



2018 HONENS PRIZE LAUREATE

NICOLAS NAMORADZE

"An extraordinary artist." —Emanuel Ax

"Never have I heard such a Liszt Sonata as I did from Nicolas Namoradze ... The strength of the conception and the sheer level of artistry compel me to take my hat off to him." —Zoltán Kocsis

Pianist and composer Nicolas Namoradze, whose performances have been hailed by critics as "sparkling ... sensitive and coloristic" (*New York Times*) and "simply gorgeous" (*Wall Street Journal*), came to international attention in 2018 upon winning the triennial Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada—the largest piano prize in the world. The *Calgary Herald* called him "unparalleled" and "a pianist's pianist" stating: "while he certainly has the virtuosity to spare, he gained the top spot through his remarkable clarity of execution, refinement and variety of tone, and his uncanny ability to make even the most ordinary passagework sound meaningful and distinctive ... The refinement of his playing was of international standard, and everywhere his interpretative skills commanded attention and admiration."

As 2018 Honens Prize Laureate, Namoradze's upcoming activities include debut recitals at Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, and Konzerthaus Berlin, recordings on the Honens and Hyperion labels, performances with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, and residencies at leading festivals and music centers around the world such as the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Budapest, Vienna, and Florence, Namoradze moved to New York for his master's at Juilliard. He now pursues his Doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center holding the Graduate Center Fellowship, studying piano with Emanuel Ax and Yoheved Kaplinsky and composition with John Corigliano. Namoradze serves on the faculty of Queens College.

HONENS

Honens discovers, nurtures, and presents Complete Artists—21st century pianists for 21st century audiences.

The Honens International 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 classical music events, intended to share Mrs. Honens' love of world renowned music with Albertans every year.

ESTHER HONENS

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, 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, including wide reaching programming through the annual Festival and enriching community outreach projects.

LAUREATE REPRESENTATION

Worldwide

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