



2018 HONENS PRIZE LAUREATE

# NICOLAS NAMORADZE

Pianist and composer Nicolas Namoradze, whose performances have been hailed by critics as “sparkling... sensitive and coloristic” (*New York Times*) and “simply gorgeous” (*Wall Street Journal*), came to international attention upon winning the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada—among the largest competition prizes in classical music. The *Calgary Herald* called him “unparalleled” and “a pianist’s pianist,” praising his “remarkable clarity of execution, refinement and variety of tone, and his uncanny ability to make even the most ordinary passagework sound meaningful and distinctive... Everywhere his interpretative skills commanded attention and admiration.”

In February 2019, Namoradze gave a critically acclaimed, sold-out Carnegie debut at Zankel Hall in New York, about which *ConcertoNet* wrote: “[Namoradze] is a pianist who proved that, once in a while, the distinguished members of the jury make a good choice and select a winner who plays like a true artist; who impresses not with pyrotechnics but rather with keen intelligence, a rich tonal palette and refinement... It was a most auspicious debut by an artist representing that rare breed, a thinking virtuoso.”

Namoradze’s activities as the Honens Prize Laureate include recitals at Wigmore Hall (London), Konzerthaus Berlin, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Gardner Museum (USA), 92nd Street Y (USA), Toppan Hall (Japan), and deSingel (Belgium); appearances at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr (Germany), Tanglewood (USA), Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Canada), Toronto Summer Music (Canada), Telavi Music Festival (Georgia), Miami International Piano Festival (USA), and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival (USA); recording releases on the Hyperion, Honens, Edition Klavier-Festival Ruhr, and Steinway labels; and performances with the London Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Winnipeg Symphony, and Windsor Symphony Orchestras, among others.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Budapest, Vienna, and Florence, Namoradze moved to New York for his master’s at The Juilliard School. He now pursues his doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center, holding the Graduate Center Fellowship. His teachers have included Emanuel Ax, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Zoltán Kocsis, Matti Raekallio, and Elisso Virsaladze in piano, and John Corigliano in composition.

## 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

Esther Honens created a legacy of musical excellence to be enjoyed for generations. In 1991, knowing she was near the end of her life, 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 Calgarians, Canadians, musicians, and music-lovers around the world. Honens Legacy Partners follow in Esther Honens' footsteps by securing Honens' future. They support achievements in realizing Esther Honens' vision, including wide reaching programming through the annual Festival and enriching community outreach projects.

## LAUREATE REPRESENTATION

### **Worldwide**

Earl Blackburn  
Kanzen Arts  
67-26 Exeter Street  
Forest Hills NY 11375  
917 702 8403  
eblackburn@kanzenarts.com



403 299 0130  
1170 - 105 12 Avenue SE Calgary Alberta Canada T2G 1A1  
honens.com | info@honens.com

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