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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cleveland International Piano Competition now presented by Piano Cleveland

Newly named umbrella organization supports competitions, concerts, and community outreach

CLEVELAND, OH – February 9, 2019 Beginning with the 2020 event, the Cleveland International Piano Competition will now be presented by Piano Cleveland, a new organizational identity chosen to better reflect the nonprofit's full range of programming. Dedicated to promoting and protecting the future of piano music, Piano Cleveland will be the umbrella organization supporting the Cleveland International Piano Competition, educational and outreach initiatives, concerts, and programming for young and emerging artists. The name of the organization's signature competition will not change.

Yaron Kohlberg, President of Piano Cleveland and a medalist at the 2007 Competition, states that, "Our roots as a piano competition stretch back to 1974. Over time, we've evolved into a full-fledged nonprofit arts organization. The Competition will always be our signature event, but the name Piano Cleveland more fully encapsulates everything we do. Plus, it better aligns us toward our vision of making Cleveland a premier piano destination."

The 2020 Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) will take place July 26 through August 9 in University Circle. This year, the Competition received more than 240 entries from 28 countries. A five-person screening jury meets later this month to determine the 24 contestants who will compete through four rounds of competition for the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000, a Carnegie Hall debut, a recording contract on the Steinway & Sons label, and professional concert management.

The first three rounds of competition, during which contestants perform solo recitals, will be held in Gartner Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Piano Cleveland is offering free admission for the first two rounds in order to provide the greatest possible access to the Cleveland community.

An international jury of renowned pianists will advance eight contestants to the Semi-Final Round and four contestants to the Final Round. These four finalists perform twice: once in a chamber music collaboration with the Escher String Quartet at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and again in a concerto performance with The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall. Immediately after the final concerto performances on August 8, the finalists are ranked, and the prizes announced.

In addition to the Competition rounds, Piano Cleveland is offering a number of surrounding events leading up to and during the Competition. Some highlights include:

- The *Prelude to Piano* listening series, a free three-part series designed to help music fans of all types take their interest and knowledge to a higher level in a fun, low-key environment.
- The Cleveland premiere of Igudesman & Joo on July 31 at the Hanna Theatre at Playhouse Square. This inventive comic duo consists of violinist Aleksey Igudesman and pianist Hyung-Ki Joo, whose hilarious mix of music, pop culture, and pure zaniness has won them fans of all ages and cultures worldwide.
- Beethoven's Birthday Bash, a family-friendly event with games, music, and a Beethoven Bake-Off, in which professional and amateur bakers can enter a Beethoven-themed treat.

View a complete schedule at pianocleveland.org or call 216-707-5397.

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Established in 1974, Piano Cleveland promotes Cleveland as a premier piano destination by presenting world-class programming and community engagement and education initiatives. The organization's four major programs and events include the quadrennial Cleveland International Piano Competition, the CIPC for Young Artists, the CIPC Concert Series, and year-round education and community outreach programming. For more information, visit: pianocleveland.org.