

HONENS MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONENS PRESENTS FREE CONCERTS THROUGHOUT CALGARY WITH PIANO PROJECT YYC 2026



Calgary, AB, March 12, 2026 — Today, **Honens** announces details for the second year of Piano Project YYC, a spring and summer series of free public concerts that bring the joy of live piano music to unexpected places throughout Calgary. Taking place in high-traffic, community-oriented locations, these informal performances remove common barriers associated with traditional concert venues and invite people of all ages and backgrounds to experience exceptional live music in an accessible way. The series, which features internationally acclaimed pianists, emerging artists, and local students, launched in summer 2025 to great public enthusiasm.

The first 2026 event of Piano Project YYC takes place on March 29—World Piano Day, celebrated on the 88th day of the year as a tribute to the piano’s 88 keys. 2022 Honens Prize Laureate Illia Ovcharenko, Calgary-based pianist and songwriter Kenna Burima, and local piano students from the University of Calgary’s School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Mount Royal University Conservatory Academy Program for Young Artists will perform six sets throughout the day at Southcentre Mall. Additional events in the series, which are made possible by the City of Calgary’s Downtown in Motion grant, take place throughout the spring and summer; a complete schedule is provided below.

“Through community initiatives like Piano Project YYC, Honens aims to bring the piano to the centre of our cultural fabric,” says pianist Jon Kimura Parker, Honens Artistic Director. “These free pop-up concerts invite everyone—whether they planned to attend or simply happened to pass by—to experience the connection that live performance creates.”

All performances are free and open to the public. For up-to-date information, visit honens.com.

2026 Piano Project YYC Schedule:

Sunday, March 29, 2026

11:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (six sets throughout the day)

Southcentre Mall

100 Anderson Road SE, Calgary

Performers: Kenna Burima (11:15 a.m.), 2022 Honens Prize Laureate Illia Ovcharenko (2:00 p.m.), and local piano students (12:30 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CORE Shopping Centre

324 8 Avenue SW, Calgary

Performer: 2009 Honens Prize Laureate Georgy Tchaidze

Thursday, May 28, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Ampersand

112 4 Avenue SW, Calgary

Performers: Honens Artistic Director Jon Kimura Parker and 2022 / 2025 Honens Competition Semifinalist *Ádám Balogh*

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Brookfield Place

225 6 Avenue SW, Calgary

Performers: Amanda Tosoff Quartet (pianist Amanda Tosoff, bassist Jodi Proznick, vocalist Kim Zombik, and percussionist Valérie Lacombe)

Friday, July 17, 2026

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tomkins Park

17 Avenue and 8 Street SW, Calgary

Performer: Calgary jazz pianist and composer Timothionius

Saturday, August 8, 2026

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

RiverWalk Plaza

618 Confluence Way SE, Calgary (between the Simmons Building and Bow River)

Performers: 2025 Honens Gold Laureate *Élisabeth Pion* and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra bassoonist *Antoine St-Onge*

ABOUT HONENS

Honens, home of Canada's international piano competition, cultivates piano artistry, supports remarkable young artists, and inspires a richer understanding of the piano and its music.

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. Today, the triennial Honens International Piano Competition is considered one of the world's most prestigious events of its kind. Honens prepares its Laureates, who embody the philosophy of the Complete Artist, for professional careers in music, through a comprehensive and customizable three-year artistic development and career accelerator program which creates opportunities for exposure and holistic growth.

Community events and initiatives, along with the annual Honens Festival, are intended to share Mrs. Honens' love of world-renowned music, and provide every Calgarian access to barrier free, enriching musical experiences. 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 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.

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