

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NEW RECORDINGS ON THE HONENS LABEL

CALGARY, AB, October 13, 2015—The Honens label has added two new recordings to its catalogue of studio and live recordings: Hinrich Alpers: *Complete Piano Works of Ravel*; and Gilles Vonsattel: *Shadowlines*.

German pianist Hinrich Alpers (2006 Honens Laureate), in his second studio recording on the Honens label, explores the complete piano works of Maurice Ravel on a two-disc set. Alpers also presents works by composers Alfredo Casella and Arthur Honegger, as well as four contemporary commissions from Kendall Briggs, Marcus Aydintan, Anton Plate and Benedict Mason, all in homage to Ravel.

Swiss-born American pianist Gilles Vonsattel (2009 Honens Laureate) centres his second studio recording for the Honens label around George Benjamin's 2001 work *Shadowlines*, subtitled *Six Canonic Preludes for Piano*. Vonsattel's recital album spans nearly three centuries of music and includes works by Scarlatti, Messiaen, Webern and Debussy.

HINRICH ALPERS: COMPLETE PIANO WORKS OF RAVEL

Honens © © 201502CD (2CD 79.50' & 72.17' • DDD)

Disc One

RAVEL

Sérénade grotesque

Menuet antique

Pavane pour une infante défunte

Jeux d'eau

Sonatine

Miroirs

Gaspard de la nuit

Disc Two

RAVEL

Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn

Valses nobles et sentimentales

Prélude

À la manière de ... Borodine

À la manière de ... Chabrier

Le tombeau de Couperin

Menuet in C-sharp minor

La valse

CASELLA

À la manière de ... Ravel

HONEGGER

Hommage à Ravel

BRIGGS

Hommage à Ravel

AYDINTAN

Encore avec Ravel

PLATE

Erinnerung an Maurice Ravel

MASON

Galoches en d'août

GILLES VONSATTEL: SHADOWLINES

Honens © © 201501CD (67.51' • DDD)

SCARLATTI

Sonata in A minor K. 3 (L. 378)

Sonata in A minor K. 54 (L. 241)

Sonata in C major K. 502 (L. 3)

MESSIAEN

Quatre études de rythme: No. 4, Île de feu II

WEBERN

Variations Op. 27

BENJAMIN

Shadowlines: Six Canonic Preludes for Piano

MESSIAEN

Préludes

Les sons impalpables du rêve

Cloches d'angoisse et larmes d'adieu

DEBUSSY

Feux d'artifice *from* Préludes deuxième livre

Masques

D'un cahier d'esquisses

L'isle joyeuse

Production of both recordings was made possible in part through the Artist Development Program of Canada's Honens Piano Competition. Deutsche Telekom supported production of Hinrich Alpers' recording and it was produced and recorded using the facilities of Media + Production / Music Programs at The Banff Centre. Gilles Vonsattel's recording was supported by a Faculty Research Grant from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and produced and recorded using the facilities of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York.

The Honens label features studio and live recordings by Honens Laureates. The label 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. 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. Italian pianist Luca Buratto was named 2015 Honens Prize Laureate in September.

Backgrounder attached

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BACKGROUND

HINRICH ALPERS

Hinrich Alpers is Laureate of the Honens Piano Competition (2006) and First Prizewinner of the International Telekom Beethoven Competition in Bonn, Germany (2009). From these successes, he has gone on to perform at the Klavier Festival Ruhr, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Beethoven Easter Festival Warsaw and the Beethoven Festival Bonn Concerts. He has performed in recital, as soloist with orchestra and as collaborator in chamber music and lieder around the world, including concerts throughout Europe, the United States, Canada, China and Vietnam. These have included appearances on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Gasteig and the Berlin Philharmonie. Alpers has also been honoured with the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival Prize and the Mozarteum Salzburg Summer Academy Award.

In addition to the complete piano works of Ravel, Alpers plays the complete piano sonatas and concerti of Beethoven, the complete piano works of Schumann and all of Rachmaninov's piano concerti. He is drawn to rarely heard works, such as those by Rudi Stephan, a composer killed in his youth during the First World War, works of the Second Viennese School and the monumental *Sonatas and Interludes* of John Cage.

Alpers studied with Bernd Goetzke at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover and earned his Graduate Diploma from The Juilliard School, studying with Jerome Lowenthal. He has taught piano at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover and currently teaches at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. His first solo recording, an all-Schumann album, is also available on the Honens label.

GILLES VONSATTEL

Swiss-born American pianist Gilles Vonsattel is an artist of great versatility and originality. He is Laureate of the Honens Piano Competition (2009), a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and winner of the Naumburg and Geneva competitions. Vonsattel has performed with leading orchestras including the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood and the San Francisco Symphony, and has given recitals at Ravinia, Tokyo's Musashino Hall, Wigmore Hall, and the Bravo! Vail, Music@Menlo, Gilmore and Lucerne festivals. His 2014 New York solo recital was hailed as "tightly conceived and passionately performed ... a study in intensity" by *The New York Times*. Vonsattel performs in ensembles across the United States and internationally and has been a member of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center since 2010. Deeply committed to the performance of contemporary music, Vonsattel has premiered numerous works both in the United States and Europe and has worked closely with notable composers including Jörg Widmann, Heinz Holliger and George Benjamin. His 2011 recording on the Honens label, featuring music of Debussy, Honegger, Holliger and Ravel, was named one of *Time Out New York's* classical albums of the year, and his 2014 release on GENUIN/Artist Consort received a 5/5 from *FonoForum*.

Gilles Vonsattel received his bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Columbia University and his master's degree in piano performance from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal. He is on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and is a Steinway Artist.