



honens

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honens International Piano Competition Laureate, Minsoo Sohn, makes Glenn Gould Studio debut

TORONTO, ON, August 31, 2009 – **Minsoo Sohn**, First Laureate of Canada's Honens International Piano Competition (2006), makes his Glenn Gould Studio debut in a solo recital on **Saturday, October 3, 2009** at 8 p.m. (250 Front Street West). Sohn's recital includes Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*, Leon Kirchner's *Interlude II*, and Liszt's transcriptions of works by Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart.

South Korean-born Minsoo Sohn began piano studies at age three. One of his earliest inspirations was Henryk Szeryng's legendary recording of Bach's *Sonatas and Partitas* for solo violin. While the violin first captured his attention, he grew to appreciate the piano's many voices and tonal colours. In addition to his Honens win, Sohn was a top prizewinner at the Rubinstein, Cleveland, Busoni and Hilton Head International Piano Competitions, and received laureate prizes at Belgium's Queen Elisabeth and Santander's Paloma O'Shea Competitions.

William Aide, Chairman of the 2006 Honens Jury, speaks to Sohn's artistry: "Minsoo Sohn is an artist of Olympian magnitude. To the *Diabelli* and *Goldberg Variations* he brings a structural clarity and an expansive range of dramatic characterization. His Liszt is unsurpassable in its lyric refinement and sonic splendour, qualities reminiscent of great Lisztians of the past, such as Egon Petri and Grigory Ginzburg." Sohn's debut recording of Liszt transcriptions received four out of four stars from *The Toronto Star* earlier this year: "Sohn tosses off the fearsome technical challenges without breaking stride, while at the same time elegantly colouring each mood," wrote John Terauds.

Minsoo Sohn's Glenn Gould Studio concert comes just days before his debut at New York's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on October 8. Both concerts are made possible by the Honens Competition's comprehensive Artistic and Career Development Program, one of the most lucrative prizes in the world of international music competitions.

Tickets for the October 3 recital are \$15 to \$25 and are available through the Roy Thomson Hall Box Office at (416) 872-4255 or online at roythomson.com.

Honens International Piano Competition is among the world's most prestigious events of its kind. It searches the world to discover "Complete Artists" – 21st century musicians for 21st century audiences. The Sixth International Piano Competition, presented by Nexen Inc., takes place in Calgary, October 22 to November 6, 2009. For more information visit honens.com.

- 30 -

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