



**2022 HONENS PRIZE LAUREATE**

# **ILLIA OVCHARENKO**

Illia Ovcharenko was 6-years-old when he decided to be a pianist when he grew up.

Today he's a celebrated virtuoso playing concerts all over the world.

He's the 2023 winner of the Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada, along with top prizes at the New York, Hilton Head, Busoni, and Horowitz Piano competitions. He's performed with La Monnaie Symphony in Brussels, the Jerusalem Symphony, and l'Orchestre National d'Île de France. This season, he debuts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, offers a solo recital at Koerner Hall in Toronto and appears in Düsseldorf, Hamburg, and Montréal.

Illia began piano lessons at 9-years-old and gave his first concert at 12. At age 13, he moved to Kyiv, and later to Tel Aviv, for advanced training. He's currently finishing a master's program with his longtime mentor, Arie Vardi, in Hannover, Germany.

He thrives on live performance, feeling as if two souls—his and the composer's—are united together on stage. He's most at home playing romantic repertoire.

## **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**

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 PRESENTATION**

Worldwide  
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