

HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

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HONENS ANNOUNCES ESTEEMED LINE-UP OF ARTISTS FOR 2019 FESTIVAL

Calgary, AB, March 26, 2019—The award-winning Honens Festival returns September 5 to 8, 2019 with four days of extraordinary piano and chamber music.

Highlight performances include the Miró Quartet (with Calgary native William Fedkenheuer), award-winning Polish piano / accordion Duo 19:21, and pianists Jon Kimura Parker, Nicolas Namoradze (2018 Honens Prize Laureate), Pedja Mužijević, Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, and Katherine Chi (2000 Honens Prize Laureate). Honens Family Day at the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts takes place on Saturday, September 7 and includes Masterclasses (piano and violin), Storytellers, and a 70th birthday tribute to revered Canadian composer Alexina Louie (who will make a special cameo appearance). The Festival wraps up at Central Memorial Park with the ever-popular Open Air.

Headlining this year's Bison Noir is rising star singer / songwriter Gabriel Kahane. Kahane, of whom *The New Yorker* says, "...at thirty-seven, he is one of the finest, most searching songwriters of the day..." will perform his 2018 release *Book of Travelers*.

"To say that I'm thrilled about the 2019 Honens Festival would be a big understatement—it's music for the soul and for the mind. Featuring everything from a Bach Capriccio and Beethoven string quartet to a Rossini Overture for one piano six hands and performances for all ages—indoors and out, this is Honens' musical love letter to the city of Calgary," comments Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker.

Tickets to the 2019 Festival, available April 9, 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. Festival passes, offering tickets at more than a 20% discount, are also available.

Backgrounder Attached

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Information

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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.

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.

2019 HONENS FESTIVAL

Thursday 5 September

4:30 pm

Duo 19:21

Stephen Avenue Walk (free admission)

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!

Program

Guilmant	Scherzo capriccioso for harmonium and piano in F-sharp minor Op. 36
Franck	Prélude, Fugue, et Variation in B minor Op. 18 FWV 30
Saint-Saëns	Six duos for piano and harmonium Op. 8

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.

Program

Bowen	Fragments from Hans Andersen Opp. 58 & 61
Scriabin	Eight Etudes Op. 42
Bowen	Twelve Studies Op. 46
Namoradze	Etudes I-VI

Friday 6 September

12:30 pm

176 Keys (free admission)

Stephen Avenue Walk

Rain venue: The CORE Shopping Centre

Aleksander Kryzanowski piano
Pedja Mužijević 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.

Program

J.S. Bach	Partita in C minor BWV 826
Fulmer	“whose fingers brush the sky” (2014)
J.S. Bach	Capriccio on the Departure of a Beloved Brother BWV 992
Joslin	Cadaquésan Landscape (2017)
J.S. Bach	Sarabanda con Partite BWV 990

9:30 pm

Bison Noir

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 few cameos from Honens Festival artists will round out an exceptional evening!

Program

Rojko Two Bagatelles for Accordion and Piano
Kahane Book of Travelers

Saturday 7 September

9 am

Masterclasses (free admission)

TransAlta Pavilion, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, MRU piano

Room ED2009, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, MRU violin

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

1 pm

Storytellers (free admission)

Same, Only Different

Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts Lobby, MRU

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon piano

Jonathan Love narrator

Iwo Jedynecki accordion

William Fedkenheuer violin

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, MRU

Alexina Louie composer
Katherine Duncan host
Katherine Chi piano

Nicolas Namoradze piano
Jon Kimura Parker piano
Select piano students from Calgary

Celebrate iconic Canadian composer Alexina Louie and her extraordinary contributions to the piano literature over four decades. Special guest Alexina Louie will also join the conversation!

Program

Louie Afterimages
 Scenes From a Jade Terrace
 I Leap Through the Sky With Stars
 Put On Your Running Shoes (Honens 2000 Commission)
 Small Beautiful Things

7:30 pm

Miró Quartet with Jon Kimura Parker

Love Triangle

Bella Concert Hall, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, MRU

“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.

Program

C. Schumann Three Romances
R. Schumann String Quartet No. 1
Brahms Quintet for Piano and Strings

Sunday 8 September

2 pm

Open Air (free admission)

Central Memorial Park

Rain venue: Knox United Church

Katherine Duncan host
Katherine Chi piano
Jon Kimura Parker piano

Nicolas Namoradze piano
Duo 19:21
Miró Quartet

One accordion, two pianos, 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.