

# HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HONENS ANNOUNCES 2021 FESTIVAL**

CALGARY, AB, August 5, 2021—The award-winning Honens Festival returns September 10 to 12, 2021 after a one-year pandemic-induced hiatus. The 2021 Festival is Honens' gift to the community with three days of extraordinary performances.

This year, Honens is keeping it local with the piano front and centre with highlight performances by the Bergmann Duo, pianist Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, percussionist Rod Thomas Squance, cellist Arnold Choi, local personality Jonathan Love, and Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker.

"We're so excited to be sharing in the enjoyment of live music together, celebrating the wealth of world-class artists with strong connections to Calgary," comments Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker. "It's been a long wait, and during this time I think we've all realized that music is an essential part of our lives. We've put together an exciting Festival with mostly free events this year, as our gift to the community, to start our musical journey together again."

Headlining this year's Bison Noir is Percussiano3 as Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann combine their two-piano mastery with percussionist Rod Thomas Squance. Percussiano3 will take the audience through a colourful journey through France, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, and contemporary North America. Bison Noir also features a special cameo performance by Jon Kimura Parker.

The Festival closes with its ever-popular Open Air in Central Memorial Park which will also go on the road for the first time to the community of High River. "Honens wants to share the music from the inner city to the heartland of Alberta and we are thankful to The High River Gift of Music Society for helping us bring Open Air to rural communities of southern Alberta," says Honens President & CEO Neil Edwards.

Tickets to Bison Noir are available now and can be purchased online at [honens.com](http://honens.com).

### **Backgrounder Attached**

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### **Information**

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# **BACKGROUND**

## **ABOUT 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 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 Calgaryans, Canadians, musicians, and music-lovers around the world.

Honens Legacy Partners support the ongoing growth and development of Esther Honens' vision by securing the organization's future. The Legacy Partners Endowment Fund enables Honens to provide wide-reaching programming through its annual festival and other enriching community education and outreach initiatives.

## **2021 HONENS FESTIVAL**

### **Friday 10 September**

**12:30 pm**

#### **176 Keys I**

The CORE Shopping Centre (free admission)

751 3 St. SW (second floor, outside Purdy's Chocolates)

Rain venue: Knox United Church

Marcel Bergmann piano  
Elizabeth Bergmann piano  
Jon Kimura Parker piano  
Susanne Ruberg-Gordon piano

Two pianos, eight hands, 40 fingers, 176 keys! Kick off the 2021 Honens Festival, and revival of live music, with a program of songs and dances from around the globe. These four acclaimed pianists will bring the notes to life and audience to their feet.

**4 pm**

#### **176 Keys II**

containR (free admission)

1020 2 Ave NW

Rain venue: The CORE Shopping Centre

Marcel Bergmann piano  
Elizabeth Bergmann piano  
Jon Kimura Parker piano  
Susanne Ruberg-Gordon piano

The same as the performance at 12:30 pm, but this time outside!

9 pm

**Bison Noir**

**Percussiano3**

Royal Canadian Legion #1

Marcel Bergmann piano  
Elizabeth Bergmann piano  
Rod Thomas Squance percussion  
Jon Kimura Parker piano

A feast for the eyes and ears, take a colourful journey from *Memories in an Ancient Garden* to *Urban Pulse*, with the exotic sounds from around the world. Percussiano3 weaves through familiar classics enchanted with the sounds of percussion, with cameo performances by Jon Kimura Parker.

**Saturday 11 September**

2 pm

**Open Air** (free admission)

**Central Memorial Park**

1221 2 St SW

Rain venue: Knox United Church

Jonathan Love host and narrator  
Marcel Bergmann piano  
Elizabeth Bergmann piano  
Jon Kimura Parker piano  
Arnold Choi cello

Honens' anticipated Open Air returns this September with a parade of fantastical performances and maybe a Carnival ... of the Animals! Join us in Central Memorial park as we gather together again for live music with performances by the Bergmann Duo, Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker, cellist Arnold Choi, and personality Jonathan Love.

Make sure to bring the kids down early to get their faces painted to match their favourite animal!

**Sunday 12 September**

2:30 pm

**Open Air** (free admission)

**George Lane Memorial Park**

343 Macleod Trail SW

Rain venue: High River United Church

Jonathan Love host and narrator  
Marcel Bergmann piano  
Elizabeth Bergmann piano  
Jon Kimura Parker piano  
Arnold Choi cello

We're taking this show on the road! The ever popular Open Air is headed to High River with a parade of fantastical performances and maybe a Carnival ... of the Animals! The same as in Calgary, but in High River!