



Contact: Nicole Mieske Knab
Piano Cleveland
989-600-1755
nicole.knab@pianocleveland.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cleveland International Piano Competition Announces the Eight Semi-Finalists Invited to Perform Live in Cleveland

After 26 contestants performed their First and Second Rounds, the top eight will compete for the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000.

CLEVELAND, OH - July 26, 2021 Eight of the world's top international pianists are welcomed to Cleveland, Ohio, the center stage for the arts, to compete in the final rounds of the Cleveland International Piano Competition from July 29 - August 7. The eight Semi-Finalists were chosen by the renowned CIPC Jury from the elite group of 26 contestants, whose First and Second Round performances were broadcast across twelve days in July.

The makeup of the Cleveland International Piano Competition remains true to its deep heritage; however, its look, feel, and presentation have been adapted to suit the unique needs of our times. Due to the ever-changing pandemic restrictions, Piano Cleveland thoughtfully redesigned the competition structure, allowing the First and Second Rounds to be pre-recorded from ten venues around the world. The reimaged format, offering a hybrid approach to accommodate both virtual and in-person events, meant all contestants could compete for one of the most sought-after prize packages of the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000, a Carnegie Hall debut, a recording on the Steinway & Sons label, and artist management services, regardless of possible travel restrictions.

The eight contestants that have advanced to the Semi-Final Round are:

Jiarui Cheng (22, China). Winner of CIM Concerto Competition (Fall 2019) and Second Prize in the International Piano Competition "A. Scriabin" in Italy (2017). Jiarui is a current student at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Professor Kathryn Brown.

Martín García García (24, Spain). First Prize in the 2018 International Keyboard Institute & Festival Competition in New York, Third Prize in the 2019 Moscow Piano Open, and participant in Piano Cleveland's Virtu(al)oso online piano competition (2020). Martín is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano at Mannes School of Music at The New School with Professor Jerome Rose.

20600 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD, SUITE 1110
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44122
216-707-5397

WWW.PIANOCLEVELAND.ORG



Byeol Kim (31, South Korea). First Prize Winner of the Dallas International Piano Competition and the Rochester Philharmonic Concerto Competition, Second Prize Winner of the Washington International Competition and Louisiana International Piano Competition, and Third Prize and Audience Prize Winner in Piano Cleveland's Virtu(al)oso online piano competition (2020). Byeol received Artist Diplomas from the Glenn Gould School with Marietta Orlov and from Rice University under Jon Kimura Parker and is currently pursuing her doctorate at Northwestern University with James Giles.

Yedam Kim (32, South Korea). First Prize at the 'Juries in Competition' at Mozarteum in Salzburg (2019), Second Prize at the Santa Cecília International Competition (2019) and Second Prize at the Gurwitz International Piano Competition. Yedam received a Master's degree from Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, a postgraduate degree from the Mozarteum of Salzburg, and a Master's degree in opera coaching at CNSM de Paris.

Honggi Kim (29, South Korea). Concert performances include collaborations with the Orchester de la Suisse Romande, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the Korean Symphony Orchestra. Honggi studied at the Korea National University of Arts in Seoul and the University of Music and Performing Arts, Munich under Professor Arnulf von Arnim and Professor Antti Siirala.

Ying Li (23, China). Winner of the 2017 Sarasota Artist Series Piano Competition, First Prize at Brevard Music Center solo and concerto competitions, and First Prize at International Franz Liszt Competition for Young Pianists. Ying moved to Philadelphia at age fourteen from China to study at the Curtis Institute of Music with Jonathan Biss and Seymour Lipkin, receiving her Bachelor's from there in 2019; she is currently pursuing her Master's at The Juilliard School.

Lovre Marušić (28, Croatia). Winner of the First Prize at the 20th Santa Cecília International Competition in Porto, Portugal (2018), First Prize at the International Music Festival & Competition in Paris, France (2018), and Finalist in Piano Cleveland's Virtu(al)oso online piano competition (2020). Lovre is an Assistant Professor in the Piano Department at the Academy of Music in Zagreb while studying at Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar.

Rafael Skorka (32, Israel). Third Prize Winner of the 1st International Music Competition Harbin China (2018), and recipient of a special grant for outstanding performance in piano at the 2018 Aviv Competitions in Tel-Aviv. Rafael received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Jerusalem Academy of Music, and both his Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Sergei Babayan.

Adding to the continued excitement and adaptation of the competition, the Semi-Final Round will feature performances of virtuosic transcriptions of well-known popular tunes, such as Queen's "Bohemian



Rhapsody,” “America” from West Side Story, and themes from The Olympics and Mission: Impossible, commissioned especially for the CIPC. Semi-Finalists will also pair up to perform piano duos of four-hand and two-piano works for the first time in CIPC history. Of the eight pianists presented during the Semi-Final Round, four Finalists will advance to the Final Round, where they will perform chamber music with the Escher String Quartet at the Cleveland Museum of Art and concertos with The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, conducted by Jahja Ling, one of the most desirable experiences for any pianist. Immediately after the concerto performances, the finalists are ranked, and the winner of the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000 will be announced.

During the contestant’s time in Cleveland, the talented pianists will also present recitals around the Cleveland community, reaching individuals at senior centers, retirement communities, community centers, and venues in partnership with local arts organizations. These recitals are a much-loved tradition in the community, offering music lovers an opportunity to engage with a contestant and follow his or her progress throughout the competition. Plus, contestants can enjoy an appreciative audience and the chance to fine-tune their program before the competition begins. For the first time, the CIPC 2021 Semi-Finalists will also be connecting with specific immigrant communities in Cleveland based on their own national heritage through these concerts.

Viewers can watch the First and Second Round performances on Piano Cleveland’s YouTube channel. For a full schedule of events for CIPC or to inquire about live and virtual tickets to the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, please visit pianocleveland.org.

###

About Piano Cleveland

Established in 1974, Piano Cleveland promotes Cleveland as a premier piano destination by presenting world-class programming, 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.

20600 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD, SUITE 1110
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44122
216-707-5397

WWW.PIANOCLEVELAND.ORG