

backgrounder

Honens International Piano Competition Announces 2012 Juries and Collaborating Artists as Call for Pianists Begins

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL (FIRST JURY)

William Aide

Canada

A pianist, author and teacher, William Aide received musical degrees from the University of Toronto and The Juilliard School. As a collaborative pianist, he has worked with conductors Sir Andrew Davis, Arthur Fiedler and Walter Susskind; sopranos Elisabeth Söderström and Lois Marshall; and the St Lawrence and Orford String Quartets, among others. He has performed concerts throughout Canada, the former Soviet Union, and in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. A specialist in Canadian music, Aide has performed more than 30 premieres of Canadian works, including five piano concertos. He is the former Head of the Keyboard Division at the University of Toronto and was the inaugural R.E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance. His autobiography, *Starting from Porcupine*, was published in 1996. Aide has also written two books of poems, one of which, *Sea Voyage with Pigs*, is based on the Chopin piano preludes. He has a long affiliation with the Honens Competition, having served as a juror for each edition of the Competition since 2000.

Leila Getz

Canada

Leila Getz, Founder and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Recital Society, has presented the Canadian and Vancouver debut performances of some of the world's most brilliant and respected young musicians. She has provided the platform for the brightest lights in the musical world long before they have become household names and has become a trusted "taste-maker" by providing the opportunity to hear the "future" of classical music – of discovering musicians for the 21st century. In 1995, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada for her community service in cultivating Canada's musical landscape and, in 2004, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest honour for outstanding achievement. A year later, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University. Getz was also one of only three international consultants invited to sit on the Artistic Advisory Committee of the world-leading Melbourne Recital Centre (Australia), which opened in 2009.

Charles Hamlen

United States

IMG Artists Chairman, Charles Hamlen, is one of the most respected professionals in the world of arts management. Hamlen began his professional life as a high school French teacher upon graduating from Harvard in 1965. After 11 years in the classroom, with an interim year in Paris at the Sorbonne, he moved to New York to start a career as an artist manager. Together with business partner Edna Landau, he founded Hamlen/Landau Management in 1979. Five years later, the company was acquired by the International Management Group, becoming IMG Artists, where he looked after the careers of artists including violinists Joshua Bell, Leila Josefowicz and Itzhak Perlman; the Emerson String Quartet; and pianists Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and André Watts. In 1992, Hamlen left IMG for almost two decades to found Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS, a not-for-profit organization that draws upon the talents, resources and generosity of the performing arts community to raise and distribute funds for AIDS-related services across the United States. Today, Classical Action is the nation's leading industry-based AIDS fundraising and grant-making organization. In 2009, he returned to IMG Artists as Chairman, while continuing his affiliation with Classical Action as its Founding Director.

Benedetto Lupo

Italy

Benedetto Lupo is a refined musician whose career is gaining worldwide recognition. He has performed with some of the world's top orchestras, notably the Chicago, Montreal, Seattle and Vancouver Symphonies, the Hallé, Bergen (Norway), London, New York and Rotterdam Philharmonics, the Gewandhaus (Leipzig), Philadelphia, Santa Cecilia (Rome) and Spanish National (Madrid) Orchestras and with Canada's Les Violons du Roy. Festival appearances include the Tivoli in Copenhagen, the Villa Medici in Rome, the Chopin Festival in Poland, the Schubert Festivals in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo and Chicago's Grant Park Festival. His recording of Nino Rota's *Concerto Soirée* with the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana on the Harmonia Mundi label received the prestigious Diapason d'Or award. He has also recorded Schumann's complete works for piano and orchestra with Peter Maag and the RSI Symphony Orchestra, including the first CD recording of the piano version of *Konzertstück Op. 86*, for the Arts label. Lupo was Bronze medalist at the 1989 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and was second and third prizewinner at the Cleveland and Gina Bachauer International Piano Competitions respectively. He teaches at the Nino Rota Conservatory in Italy.

LAUREATE SELECTION PANEL (SECOND JURY)**Adrian Brendel**

United Kingdom / Germany

Cellist Adrian Brendel studied at Winchester College, Cambridge University and with Frans Helmerson at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Germany. His close musical relationship with his father Alfred Brendel led to many chamber music appearances throughout

the world and culminated in a critically acclaimed Philips recording of Beethoven's complete music for cello and piano. Adrian Brendel's piano trio with Till Fellner and Lisa Batiashvili is much in demand throughout Europe. Other recent collaborators include pianist Imogen Cooper, the Jerusalem String Quartet and fellow Honens juror, Aleksandar Madžar. Brendel founded Music at Plush in 1995 and has been festival Music Director throughout its development. He is also Classical Music Director of music label Plushmusic. He regularly offers masterclasses to chamber musicians and even solo pianists because of his vast knowledge of the chamber and solo piano literature. Brendel divides his time between Plush, London and Berlin.

Michael Haefliger

Germany / Switzerland

The son of tenor Ernst Haefliger, Michael Haefliger earned a degree in violin at The Juilliard School, where he studied with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy Delay (1978-83). He went on to study management at the School of Business, Law, and Social Sciences of St Gallen University, where he received an Executive MBA, and at Harvard in the General Manager Program. At first, Haefliger pursued a career as a concert violinist. In 1986 he became a co-founder of the Young Artists in Concert Festival in Davos (Switzerland), for which he served as Executive Director until 1998. He was also Artistic Director of the Collegium Novum in Zurich. In 1999, he became Executive Director of Lucerne Festival where he has expanded the annual programs of the organization's three festivals: Easter, Summer and Piano, including the co-founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Claudio Abbado and the Lucerne Festival Academy with Pierre Boulez. In 2000, the World Economic Forum in Davos named Haefliger a "Global Leader of Tomorrow". He has also received the European Cultural and Innovation Prize (2003) and the Tourism Award from the Lucerne Tourism Forum (2007).

Aleksandar Madžar

Serbia / Belgium

Pianist Aleksandar Madžar has performed throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia and has worked with some of the world's leading conductors, including Paavo Berglund, Iván Fischer, Paavo Järvi, Carlos Kalmar, John Nelson, Libor Pešek, André Previn and the late Marcello Viotti. He is a regular guest artist at festivals including the Bad Kissingen and Schleswig-Holstein, the Ivo Pogorelich Festival at Bad Wörishofen, Klavier Festival Ruhr, Davos, Roque d'Anthéron, Salzburg, Sintra and Aldeburgh. His recordings include the Chopin piano concertos with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony and Dmitri Kitaenko (BMG / Classic FM), a disc of Chabrier's music for two pianos (Arion) and a disc of Elliott Carter, Rachmaninov and Schnittke (Intim Musik) with cellist Louise Hopkins. He is professor at the Royal Flemish Conservatoire, Brussels, and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Bern. Madžar was third prizewinner at the Leeds International Piano Competition in 1996. He previously served on the 2009 Honens Competition Jury.

Michael Spring

United Kingdom

Scottish recording executive, Michael Spring, developed a love of classical music in his early teens, first as a listener and only later as an enthusiastic, but rather – in his words – untalented pianist. After initial university studies in philosophy and biochemistry he realized he could make his hobby his career and continued with postgraduate work in music, receiving a Masters in Music from the University of East Anglia where he researched performance practice in early piano recordings and trained as a classical recording engineer and producer. Spring has now worked in the record industry for 25 years, 23 of them spent at Hyperion Records. In addition to running the commercial side of Hyperion's business, he has been responsible for most of the recent piano output. He has brought such pianists as Stephen Hough, Marc-André Hamelin and Steven Osborne to the label and has created the hugely successful *Romantic Piano Concerto* series that has released more than 50 volumes. Projects for which he has been responsible have won seven Gramophone awards, two of which have also become 'Record of the Year'. In 2005 he took over the APR label, which specializes in re-issuing historic piano recordings.

HaeSun Paik

South Korea

Pianist HaeSun Paik has performed throughout the world following triumphs at major international piano competitions including a Gold medal at the 1989 William Kapell International Competition (United States), a Silver at the 1991 Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, a Bronze at the 1994 Tchaikovsky Piano Competition (Russia), as well as a prize in the 1990 Leeds International Piano Competition (United Kingdom). Paik has appeared with the world's leading orchestras including the Boston, London, National (Washington D.C.) and NHK (Japan) Symphonies, and the Japan, Moscow, Munich, Radio France, Tokyo and Warsaw Philharmonics. She has given recitals at New York's Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Bank of Boston Celebrity Series at Jordan Hall, and in concert halls in major cities of Europe, North and South America and Asia. Paik is a graduate of the New England Conservatory where she studied with Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun. She was the youngest pianist to be appointed music professor at Seoul National University in Korea (1994). After teaching at the university for ten years, she decided to give up her professorship in order to broaden her musical experiences and views in life. She now divides her time between the United States and Korea where she is the Artistic Director of Busan Music Festival.

Jon Kimura Parker

Canada / United States

Pianist Jon Kimura "Jackie" Parker was born, raised and educated in Vancouver. He studied with Edward Parker, Keiko Parker, Robin Wood, Marek Jablonski and Lee Kum-Sing, as well as with Adele Marcus, under whom he received his doctorate at The Juilliard School in 1988. Parker has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra and with the major orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati,

Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and throughout Canada. He has given recitals in London, New York, Chicago, Munich, Budapest, Sydney, Hong Kong and Tokyo, and has performed with musicians including Joshua Bell, James Ehnes, Lynn Harrell and the Tokyo String Quartet. He has also jammed with Doc Severinsen and Bobby McFerrin and collaborated with Audra McDonald and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Parker is Professor of Piano at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and serves as Artistic Advisor for the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival. He has recorded for Telarc with André Previn, Yoel Levi and Peter Schickele. Gold Medal winner at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition, Parker was also awarded the Order of Canada in 1999. He previously served on the Jury of the inaugural Honens Competition in 1992.

Bramwell Tovey

United Kingdom / Canada

Bramwell Tovey has served as Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since 2000. He is also Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and founding host and conductor of the New York Philharmonic's Summertime Classics series at Avery Fisher Hall. In 2008, Tovey received a Grammy® award for his recording of Barber, Korngold and Walton violin concertos with James Ehnes and the Vancouver Symphony. He was previously Music Director of the Luxembourg Philharmonic and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Tovey's profound commitment to new music resulted in the founding of Winnipeg's acclaimed New Music Festival. Tovey is also a composer and was the first artist to win a JUNO Award® in both conducting and composition. His opera *The Inventor* was commissioned and premiered by Calgary Opera in 2011. On top of all these accomplishments, Tovey is an accomplished jazz pianist with two recordings to his name. Awarded numerous honorary degrees, Tovey has received Fellowships from the Royal Academy of Music in London and Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and honorary Doctorates of Law from the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba and Kwantlen University College.

COLLABORATING ARTISTS

Isabel Bayrakdarian

soprano

Isabel Bayrakdarian burst onto the international music scene after winning first prize in the 2000 Operalia Competition founded by Plácido Domingo. She is admired as much for her stunning stage presence as for her exceptional musicality, and she has followed a career path completely her own. Highlights of recent operatic seasons include the role of Euridice in *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the Canadian Opera Company, the title role in *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Saito Kinen Festival and Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, both times with conductor Seiji Ozawa, and the role of Blanche in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Sir Andrew Davis. Bayrakdarian has performed under the auspices of the world's most prestigious concert series and orchestras, including Carnegie and Wigmore Halls, San Francisco Performances, the Celebrity Series of Boston, and the Symphonies of Chicago, Minnesota, Montreal, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto. In recital, she often performs with

her husband, pianist Serouj Kradjian. Together they recorded a Grammy®-nominated (2009) disc of songs by Armenia's national composer, Gomidas Vartabed, with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. She also sings on the Grammy® award-winning soundtrack of the blockbuster film *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*, and has been honoured with four JUNO Awards®. Born in Lebanon of proud Armenian heritage, and now a citizen of Canada, Bayrakdarian moved with her family to Toronto as a teenager. She holds an honours degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Toronto.

Roberto Minczuk

conductor

Roberto Minczuk is Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and holds two concurrent posts in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Artistic Director of the Orquestra Sinfonica Brasileira and Music Director and Artistic Director of the Opera and Orchestra of the Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro. Until 2005, he served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra in Brazil, having completed a nine-year tenure as Co-Artistic Director of that orchestra and a two-year period as Associate Conductor of the New York Philharmonic. Minczuk began his career as a French horn prodigy and by age 13 was principal horn of the São Paulo Symphony. After graduating from The Juilliard School in 1987, he became a member of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra at the invitation of Kurt Masur. Returning to Brazil in 1989, he pursued conducting studies with Eleazar de Carvalho and John Neschling. Since his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1998, Minczuk has been invited to conduct extensively in North America, with successful appearances at nearly all of the major North American orchestras and in many of the European capitals. In 2006 he assumed responsibility for much of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's U.S. tour – filling in for an ailing Kurt Masur – and won critical acclaim for his leadership of the orchestra in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Minczuk has been Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic since 2006.

Johannes Moser

cello

Johannes Moser came to international attention when he won Moscow's Tchaikovsky International Music Competition in 2002. In short order, his career has reached great heights. Moser has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Chicago, London and Tokyo Symphonies, the Israel, New York, Los Angeles and Munich Philharmonics, and the Bayerische Rundfunk, Cleveland, Concertgebouw and Tonhalle Zurich Orchestras. He now works with leading conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Lorin Maazel, Valery Gergiev, Zubin Mehta, Christian Thielemann, Pierre Boulez and Paavo Jarvi. A dedicated chamber musician, Moser has regularly collaborated with Midori, including performances with the acclaimed violinist and American pianist Jonathan Biss throughout Europe. He is especially committed to reaching young and new audiences, from kindergarten to college and beyond. His touring outreach project with toy pianist Phyllis Chen took "Sounding Off: A Fresh Look at Classical Music" to campuses and alternative venues across the United States, culminating in performances at Le Poisson Rouge, New York's leading venue for eclectic gigs. Moser was born

into a musical family in 1979 as a dual citizen of Germany and Canada. His mother is soprano and past Honens Competition juror, Edith Wiens.

Geoff Nuttall

violin

Geoff Nuttall co-founded the St Lawrence String Quartet in 1989 and has since performed as first violinist of the renowned chamber ensemble more than 2,000 times on stages around the world. Nuttall is also an accomplished soloist. His collaboration in Gyorgy Kurtag's *Kafka Fragments* for soprano and violin with Dawn Upshaw, and staged by Peter Sellars, began at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in New York in 2005 and was recently revived for acclaimed performances in Los Angeles, Berkeley, London, Brussels, Rome, and again in New York. In addition to his busy concert and recording schedule, Nuttall is on faculty at Stanford University where the St Lawrence String Quartet has been Ensemble-in-Residence since 1999. He has also served as Artistic Director for Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festival USA since 2010. Nuttall began violin at age eight after moving to London, Ontario from College Station, Texas. He spent most of his musical studies under the tutelage of Lorand Fenyves at The Banff Centre, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. Nuttall performed as a collaborative artist for the Honens International Piano Competition twice: the first time, in 1996, with the St Lawrence String Quartet, and again in 2000 for performances of piano trios with cellist Shauna Rolston.

- 30 -

Alberta Media Relations
Janet Bwititi
Honens
(403) 299-0130 ext. 138
jbwititi@honens.com

National Media Relations
Karen Lorenowicz
KL Strategic Communications
(416) 243-0168
karen.l@sympatico.ca