

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONENS TO BE FIRST IN CANADA TO USE LIVENOTE® DURING UPCOMING FESTIVAL

Calgary, AB, September 4, 2019—The curtain raises September 5 on the 2019 Honens Festival with four days of extraordinary piano and chamber music. Highlight Festival performances include the Miró Quartet, award-winning Polish piano / accordion Duo 19:21, rising star singer / songwriter Gabriel Kahane, a 70th birthday tribute to revered Canadian composer Alexina Louie (who will make a special cameo appearance), and pianists Jon Kimura Parker, Nicolas Namoradze (2018 Honens Prize Laureate), Pedja Mužijević, and Katherine Chi (2000 Honens Prize Laureate).

At two concerts—the Miró Quartet with Jon Kimura Parker and Open Air—audience members will be able to follow real-time program notes on their mobile device via the new Honens App, developed in partnership with InstantEncore. LiveNote® program notes will include thoughts from the performers as well as key highlights, engaging details, and images relating to the composition. For optimal viewing and minimal impact in the concert hall, LiveNote also has adjustable font size and brightness.

“I’ve always loved describing what I enjoy about the music I play. Program notes are wonderful, but I always want to go into more detail at the moment something special is happening. If there was a way that I could stop every minute during a performance, turn to my audience and say ‘I love this section because ...’ you can believe I would do so! LiveNote makes that possible. I’m thrilled to have select moments during the Honens Festival where we can experiment with this exciting technology,” comments Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker.

Tickets to the 2019 Honens Festival range in price from \$10 to \$57 and can be purchased online at honens.com or by calling 403-299-0140. Discounts are available for youth under age 18, A440 members, aged 18 to 39, and seniors aged 65 or older.

The new Honens App and LiveNote are supported by the Rozsa Foundation.

Backgrounder Attached

- 30 -

Information

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BACKGROUND

ABOUT HONENS

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 created a legacy of musical excellence to be enjoyed for generations. In 1991, 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 musicians and music-lovers at home and around the world. Honens' Legacy Partners follow in Esther Honens' footsteps by securing Honens' future and ensuring its continued ability to offer a broad scope of programming and community outreach projects.

INSTANT ENCORE

InstantEncore is the leading provider of mobile solutions to performing arts organizations around the globe. Its partners use the InstantEncore platform to power their mobile apps, enhance live experiences, and create deeper relationships with their audiences. Its systems allow for: geofences, push notifications, social media, promotional offers, event information, video, music, photos, artist showcase, analytics, and more. Visit instantencore.com for more information.

LIVENOTE

What happens when the power of music meets the power of technology? LiveNote®.

LiveNote offers a rich new concert going experience. One that enhances live musical performance with artfully crafted program notes, streamed live straight to your mobile device. As you listen to select Honens concerts (Miró Quartet with Jon Kimura Parker and Open Air), LiveNote listens with you, providing guideposts at just the right moment in the music to deepen the experience of listening to a live concert. Slides advance with the music, automatically appearing at key highlights in each piece. LiveNote's custom written notes include musical, emotional, and historical highlights as well as text, translations, and musical structures, all on your device at exactly the right time. LiveNote takes music beyond the stage! At any time during a LiveNote performance you can access the digital version of the programs notes, a musical glossary, and information about Honens.

Preserving the experience of a live concert is our number one priority. LiveNote is designed for minimal impact in the hall and has been thoroughly tested during performances around the world. Whether you are a novice or a veteran concert goer, LiveNote can guide you with a fresh insight and perspective on the music performed during a Honens concert. We hope you will join us.

2019 HONENS FESTIVAL

Thursday, September 5

4:30 PM

Duo 19:21 (free admission)

Stephen Avenue Walk, between Centre Street S and First Street SE

Rain venue: Knox United Church

Iwo Jedynecki accordion

Aleksander Kryżanowski piano

Accordionist Iwo Jedynecki and pianist Aleksander Kryżanowski perform stunningly beautiful arrangements of classical romantic works. This is not your grandfather's accordion!

7:30 PM

Nicolas Namoradze: A Study in Etudes

Knox United Church

Described as "an extraordinary artist" (Emanuel Ax), Nicolas Namoradze stunned the Jury with his performances of his own Etudes during the 2018 Competition. Etudes, often the most difficult works in a composer's output, take centre stage in this opening night recital.

Friday, September 6

12:30 PM

176 Keys (free admission)

Stephen Avenue Walk, between Centre Street S and First Street SE

Rain venue: The CORE Shopping Centre, second floor near Holt Renfrew

Aleksander Kryżanowski piano

Pedja Mužjjević piano

Nicolas Namoradze piano

Jon Kimura Parker piano

Be a part of the energy as Stephen Avenue comes to life when four internationally renowned pianists jump on two sets of 88 keys for performances of J.S. Bach, Brahms, Copland, Rachmaninov, and more!

7:30 PM

Pedja Mužijević: Bach Dialogues

Knox United Church

Hailed by *The New York Times* for his “enlivening” programming and “refined” pianism, Pedja Mužijević presents the timeless music of J.S. Bach interspersed with 21st-century works. Context and dialogues abound in this program which encourages us to hear something new, while reassessing something familiar.

9:30 PM

Bison Noir with Gabriel Kahane: Book of Travelers

Royal Canadian Legion No. 1

"A song cycle of unwavering seriousness, delivering snapshots of a broken and desperate nation... [Kahane] is one of the finest, most searching songwriters of the day." — *The New Yorker*

Award-winning, composer, pianist, singer, and rising superstar Gabriel Kahane performs his newest album in this edition of *Bison Noir*. A cameo appearance by Duo 19:21 will round out an exceptional evening!

Saturday, September 7

9 AM

Masterclasses (free admission)

Piano & Violin

TransAlta Pavilion (piano) and ED2001 (violin), Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, Mount Royal University

2018 Honens Prize Laureate Nicolas Namoradze and William Fedkenheuer, MRU Alumnus and member of the Miró Quartet, share their artistic advice and experience with the best and brightest of Albertan musicians.

1 PM

Storytellers (free admission)

Same, Only Different

Lobby, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts Mount Royal University

Jon Kimura Parker piano

William Fedkenheuer violin

Iwo Jedynecki accordion

Jonathan Love narrator

Bring the family for a fun-filled program of stories and examples of things that are the Same, Only Different! Experience a real concert accordion up close, a demonstration of the similarities and differences between classical violin and country fiddling, and much more.

3 PM

Alexina Louie @ 70

Bella Concert Hall, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, Mount Royal University

Katherine Chi piano
Nicolas Namoradze piano
Jon Kimura Parker piano

Katherine Duncan host
Select piano students from Calgary
Alexina Louie composer

Come celebrate, through words and music, iconic Canadian composer Alexina Louie and her extraordinary contributions to the piano literature over four decades.

7:30 PM

Miró Quartet with Jon Kimura Parker Love Triangle

Bella Concert Hall, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, Mount Royal University

“Explosive vigor and technical finesse” — *The New York Times*

Internationally acclaimed, and former winner of the Banff International String Quartet Competition, Miró Quartet is joined by Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker in a performance that celebrates the musical synergy of Johannes Brahms and the Schumanns.

Sunday, September 8

2 PM

Open Air (free admission)

Central Memorial Park

Rain venue: Knox United Church

Katherine Chi piano
Nicolas Namoradze piano
Jon Kimura Parker piano

Miró Quartet
Duo 19:21
Katherine Duncan host

A piano, an accordion, and a quartet of strings! Bring your sunglasses and blanket to Central Memorial Park for a free concert and the perfect coda to the 2019 Honens Festival.