

# HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **TICKET PASSES NOW ON SALE FOR 2017 HONENS FESTIVAL**

#### **CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PIANO RUNS SEPTEMBER 7 TO 10, 2017**

CALGARY, AB, November 30, 2016—The award-winning Honens Festival returns September 7 to 10, 2017 for a four-day festival of music with a side of maple syrup! To mark Canada's 150th birthday, this celebration of piano showcases some of the country's brightest classical music stars alongside Honens Laureates through innovative performance projects and dynamic community concerts.

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; and a late-night cabaret featuring Sri Lankan-born, Canada-based composer-performer Dinuk Wijeratne. The Festival also features free events for the community, details of which will be announced when single tickets go on sale April 3, 2017.

"Our 2017 Festival is filled with music fit for celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial," said Neil Edwards, President of Honens. "As one of the country's representatives on the international music stage, we're delighted to pay tribute to Canada's celebrated musical history."

Festival Ticket Passes are available for \$129 (20% off regular ticket price) by calling the Honens Box Office at (403) 299-0140.

Honens is supported by TD Bank Group, RBC Emerging Artists Project, WAX Partnership, Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust, Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos, Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary, Masters Gallery, Jaguar Landrover Ottawa, FortisAlberta, Deluxe Design Group, Calgary Herald, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, Arts Commons, National Music 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.

#### **Event Details and Backgrounder Attached**

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# **BACKGROUNDER**

## **ABOUT HONENS**

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Artists—21<sup>st</sup> century artists for 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

### **TICKETED EVENTS**

#### **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. 53 in D major Hob. III:63 ‘The Lark’  
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 string quartets and tabla players.

#### 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 ↓

## **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

**THE FESTIVAL ALSO FEATURES FREE EVENTS INCLUDING AN OUTDOOR CONCERT AT CENTRAL MEMORIAL PARK, STORYTELLERS AND MASTERCLASSES. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN SINGLE TICKETS GO ON SALE APRIL 3, 2017.**