed a keen musical intelligence and a powerful arsenal of technique," wrote *The New York Times*.

Sought after as a concerto soloist of musical and technical distinction, Chi is noted for the breadth of her repertory. While praised for her interpretations of Mozart, she is also applauded for performances of major romantic and 20<sup>th</sup> century concerti. "The most sensational but, better, the most unfailingly cogent and compelling Prokofiev's Third I have heard in years," wrote the *Globe and Mail*. And when Katherine Chi recreated Stockhausen's landmark work, *Mantra*, for two pianos and electronics the *Boston Globe* wrote "when the superb pianists Katherine Chi and Aleksandar Madžar took on the challenge at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on Sunday, it was a welcome opportunity: courtside seats at the creation. Chi and Madžar were ensconced among percussion, microphones, and MIDI controllers ... the form unfolding like a venerable suite even as it pushes the modernist envelope."

A year after her debut recital at age nine, Katherine Chi was accepted to the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. She continued studies at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she received her Master's degree, Graduate, Artist Diploma and Doctorate. She later studied for two years at the International Piano Foundation in Como, Italy, and at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne. Her debut recording on the Honens label features works of Beethoven and Rachmaninov and a new album is slated for 2014 release. Katherine Chi performs for Honens after her Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra appearances in Calgary on October 4 and 5.

## Gabriel Prokofiev turntables

Gabriel Prokofiev is a London-based composer, producer, DJ and founder of the NONCLASSICAL record label and club night. Composing music that both embraces and challenges western classical traditions, Prokofiev has emerged at the forefront of a new approach to classical music at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. His *Concerto for Turntables* was performed at the BBC Proms in August 2011 to critical acclaim, conducted by Vladimir Jurowski with world champion DJ Switch as soloist, and broadcast on BBC2 television. Other recent works include a poly-stylistic 'orchestral remix' of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony commissioned by John Axelrod and the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, France, performed to sold-out concert halls in Angers and Nantes in June 2011; *3rd String Quartet* premiered by the Ruysdael Kwartet at London's Wigmore Hall in 2010; *import/export/a percussion suite for Global*

*Junk*, toured in the United Kingdom and United States by Joby Burgess's Powerplant; and a book for Solo Piano recorded by Russian pianist GÉNIA.

Prokofiev's own distinctive sound is informed by his background as a producer of hip-hop, grime, and electro records, as well as his earlier involvement in electro-acoustic music at York and Birmingham universities, which saw him win a Residency prize at the prestigious Bourges International Electro-acoustic Music Competition in 1998. His latest works include new music for a ballet production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with choreographer Cathy Marston for Bern Ballet, Switzerland, and *Concerto for Bass Drum & Orchestra*, which was premiered by Princeton Symphony with soloist Joby Burgess and conductor Rossen Milanov, and which made its United Kingdom premiere with the London Contemporary Orchestra at Camden's Round-House.

### **Shauna Rolston** cello

Award-winning Banff-native cellist Shauna Rolston is considered to be one of the most compelling and unique musical voices on the stage today. Since receiving a mini cello for her second birthday, Rolston has appeared around the world, performing in major concert halls including Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall, and was the featured artist at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

Praised for her blazing technique and ability to touch the heart of each audience member, Rolston continues to astonish and delight with concerts, recordings and world premieres. Her passion for contemporary music has led to the commission and creation for her of more than 50 works for cello, including concerti by Canada's leading composers. Recent and current projects include a collaboration with Peggy Baker Dance Projects with music composed by Heather Schmidt, cello concerti written for her by Vincent Ho, Douglas Schmidt, Chris Paul Harman, and Gary Kulesha, as well as three groundbreaking double concerti: one for improvising cello and contemporary jazz piano composed by and performed with Canadian jazz sensation David Braid, one for cello and piano composed by and performed with Heather Schmidt, and another for cello and flute by Karen Tanaka.

The diversity of Rolston's artistry is reflected in her many honours including an invitation to join the Governor-General's State Delegation to Finland and Iceland, her appointment as Canadian Music Centre Ambassador for her commitment to the performance of Canadian music, and most recently, the Oskar Morawetz Award for Excellence in Music Performance.

Shauna Rolston is Professor of Cello and Head of Strings at the University of Toronto and a Visiting Artist for the Music and Sound Programs at The Banff Centre. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Yale University and a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music where she studied with distinguished cellist and pedagogue, Aldo Parisot.