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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2020 Cleveland International Piano Competition Contestants Announced

CLEVELAND, OH – March 12, 2020 After months of deliberation, contestants who will compete in the 2020 Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) have been announced. The globally recognized competition presents the pinnacle of classical piano artistry across two weeks of performances for Cleveland and international audiences. Piano Cleveland, the presenting organization of the CIPC, received 242 applications from 28 countries. Of the 242 applicants, 29 will compete in the highly anticipated competition that takes place at Cleveland Museum of Art and Severance Hall from July 26-August 9, 2020.

CIPC is known as one of the top competitions of its kind in the world and brings the best-emerging pianists to Cleveland. The contestants chosen for the 2020 CIPC, whose ages range from 20 to 32, represent the countries of Brazil, China, Croatia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and United States. These talented pianists are competing for the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000, a Carnegie Hall debut, management services, and a recording on the Steinway & Sons label.

The contestants of the acclaimed competition were chosen by a five-member screening jury, comprised of international pianists with distinguished musical careers that have shaped the classical music landscape. The selection process included a thoughtful analysis of the applicants' resumes and performance videos, with a focus on their high levels of musicianship and professionalism. Members of the jury included: Dror Biran, Associate Professor of Piano at the College-Conservatory of Music University of Cincinnati; Kathryn Brown, Head of Piano Department and Keyboard Division at Cleveland Institute of Music; Yaron Kohlberg, President of Piano Cleveland and 2007 CIPC medalist; Caroline Oltmanns, Professor of Piano at Youngstown State University; and Paul Schenly, Artistic Director of the Cleveland International Piano Competition.



The competition includes four competitive rounds over two weeks. The First and Second Rounds, held in the Gartner Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Art, are free and open to the public, providing an opportunity for Cleveland piano enthusiasts of all levels to enjoy the competition. Eight contestants will be chosen by an international jury of renowned pianists to advance to the Semi-Final Round, where they will perform a 40-minute solo recital. Four pianists move on to play in the Final Chamber Music Round with the Escher String Quartet. The Final Round concludes at Severance Hall with the four finalists getting the

opportunity to perform with The Cleveland Orchestra, one of the best orchestras in the world. The CIPC medalists are announced immediately after the concert performance on Saturday, August 8, 2020.

This year, Piano Cleveland will introduce a virtuosic popular transcription selection during the Semi-Finals. "The 2020 CIPC will innovate the competition space while cultivating meaningful experiences for our community," said Yaron Kohlberg, President and 2007 CIPC medalist. "We are excited to elevate the world-renown competition in a way that listeners of all levels can enjoy."

Tickets for the Cleveland International Piano Competition will be available on April 15, 2020, for Piano Cleveland donors, and will open to the public on June 1, 2020. Surrounding the competition, Piano Cleveland will host community concerts, activities, and events designed to entertain and engage the community beyond the performances. More information on the competition and surrounding events can be found at pianocleveland.org or call +1 (216) 707-5397.



2020 Cleveland International Piano Competition Contestants

First Name, Last Name, Age at Time of CIPC, Country

Stefano Andreatta, 29, Italy
Svetlana Andreeva, 31, Russia
Jiarui Cheng, 21, China
Martin Garcia Garcia, 23, Spain
Youlan Ji, 21, China
Zhi Chao Juli Jia, 28, China
Do-Hyun Kim, 25, South Korea
Honggi Kim, 29, South Korea
Yedam Kim, 32, South Korea
Peter Klimo, 29, United States
Aika Kondo, 22, Japan
Bowen Li, 24, China
Ying Li, 22, China
Ziyu Liu, 22, China
Roman Lopatynskyi, 27 Ukraine
Philipp Lynov, 21, Russia
Anastasiya Magamedova, 22, United States
Lovre Marusic, 27, Croatia
Arsenii Mun, 21, Russia
Daria Parkhomenko, 29, Russia
Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner, 23, United States
Rafael Skorka, 31, Israel
Vitaly Starikov, 25, Russia
Clayton Stephenson, 21, United States
Lucas Thomazinho, 25, Brazil
Takashi Yasunami, 28, Japan
Lin Ye, 28, China
Suah Ye, 20, South Korea
Cunmo Yin, 26, China

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About Piano Cleveland

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, CIPC for Young Artists, Concert Series, and year-round education and community outreach programming. For more information, visit pianocleveland.org.

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