

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

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FIFTY PIANISTS CHOSEN AS QUARTERFINALISTS FOR THE 2018 HONENS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION – THE RICHEST PRIZE IN THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS

Calgary, AB, January 31, 2018—Fifty concert pianists from 22 countries have been chosen to perform in the Quarterfinals of Canada's 2018 Honens International Piano Competition. The Screening Jury evaluated more than 100 candidate applications based on proposed Competition programming, experience relative to age, and reference letters.

The Quarterfinals/International Audition Rounds take place in Berlin (March 11 to 13—Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler) and New York (March 19 to 21—Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center). Each pianist performs a 40-minute self-programmed solo recital and completes an interview with an arts journalist.

"I have been involved with Honens since 2000, and not only was I very impressed by both the quantity and quality of the young pianists who applied this year, but also with their understanding of Honens' value of the 'Complete Artist.' It was a real challenge for the jury to reduce the field to 50 quarterfinalists," commented Eric Friesen, Chair, Screening Jury.

The 50 Quarterfinals performances are recorded on video for review by the First Jury, made up of both pianists and arts professionals: Winston Choi (2003 Honens Laureate, Head of Piano, Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, United States), Isolde Lagacé (General and Artistic Director, Arte Musica Foundation, Canada), Eduardo Monteiro, (Pianist, Vice Director & Professor of Piano, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), and Pedja Muzijevic (Pianist, Artistic Administrator, Baryshnikov Arts Center, United States). The First Jury evaluates the performances during deliberations at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in April. Ten pianists will be chosen to advance to the Semifinals in Calgary. Semifinalists will be announced on May 28, 2018.

Honens discovers, nurtures, and presents Complete Artists—21st century pianists for 21st century audiences. Calgary philanthropist Esther Honens dreamed of discovering and launching the careers of the world's most promising pianists. In 1991, she established The Esther Honens International Piano Competition Foundation with a gift of \$5 million, creating a legacy for musicians and music-lovers around the world. 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. Today, the Honens International Piano Competition takes place every three years as part of the Honens Festival. The 2018 Honens Prize Laureate will be awarded \$100,000 CAD and an artistic and career development program worth a half million dollars—the largest prize of its kind.

The 2018 Honens International Piano Competition is presented by TD Bank Group. The 2018 Honens Festival is presented by Nexen Energy, a CNOOC Limited company. Lead Partners are TransAlta and RBC Emerging Artists Project. The Competition culminates with the Semifinals and Finals in Calgary, Canada from August 30 to September 7, 2018.

QUARTERFINALISTS

Pianist	Age*	Nationality	Pianist	Age*	Nationality
Jean-Selim Abdelmoula	27	Switzerland	Riyad Nicolas	29	Syria / United Kingdom
Kevin Ahfat	23	Canada / United States	Kyle Orth	27	United States
Gerard Aimontche	26	Benin / Russia	Lucas Porter	27	Canada
Stefano Andreatta	27	Italy	Megan-Geoffrey Prins	28	South Africa
Sergey Belyavskiy	24	Russia	Mihai Ritivoiu	29	Romania
Leon Bernsdorf	25	Germany	Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner	21	United States
Florian Caroubi	29	France	Cristian Sandrin	25	Romania
Han Chen	26	Taiwan	Philipp Scheucher	25	Austria
Vivianne Cheng	28	United States	Aristo Sham	22	Hong Kong
Dmytro Choni	25	Ukraine	Changyong Shin	24	South Korea
Anna Dmytrenko	25	United States	Ilya Shmukler	23	Russia
James Fenwick	24	United States	Abigail Sin	26	Singapore
Robert Fleitz	25	United States	Milosz Sroczyrski	25	Poland
Julia Hamos	26	United States	Hans H. Suh	28	South Korea
Sten Heinoja	24	Estonia	Alexey Sychev	29	Russia
Leonardo Hilsdorf	30	Brazil	Reed Tetzloff	26	United States
Tzu-Yin Huang	29	Taiwan	Samson Tsoy	29	Russia / United Kingdom
Seoyoung Jang	29	South Korea	Yannick Van de Velde	28	Belgium
Joanna Kacperek	24	Poland	Derek Wang	20	United States
Jong Yun Kim	28	South Korea	Larry Weng	30	United States
Edwin Kim	30	United States	John Wilson	30	United States
Peter Klimo	27	United States	Evan Wong	28	United States
Adela Liculescu	25	Romania	Yevgeny Yontov	29	Israel
Ivan Linn	30	Taiwan	Yonjoon Yoon	25	South Korea
Nicolas Namoradze	26	Hungary / Georgia	Angie Zhang	22	United States

*Age as of September 7, 2018.

Backgrounder Attached

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BACKGROUNDER

JURIES

The Honens Juries include concert pianists and other individuals from the music world who play a meaningful role in a concert artist's career. These include artist managers, collaborative musicians, conductors, and concert and festival presenters. All jurors have extensive knowledge of piano literature and represent and/or are aware of the qualities an artist must possess in order to build and sustain a career today.

Screening Jury

The Screening Jury, made up of four members including a representative from Honens, evaluates candidate applications based on proposed Competition programming, experience relative to age, and reference letters. The Jury selects 50 pianists to advance to the Quarterfinals: International Audition Rounds.

The Screening Jury includes:

Michael Kim	Canada / United States
Noriko Ogawa	Japan / United Kingdom
Gilles Vonsattel	Switzerland-United States / United States
Eric Friesen	Canada / Canada

indicates nationality / country of residence

First Jury: Quarterfinals

The First Jury, made up of four members, meets at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity for a week to evaluate 50 40-minute Quarterfinals recitals and interviews with an arts journalist that have been video-recorded in Berlin and New York. The Jury selects ten pianists to advance to the Semifinals in Calgary.

The First Jury is:

Winston Choi	Canada / United States
Isolde Lagacé	Canada / Canada
Eduardo Monteiro	Brazil / Brazil
Pedja Muzijevic	United States / United States

indicates nationality / country of residence

Second Jury: Semifinals and Finals

The Second Jury, made up of seven members, evaluates ten Semifinalist pianists who each perform a 65-minute solo recital and a 65-minute collaborative recital. They choose three pianists to advance to the Finals for a performance with a quintet, a concerto with orchestra, and a second interview with an arts journalist. The Second Jury ultimately chooses the Honens Prize Laureate.

The Second Jury is:

Inon Barnatan	Israel / United States
Ingrid Fliter	Argentina-Italy / Italy
Annette Josef	Germany / Germany
Wu Han	Taiwan-United States / United States
André Laplante	Canada / Canada
Asadour Santourian	United States / United States
Minsoo Sohn	Korea-United States / Korea

indicates nationality / country of residence

COLLABORATING MUSICIANS

Solo performance, chamber music, and collaboration with orchestra are all essential for a 21st century concert pianist. These elements are therefore integral to Honens' search for the Complete Artist. For 2018, Honens intensifies its collaborative performance requirements. Semifinalists collaborate with a violinist and with a singer in a selection of art song/lieder. Finalists perform once with a wind quintet and once with orchestra. The choice of collaborating musicians allows for both a meaningful musical partnership and a mentorship opportunity for all Competition pianists.

Benjamin Appl baritone
Jonathan Crow violin

Azahar Ensemble

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
Karina Canellakis conductor