

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GARRICK OHLSSON TO JOIN HONENS AS MENTOR-IN-RESIDENCE AT 2018 PIANO COMPETITION

Calgary, AB, February 27, 2018—Honens is pleased to announce Garrick Ohlsson as Mentor-in-Residence for the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition & Festival. He replaces Janina Fialkowska, who has withdrawn for health reasons.

Since his triumph as winner of the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, Mr. Ohlsson has established himself worldwide as a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. Although long regarded as one of the world's leading exponents of the music of Frédéric Chopin, he commands an enormous repertoire, with more than 80 concertos, ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21st century, many commissioned for him.

"I'm delighted to be taking part in the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition & Festival as Artist and Mentor-in-Residence. While I have taken part in many competitions, both as a competitor and as a juror, participating as a Mentor is a new role for me. I see it as a great way to help emerging pianists in a way that's complementary to teaching," says Mr. Ohlsson.

As Honens' Mentor-in-Residence, Mr. Ohlsson will offer coaching sessions to each of the seven Semifinalists who do not advance to the Finals. He will also hear each of the Finalists perform with the Azahar Ensemble, and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Karina Canellakis, and will meet with each Finalist to share insights. The Mentor-in-Residence shares his own experiences as a professional pianist and provides wisdom on the challenges of building a career as an artist.

In addition to his mentorship role, Mr. Ohlsson will perform in Calgary, for the first time in more than 15 years, at the Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons on Tuesday, September 4 as part of the Honens Festival which runs in conjunction with the 2018 Competition.

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 ninth edition of the Honens International Piano Competition & Festival runs from August 30 to September 8, 2018.

Backgrounder Attached

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BACKGROUNDER

GARRICK OHLSSON

Since his triumph as winner of the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, pianist Garrick Ohlsson has established himself worldwide as a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. Although long regarded as one of the world's leading exponents of the music of Frédéric Chopin, Mr. Ohlsson commands an enormous repertoire, which ranges over the entire piano literature. A student of the late Claudio Arrau, Mr. Ohlsson has come to be noted for his masterly performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert, as well as the Romantic repertoire. To date he has at his command more than 80 concertos, ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21st century, many commissioned for him. This season that vast repertoire can be sampled in concerti ranging from Rachmaninoff's popular Third and rarely performed Fourth, to Brahms Nos. 1 and 2, Beethoven, Mozart, Grieg, and Copland in cities including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Detroit, Dallas, Miami, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco, Liverpool, and Madrid ending with a spring US West Coast tour with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic conducted by Yuri Temirkanov. In recital he can be heard in LA's Walt Disney Concert Hall, New York, New Orleans, Hawaii, and Prague.

A frequent guest with the orchestras in Australia, Mr. Ohlsson has recently visited Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, and Hobart as well as the New Zealand Symphony in Wellington and Auckland. An avid chamber musician, Mr. Ohlsson has collaborated with the Takacs, Cleveland, Emerson, and Tokyo string quartets, among other ensembles. Together with violinist Jorja Fleezanis and cellist Michael Grebanier, he is a founding member of the San Francisco-based FOG Trio. Passionate about singing and singers, Mr. Ohlsson has appeared in recital with such legendary artists as Magda Olivero, Jessye Norman, and Ewa Podles.

Mr. Ohlsson can be heard on the Arabesque, RCA Victor Red Seal, Angel, BMG, Delos, Hänssler, Nonesuch, Telarc, Hyperion, and Virgin Classics labels. His ten-disc set of the complete Beethoven Sonatas, for Bridge Records, has garnered critical acclaim, including a GRAMMY® for Vol. 3. His recording of Rachmaninov's Concerto No. 3, with the Atlanta Symphony and Robert Spano, was released in 2011. In the fall of 2008 the English label Hyperion re-released his 16-disc set of the Complete Works of Chopin followed in 2010 by all the Brahms piano variations, "*Goyescas*" by Enrique Granados, and music of Charles Tomlinson Griffes. Most recently on that label are Scriabin's *Complete Poèmes*, Smetana *Czech Dances*, and études by Debussy, Bartók, and Prokofiev. The latest CDs in his ongoing association with Bridge Records are "*Close Connections*," a recital of 20th-Century pieces, and two CDs of works by Liszt with Scriabin complete sonatas due for release this season. In recognition of the Chopin bicentenary in 2010, Mr. Ohlsson was featured in a documentary "*The Art of Chopin*" co-produced by Polish, French, British, and Chinese television stations. Most recently, both Brahms concerti and Tchaikovsky's second piano concerto were released on live performance recordings with the Melbourne and Sydney Symphonies on their own recording labels, and Mr. Ohlsson was featured on Dvorak's piano concerto in the Czech Philharmonic's live recordings of the composer's complete symphonies & concertos, released July of 2014 on the Decca label.

A native of White Plains NY, Mr. Ohlsson began his piano studies at the age of 8, at the Westchester Conservatory of Music; at 13 he entered The Juilliard School, in New York City. His musical development has been influenced in completely different ways by a succession of distinguished teachers, most notably Claudio Arrau, Olga Barabini, Tom Lishman, Sascha Gorodnitzki, Rosina Lhévinne, and Irma Wolpe. Although he won First Prizes at the 1966 Busoni Competition in Italy and the 1968 Montréal Piano Competition, it was his 1970 triumph at the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, where he won the Gold Medal (and remains the single American to have done so), that brought him worldwide recognition as one of the finest pianists of his generation. Since then he has made nearly a dozen tours of Poland, where he retains immense personal popularity. Mr. Ohlsson was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize in 1994 and received the 1998 University Musical Society Distinguished Artist Award in Ann Arbor, MI. He is also the 2014 recipient of the Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music. He makes his home in San Francisco.

ABOUT 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. The 2018 Honens International Piano Competition & Festival takes place in Calgary from August 30 to September 8.

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. 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.

2018 HONENS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION & FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

30 August to 3 September 2018

12:30 and 7:30 pm

Competition Semifinals

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

Ten Semifinalists perform a solo recital and a collaborative recital with baritone Benjamin Appl and violinist Jonathan Crow.

4 September 2018

8 pm

Garrick Ohlsson

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

"Garrick Ohlsson is an elegant pianist with a prodigious technique, and it is evident that he takes great joy in music-making." — *Telegram*

Honens' 2018 Artist and Mentor-in-Residence and multi award-winning pianist, Garrick Ohlsson, performs in Calgary for the first time in more than 15 years as part of the Honens Festival. Program to be announced.

5 September 2018

6 pm

Honens Honours

The Fairmont Palliser

Pay tribute at this fundraising dinner to extraordinary Calgarians for their contribution to the city's musical life. Honours recipients will be announced this Spring.

8:00 pm

Laureates of the Honens and Rubinstein Competition with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

2015 Honens Prize Laureate Luca Buratto closes out his time as the current Laureate performing with 2017 Rubinstein competition winner Szymon Nehring and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Karina Canellakis. Music of Mozart, Strauss, and Liszt.

6 September 2018

7:30 pm

Competition Finals I

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

The three Finalists each perform a quintet with the Azahar Ensemble.

10 pm

Bison Noir

Legion No. 1

Bison Noir is the after-concert place to be where competitors, musicians, and jurors jam into the wee hours.

7 September 2018

7:30 pm

Competition Finals II & Awards Show

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons

The three finalists each perform a concerto of their choice with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Karina Canellakis. The 2018 Honens Prize Laureate is awarded the top prize of \$100,000 and an Artist Development Program valued at a half-million dollars.

8 September 2018

2 pm

Honens Open Air

Central Memorial Park

Wrap up the festival with a free outdoor concert for the entire family.