

 honens

PIANO | FESTIVAL | COMPETITION

# PRO-AM'21

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER AT 2 PM



# GREETINGS FROM HONENS



Dear Honens Family & Friends...

In the true spirit of this exciting celebration of amateur pianism of the highest level, I enthusiastically welcome you all to the 2021 Honens Pro-Am ... without question, one of the all-time favourite events in the Honens calendar!

Since the first Pro-Am, held some 18 years ago, 27 very fine pianists have given of their time and talent to Honens, not only to willingly push themselves to their very limits in friendly competition, but to raise funds in support of our community engagement and education initiatives. This year, we increase that number by five—Carlo, Hitomi, Ian, Jennifer, and Lisa—and I couldn't be more grateful to you all. Truly, you are the Pro-Am.

To our colleagues at the Conservatory at Mount Royal University and the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, thank you for your continued and generous partnership. You are a pleasure to work with and we look forward, with great anticipation, to the 2022 Honens International Piano Competition. Huge thanks as well to Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary and the entire Steinway Team for all you do and for making what we do look easy. And finally, to our volunteers, thank you for always rising to the task at hand. It's good to have you with us again.

And now ... on with the show!

Neil Edwards  
President & CEO  
Honens

# GREETINGS FROM MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY



For over a century, the Mount Royal Conservatory has set an international standard by cultivating well-rounded artists, which begins by training well-rounded students. Our students are curious, creative, and compassionate; they learn to work independently, develop self-discipline and time management skills, take direction and feedback, acquire self-confidence through accomplishments, and attain a lifelong love for the performing arts.

At the Mount Royal Conservatory, we are grateful for our continued friendship with Neil Edwards and the Honens Team. Through our shared values, including a commitment to music education, we are working together to foster the next generation of artists by nurturing the creative spirit within every student. Through the Academy for Young Artists and Advanced Performance Program, our students have progressed under the mentorship of Honens' world-class artists through masterclasses, both live at the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts and live-streamed throughout the pandemic.

Brad Mahon MBA, PhD  
Dean, Faculty of Continuing Education  
Mount Royal University

# PROGRAM

**Jonathan Love** Host

**Jennifer Yu** piano

Wolfgang Amadeus

**Mozart**

1756-1791

Sonata in B-flat Major K. 333

Allegro

Frédéric

**Chopin**

1810-1849

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major Op. 47

Ernst von

**Dohnányi**

1877-1960

Rhapsody in C Major Op. 11 No. 3

**Carlo Santos** piano

Claude

**Debussy**

1862-1918

I. Pagodes

*from* Estampes

Sergei

**Rachmaninov**

1873-1943

Prelude in E-flat Major Op. 23 No. 6

Frédéric

**Chopin**

Ballade No. 1 in G minor Op. 23

**Lisa Cheng** piano

Wolfgang Amadeus

**Mozart**

Sonata in A Major K. 331

Andante grazioso

Menuetto

Alla turca

**Ian Robertson** piano

Claude

**Debussy**

1862-1918

**Prélude**

*from* Pour le piano L.95

Johannes

**Brahms**

1833-1897

**Intermezzo in A Major Op. 118 No. 2**

Sergei

**Rachmaninov**

1873-1943

**Prelude Op. 32 No. 13**

**Hitomi Sato** piano

Frédéric

**Chopin**

1810-1849

**Barcarolle in F-sharp Major Op. 60**

Samuel

**Barber**

1910-1981

**Nocturne Op. 33**

Claude

**Debussy**

**L'isle joyeuse L. 106**

INTERMISSION WHILE JURY DELIBERATES

**Acknowledgements**

Connie Hunt, Chair, Honens Board of Directors

**Announcement of the 2021 Pro-Am Champion**

Patricia Price, Pro-Am Juror and Managing Director of 8VA Music Consultancy

# CHEER ON YOUR FAVOURITE PIANIST

Be part of the cheering squad! Pick up a coloured pom pom at the Shop table in the lobby to show your support for your favourite pianist.



Pick up a **red** pom pom to show your support for Lisa Cheng.



Pick up a **yellow** pom pom to show your support for Ian Robertson.



Pick up a **blue** pom pom to show your support for Carlo Santos.



Pick up a **purple** pom pom to show your support for Hitomi Sato.



Pick up a **white** pom pom to show your support for Jennifer Yu.

If you choose to keep your pom pom, please consider donating. Pom poms can be returned after today's performance to be reused at future Pro-Ams.

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## ABOUT HONENS

**“So many piano competitions, so little time. Canada’s Honens Competition, however, may be on to something.” — *The New Yorker***

The triennial Honens International Piano Competition is regarded as one of the world’s most prestigious music events and the only one of its kind in Canada. Honens prepares its Laureates for the rigours and realities of a professional career as a concert pianist and creates opportunities for growth and exposure. The annual Honens Festival is one of Canada’s premiere celebrations of fine piano and chamber music and was designed to share the love and appreciation of live acoustic performance through concert and educational experiences.

The 2022 Honens International Piano Competition & Festival takes place 20 to 28 October in Calgary. Tickets will be on sale in the spring.

# LISA CHENG

**Lisa Cheng** moved from Taiwan to Canada in 2001 after marrying her husband Wesley. They now have two teenage daughters, Lauren and Vivienne, and a dog, Wowo.

Lisa vividly remembers, on one chilly evening back in 2006, when Wesley drove her to the Jack Singer Concert Hall to attend the Honens International Piano Competition to listen to Minsoo Sohn's final recital. She remembers how moved she was the previous evening when keeping her ears close to the radio to listen to the live broadcast of the Competition. Piano performance has always been something fascinatingly special to Lisa. She is musical to her core and forever drawn to classical music.

Never had she imagined that one day she would be able to perform in Honens events and is thrilled to be able to play in the 2021 Pro-Am. As an avid festival and community pianist, her aim in making music is not to win a competition but to participate in and celebrate the legacy of piano performance.

In 2021, Lisa created a digital media company, WowoSpot Music and Media to produce new and original kids' content for entertainment, creative learning, and education. By utilizing a variety of new digital media, the content, to be launched this summer, is delivered in digital formats: WowoSpot Blog, WowoSpot Podcast, and WowoSpot Kids Songs YouTube channel.

Lisa holds an ARCT in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music and an MBA from the Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary.

# IAN ROBERTSON

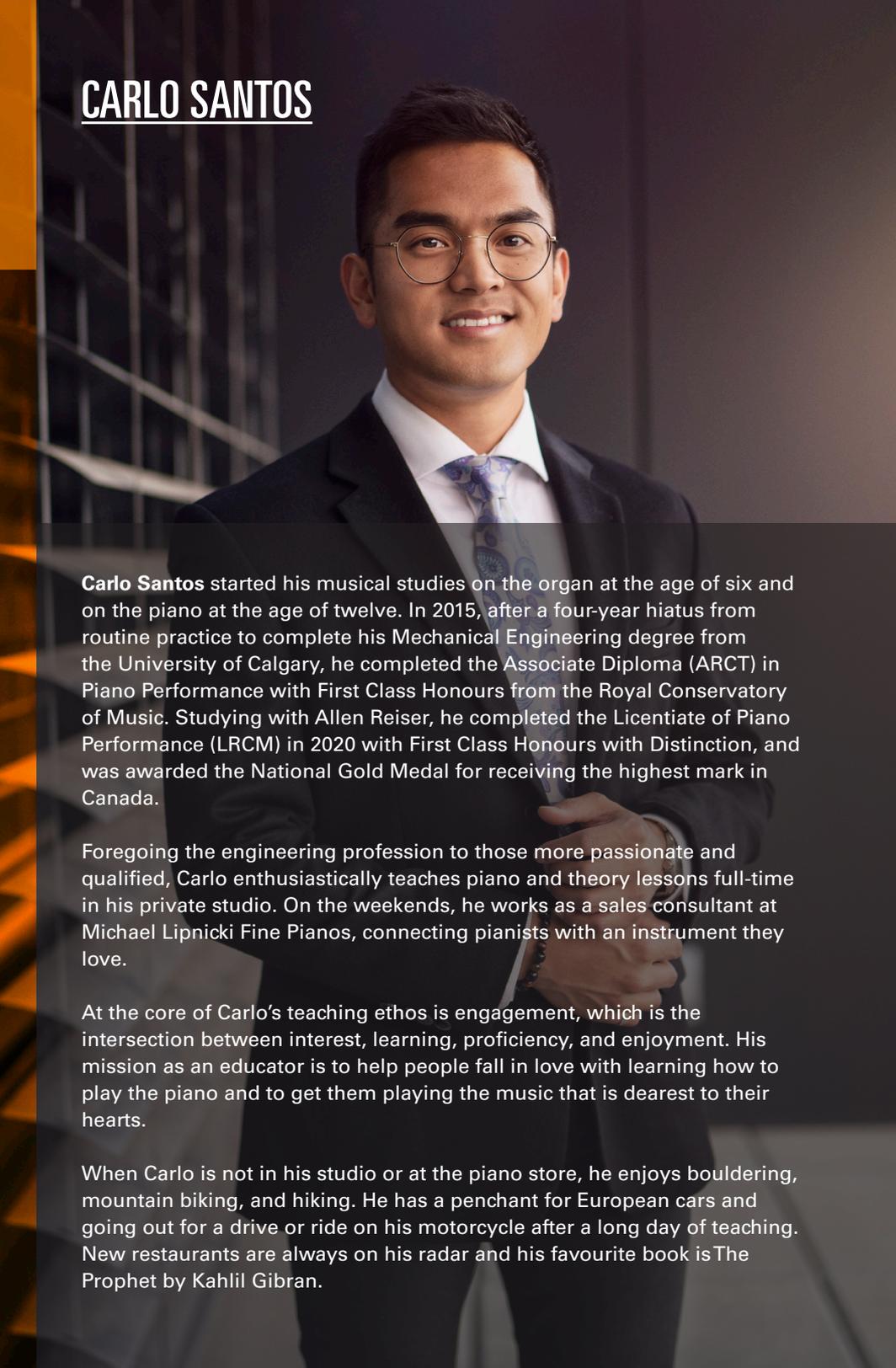


**Ian Robertson** is originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he began piano lessons at the age of 6. He pursued post-secondary studies in piano performance, eventually culminating in a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and a Master of Music in Performance and Literature at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario in 2005 and 2007 respectively. His master's degree focused on musicological and performance practice challenges between historical and modern pianos, and the music written by composers on the instruments of their day.

Ian moved to Calgary in 2012. After working as an Account Manager in IT for several years, he now works both as a Piano Consultant for Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary, and as a music director and vocal coach for opera and musical theatre. He has taught and performed in productions across Canada, the United States, Belgium, Dubai, and China, and continues to teach and perform for local organizations like Calgary Actors Studio, Stage WestTheatre, and others.

On the side, Ian enjoys acting in plays (*Beau Jest*, October 2021; *A Few Good Men*, June 2019; *Sullivan and Gilbert*, May 2018), traveling (22 countries and counting!), all things aviation related, history, and cycling.

# CARLO SANTOS

A portrait of Carlo Santos, a young man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting with some structural elements.

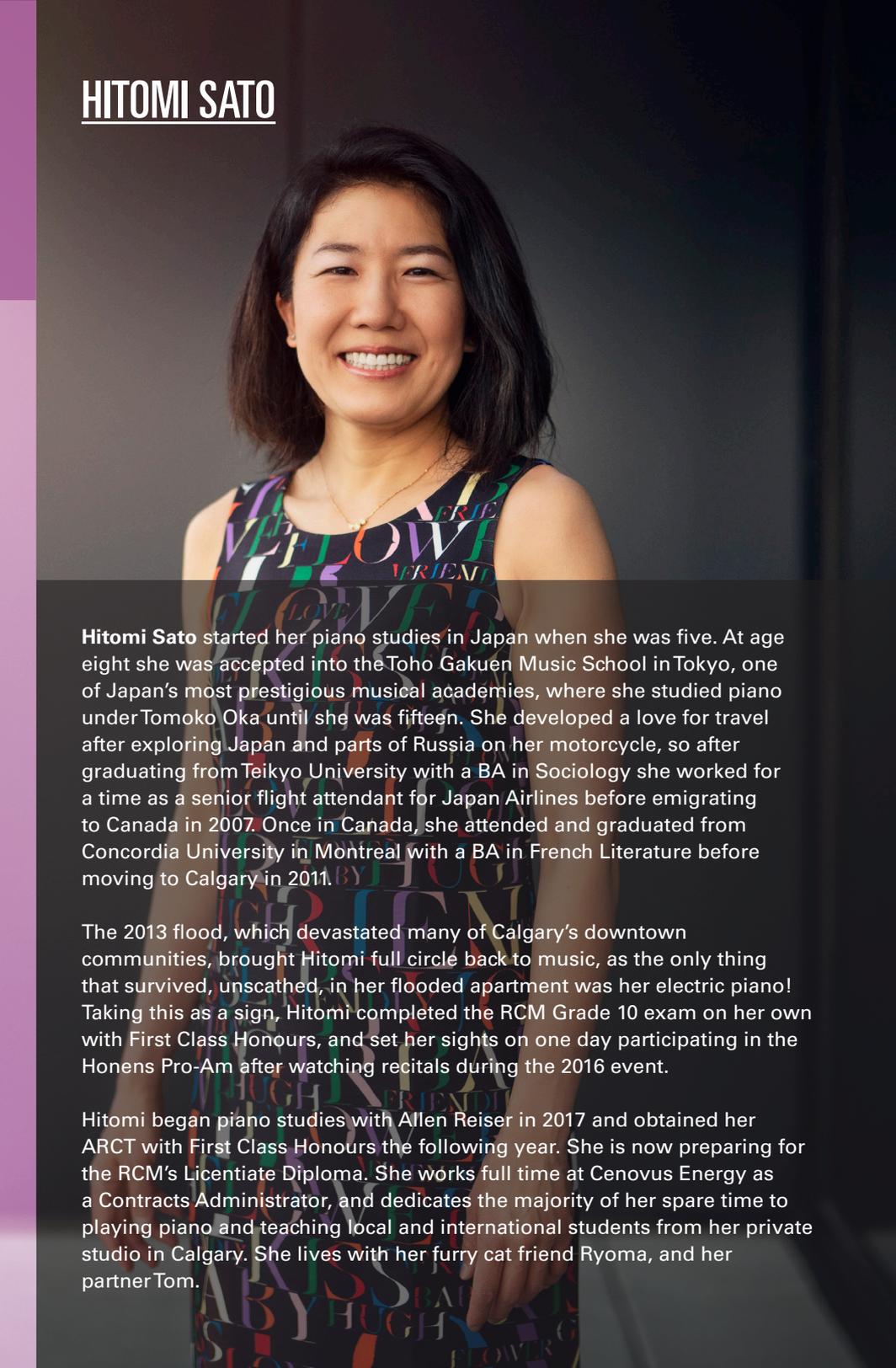
**Carlo Santos** started his musical studies on the organ at the age of six and on the piano at the age of twelve. In 2015, after a four-year hiatus from routine practice to complete his Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Calgary, he completed the Associate Diploma (ARCT) in Piano Performance with First Class Honours from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Studying with Allen Reiser, he completed the Licentiate of Piano Performance (LRCM) in 2020 with First Class Honours with Distinction, and was awarded the National Gold Medal for receiving the highest mark in Canada.

Foregoing the engineering profession to those more passionate and qualified, Carlo enthusiastically teaches piano and theory lessons full-time in his private studio. On the weekends, he works as a sales consultant at Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos, connecting pianists with an instrument they love.

At the core of Carlo's teaching ethos is engagement, which is the intersection between interest, learning, proficiency, and enjoyment. His mission as an educator is to help people fall in love with learning how to play the piano and to get them playing the music that is dearest to their hearts.

When Carlo is not in his studio or at the piano store, he enjoys bouldering, mountain biking, and hiking. He has a penchant for European cars and going out for a drive or ride on his motorcycle after a long day of teaching. New restaurants are always on his radar and his favourite book is *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran.

# HITOMI SATO

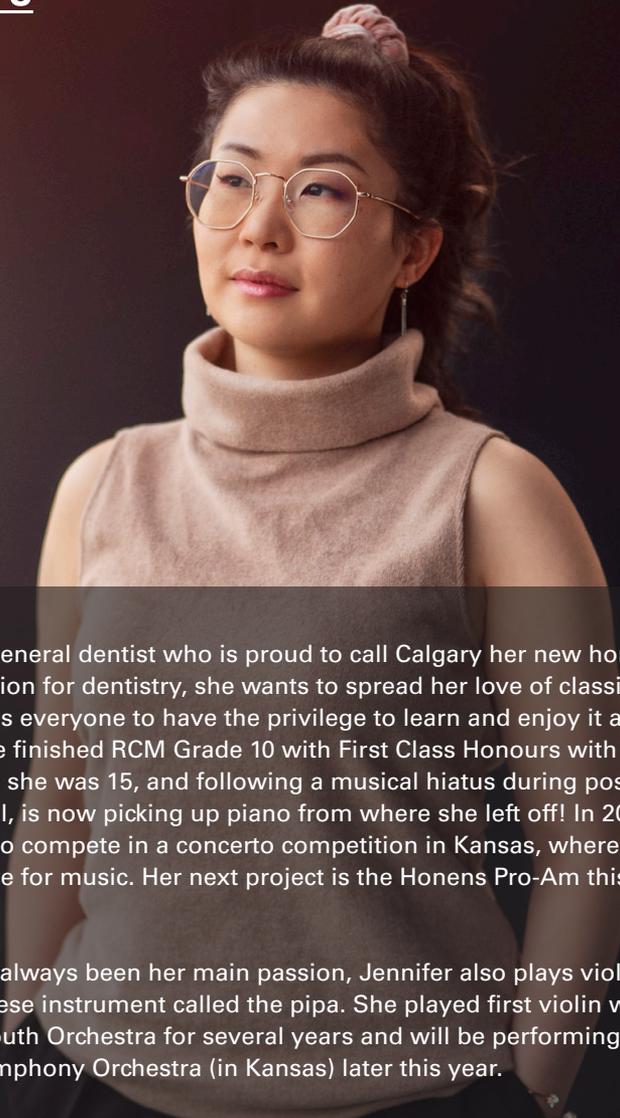
A portrait of Hitomi Sato, a woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark sleeveless top with colorful, abstract patterns and text. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Hitomi Sato** started her piano studies in Japan when she was five. At age eight she was accepted into the Toho Gakuen Music School in Tokyo, one of Japan's most prestigious musical academies, where she studied piano under Tomoko Oka until she was fifteen. She developed a love for travel after exploring Japan and parts of Russia on her motorcycle, so after graduating from Teikyo University with a BA in Sociology she worked for a time as a senior flight attendant for Japan Airlines before emigrating to Canada in 2007. Once in Canada, she attended and graduated from Concordia University in Montreal with a BA in French Literature before moving to Calgary in 2011.

The 2013 flood, which devastated many of Calgary's downtown communities, brought Hitomi full circle back to music, as the only thing that survived, unscathed, in her flooded apartment was her electric piano! Taking this as a sign, Hitomi completed the RCM Grade 10 exam on her own with First Class Honours, and set her sights on one day participating in the Honens Pro-Am after watching recitals during the 2016 event.

Hitomi began piano studies with Allen Reiser in 2017 and obtained her ARCT with First Class Honours the following year. She is now preparing for the RCM's Licentiate Diploma. She works full time at Cenovus Energy as a Contracts Administrator, and dedicates the majority of her spare time to playing piano and teaching local and international students from her private studio in Calgary. She lives with her furry cat friend Ryoma, and her partner Tom.

# JENNIFER YU



**Jennifer Yu** is a general dentist who is proud to call Calgary her new home. Beyond her passion for dentistry, she wants to spread her love of classical music and wishes everyone to have the privilege to learn and enjoy it at an early age. She finished RCM Grade 10 with First Class Honours with Distinction when she was 15, and following a musical hiatus during post-secondary school, is now picking up piano from where she left off! In 2018, she was invited to compete in a concerto competition in Kansas, where she rekindled her love for music. Her next project is the Honens Pro-Am this year.

While piano has always been her main passion, Jennifer also plays violin, flute, and a Chinese instrument called the pipa. She played first violin with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra for several years and will be performing with the Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra (in Kansas) later this year.

Jennifer has been teaching piano since 2007. Currently she teaches piano online every Sunday. In her spare time, she loves to play in ensembles, either as an accompanist or violinist. She previously accompanied a choir, and now enjoys organizing hobbyist ensembles. Her most recent project has been a piano-clarinete-cello trio.

With her recent move to Calgary, Jennifer hopes to continue her engagements in the community and find new spots for her other hobbies—eating and travelling!

# HONENS PRO-AM

Honens Pro-Am, a significant fundraiser for the organization, is a friendly and fun competition for accomplished amateur pianists who earn their living in ways other than performing music full-time. Held just six times over the past twenty years, Pro-Am has added more than \$500,000 to Honens' education and engagement programs and has grown to become a much anticipated event of both pianists and audiences alike.

If you haven't already done so, please support your favourite pianist by clicking or scanning (with your mobile device) the QR code to the right, or visiting [honens.com/pro-am](https://honens.com/pro-am).



## Prizes

### **2021 Pro-Am Champion**

- Pair of tickets to three concerts during the Romantic round at the Banff International String Quartet Competition paired with an overnight stay at the Banff Centre
- Gift certificate for Chairman's Steakhouse
- Gift certificate for The Longview Steakhouse and Country Inn
- Gift certificate for the Teatro Restaurant Group courtesy of Vendome
- Framed print and package of notecards courtesy of Karen's Heartful Distractions

### **All five Pro-Am pianists receive:**

- 2022 Honens Competition & Festival Pass
- Honens Laureate Circle Nocturne (\$2,500+) Membership for 2022
- Flowers courtesy of Philip Chong Flower Bar
- Wine courtesy of Ferrier Charitable Trust
- Gift package courtesy of Stonewaters Home Elements (Canmore)
- Gift certificate from Village Brewery
- Set of two coasters courtesy of Karen's Heartful Distractions
- Discount at Park by Sidewalk Citizen Bakery
- Four tickets to a performance of choice at the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts

# JONATHAN LOVE HOST

A columnist for the Calgary Eyeopener on CBC Radio One, **Jonathan Love** is a community arts ambassador and the Executive Director of the Jubilee Auditoria Society. In addition to voicing and producing videos, commercials, and cartoons with his company ToonVox Media, he performs regularly with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and is a founding member of Calgary's comic a cappella group, the Heebee-jeebees.



Jonathan and his wife have co-produced two amazing children with whom Love has enrolled in music lessons in order to further his family's Honens aspirations.

# DENISE BALL JUROR

When **Denise Ball** recently retired as an Executive Producer at CBC Music, one celebrated musician called her a “warrior” for classical music. She couldn't have asked for a better label.



Ball began her professional life as a fairly decent violinist, then turned to journalism before joining CBC in 1985 as the junior classical music producer in Regina. She worked all over the country, settling in Vancouver in 2000 for the dream job of all time—running the CBC Radio Orchestra. Imagine having an orchestra at your disposal with one objective—program and record brilliant live concerts and studio sessions. Produce CDs with Janina Fialkowska and Jon Kimura Parker. Commission great Canadian composers.

Along the way, Ball picked up awards: In 2008 the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Music. A Grammy (a Grammy!) for her recording with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and violinist James Ehnes. A couple of JUNOs and a Western Canadian Music Award. In 2018, she was named

a Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music, joining the likes of Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Oscar Peterson, and David Foster.

Her focus the last decade has been to kick the stuffing out of CBC's classical music radio with hosts Ben Heppner and Paolo Pietropaolo. And those shows won awards, including a Prix Italia for best radio series on music. Ball made CBC Music a place of joy and discovery for listeners and a creative hothouse for musicians. And today, she's using her warrior's arsenal to benefit the "private sector," producing records and livestreams and helping young artists discover their musical voice. The campaign continues!

## VINCENT HO JUROR

**Vincent Ho** is a multi-award winning composer of orchestral, chamber, vocal, and theatre music. His many awards and recognitions have included three JUNO Award nominations, Harvard University's Fromm Music Commission, The Canada Council for the Arts' "Robert Fleming Prize," ASCAP's "Morton Gould Young Composer Award," four SOCAN Young Composers Awards, and CBC Radio's Audience Choice Award.



Born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1975, Ho began his musical training through Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music where he received his Associate Diploma in Piano Performance. He earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of Calgary, his Master of Music from the University of Toronto, and his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California. His mentors have included Allan Bell, David Eagle, Christos Hatzis, Walter Buczynski, and Stephen Hartke. In 1997, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Schola Cantorum Summer Composition Program in Paris, where he received further training in analysis, composition, counterpoint, and harmony, supervised by David Diamond, Philip Lasser, and Narcis Bonet.

Dr. Ho currently serves as Artistic Director to Land's End Ensemble and New Music Advisor to the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

# PATRICIA PRICE JUROR

**Patricia Price** is Managing Director of 8VA Music Consultancy, where she specializes in international public relations, music marketing, and non-profit strategy.



In 2018, New York's *Observer* named 8VA "one of the most powerful entertainment and PR firms." Price represents some of the world's top soloists, conductors, composers, orchestras, festivals, and competitions, and she has worked with Honens for the past three years.

Prior to starting the Consultancy, Price was the Executive Director of Portland Piano International and the Classical Product Manager for Allegro Media Group. During her time in the record industry, she managed 70 classical record labels and was the Executive Producer for more than 75 albums.

A Vienna-trained pianist herself, Price has been heard on public radio and in venues throughout Europe and the US. She has a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and master's in Business Administration. Price was featured in the J.Jill women's apparel brand national "Inspired Women" ad campaign, and she appears as a lecturer at leading arts institutions including Chamber Music America, The Juilliard School, and The Cliburn Competition.

Price is based in New York City.

# Supporters

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Connie Hunt

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