

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONENS ADDS \$5,000 AUDIENCE AWARD TO LINE-UP OF CASH PRIZES

August 23, 2018—One week prior to the start of the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition, Honens is pleased to announce the addition of an Audience Award, worth \$5,000 CAD, to their line-up of cash prizes. The Audience Award recipient will be selected by concert audiences (both those who attend the performances and those who view the Competition via Livestream) who will vote via their smart phone immediately following the final concert of the Competition.

“We are absolutely delighted with the addition of this exciting aspect of the Competition,” said Neil Edwards, Honens’ President & CEO, “and very grateful to Board Member Heather Edwards for suggesting and supporting it. What an excellent opportunity for our audience to have their say!”

Prizes for the 2018 Competition include: \$100,000 CAD to the Prize Laureate and an Artist Development Program valued at a half-million dollars, \$10,000 CAD to each of the Finalists, and \$2,500 CAD to each Semifinalist.

The 2018 Honens International Piano Competition & Festival begins on August 30 with Semifinals performances daily at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. until September 3 when the Finalists are announced. The Finals take place on September 6 and 7 and feature the three Finalists in chamber performances with the Azahar Ensemble and concerto performances with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and guest conductor Karina Canellakis.

For further information, including a full Competition and Festival schedule, please visit honens.com.

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 the 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

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.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Previous Artist Development Programs have offered career-defining debut recitals at Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Konzerthaus Berlin; residencies at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity; mentorship programs with the leading artists of our time including Emmanuel Ax, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Angela Hewitt, and Hélène Mercier; a recording contract on the Hyperion label, and repertoire and public relations coaching.

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 Phillip Addis and violinist Jonathan Crow.

1 September 2018

9 am

Masterclass with Ingrid Fliter

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons (Free Admission)

Visiting pianist Ingrid Fliter instructs and inspires music students and instructors from across Alberta.

2 September 2018

9 am

Masterclass with Alessio Bax

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons (Free Admission)

Visiting pianist Alessio Bax instructs and inspires music students and instructors from across Alberta.

3 September 2018

10 am

Storytellers: *The Hockey Sweater*

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons (Free Admission)

Join us for the world premiere of the newly commissioned arrangement of Roch Carrier's *The Hockey Sweater*.

11 am

Xenia Concert

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons (Free Admission)

Xenia Concerts are a series of accessible concerts that are designed to appeal to, and be welcoming of, children on the autism spectrum and their families.

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 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.

5 September 2018

5 pm

Honens Honours

The Fairmont Palliser

Pay tribute at this fundraising dinner to extraordinary Calgarians, Heather Bourne and Masters Gallery Ltd., for their contribution to the city's musical life.

8 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 and 2017 Rubinstein Competition winner Szymon Nehring perform a program of Mozart, Prokofiev, and Strauss with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Karina Canellakis.

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

Royal Canadian Legion No. 1

A truly Calgarian evening! Local artists Susanne Ruberg-Gordon and Josh Jones come together for an exciting contemporary program for piano and percussion, including pieces by Calgarian composers Allan Gordon Bell and Vincent Ho.

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

Open Air

Central Memorial Park (Free Admission)

Wrap up the festival with an outdoor chamber music concert for the entire family.