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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Martín García García Takes Top Prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition

CLEVELAND, OH - August 9, 2021 After two magnetic nights of live performances at Severance Hall with The Cleveland Orchestra, 24-year old Martín García García from Spain has been named the Mixon First Prize Winner of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. The announcement comes after the yearlong postponement of the CIPC, one of the leading piano competitions in the world. The reimaged presentation of the competition allowed for the First and Second Rounds to be broadcasted from 10 locations globally, with live Semi-Final and Final Rounds taking place in Cleveland. The culmination of the Cleveland International Piano Competition was on Saturday, where the four Finalists chosen from a group of over 250 international pianists from 40 countries, presented their concerto performances at Severance Hall.

“As hard as it was to make the decision to postpone the competition to 2021, there was a silver lining in the process that allowed our adaptation of the traditional program to come together in a more meaningful and impactful way for our contestants and audiences,” said Yaron Kohlberg, President of Piano Cleveland. “We’re humbled to have provided a stage for these brilliant young pianists, whose artistry and talent filled concert halls with energy and life again, enlivening our spirits after such a challenging year.”

The Four Finalists shared the stage at Severance Hall with The Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by Jahja Ling, with performances that awarded each talented pianist a standing ovation from hundreds of audience members and many more tuning in virtually from around the globe. The eight-member jury, comprised of outstanding musicians and leaders in the musical world, awarded the top four prizes for the Cleveland International Piano Competition. The Mixon First Prize Winner, Martín García García (Spain), moved audiences with his performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor. García took home the Mixon First Prize of \$75,000, a New York recital debut, recording by Steinway & Sons, professional management, and artist consulting services provided by Gold Sound Media.

“This year’s Cleveland International Piano Competition marked a new beginning for me,” said Martín García García. “The world of art may have taken a bit hit due to the pandemic, but this competition and Cleveland audiences have demonstrated that love and music have the strength to help us thrive. The

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heartfelt response from the public at the performances has brought new light and new energy in me – as has performing alongside my fellow contestants and finalists - and I feel like it has been the same for our audiences.”

The Second Prize was awarded to Lovre Marušić (Croatia), who graced audiences with Ludwig van Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58. Marušić secured the Knowlton Second Prize of \$25,000, which is named in honor of Karen Knowlton, presented with major endowment support from Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Manuel and Mrs. Marvin A. Evenchik. The Third Prize went to Byeol Kim (South Korea), who enthralled audiences with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23. Byeol secured the \$15,000 Third Prize endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Manuel. The Fourth Prize went to Yedam Kim (South Korea), who moved audiences with Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30, and was awarded \$10,000 Fourth Prize presented by Dr. Richard Kaufman in memory of Carol Kaufman, a member of the founding committee of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. In addition to their prize money, all medalists will receive artist and consulting services provided by Gold Sound Media.

Beyond the Finalists prizes, \$27,000 in Special Prize Awards was awarded to ten talented young contestants, including \$2,000 Audience Prize and \$5,000 Chamber Music Prize to Martín García García (Spain); \$2,500 Contemporary Prize shared by Peter Klimo (United States) and Daria Parkhomenko (Russia); \$2,500 Baroque Prize to Rafael Skorka (Israel); \$2,500 Female Composer Prize to Byeol Kim (South Korea); \$2,000 Beethoven Prize to Stefano Andreatta (Italy); \$2,500 French Prize and \$1,500 Mozart Prize to Ying Li (China); \$1,500 Cairns Family American Prize to Clayton Stephenson (United States); \$2,500 Russian Prize to Suah Ye (South Korea); \$2,000 Chopin Prize to Arsenii Mun (Russia); and the \$5,000 Piano Duo Prize to Rafael Skorka (Israel) and Martín García García (Spain). For a full description of the prizes, please visit pianocleveland.org.

All performances will be available to virtual ticket holders until August 10; at that time, the broadcasts will be available to the public on pianocleveland.org. All Final Rounds will be streamed worldwide by Medici.tv and available on medici.tv.com.

ABOUT THE WINNERS

Martín García García (24, Spain) - First Prize Winner

A graduate of Reina Sofía School of Music, MARTÍN GARCÍA GARCÍA has been under the guidance of Professor Galina Eguizarova since he was 14. Since 2004, Martín has won several top prizes at national and international competitions, including First Prize at the 2018 International Keyboard Institute & Festival Competition in New York, and Third Prize at the 2019 Moscow Piano Open. He has been recently accepted to compete in some of the most prestigious competitions worldwide in their 2021 editions: the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium; the International Chopin Competition in Poland; and the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Israel. Martin also participated in Piano Cleveland’s



Virtu(al)oso, Global Competition for Artist Relief in Summer 2020. He has performed in many concert halls across Europe and has received high acclaim from prominent musicians and pianists, including Vladimir Krainev, Arcadi Volodos, Dimitri Bashkirov, Joaquín Achúcarro, and Tatiana Copeland (Sergei Rachmaninoff's nephew), among others. Furthermore, he was invited to participate in the International Ruhr Piano Festival in Germany, where he was sponsored by Mr. Radu Lupu. Martín currently lives in New York City, where he is pursuing a Master of Music in Piano at Mannes School of Music, The New School under the guidance of Professor Jerome Rose.

Lovre Marušić (28 Croatia) - Second Prize Winner

Lovre Marušić is currently studying at Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar under Grigory Gruzman. He has won several prizes, including First Prize at 20th Santa Cecília International Competition in Porto, Portugal (2018), First Prize at International Music Festival & Competition in Paris, France (2018), First Prize at the "New Stars" International Music Competition in Manchester (2016), First Prize at World Piano Teachers Association in London, and First Prize, Jury and Public Award at the Isidor Bajic Memorial International Piano Competition in Novi Sad (2016), among others. Lovre was also recently a Finalist in Piano Cleveland's Virtu(al)oso piano competition for artist relief in summer 2020. Lovre is an Assistant Professor in the Piano Department at the Academy of Music in Zagreb and served as a jury member in Belgrade, Serbia. He is recording his debut CD on KNS and is the Executive and Artistic Director of Ostinato Chamber Music Festival in Croatia. In 2018/2019, he presented recitals in Cologne and Kassel (Germany), in addition to performances in Croatia, China, Japan, Portugal, and France.

Byeol Kim (31, South Korea) - Third Prize Winner

Byeol Kim, an Astral Pianist, is rapidly earning a reputation for her interpretations, which "impress with energy and freshness" (The Women's Philharmonic Advocacy). She has performed around the world, including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Teatro Civico in Italy, and Petit Palau Hall in Spain. Byeol has appeared as a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Ignacy Jan Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic, Dallas Chamber Symphony, and many others. Byeol is the 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 a recipient of special prizes at the San Antonio International Competition, New Orleans International Competition, and the Paderewski International Piano Competition. Byeol also was Third Prize and Audience Prize Winner in Piano Cleveland's Virtu(al)oso, Global Competition for Artist Relief in 2020. Byeol is a sought-after chamber music artist and has received invitations to perform with Cho-Liang Lin. She also performed chamber music and vocal music in the summer of 2018 at the La Jolla Music Society's Summerfest. Byeol holds a Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Enrico Elisi. She received an Artist Diploma from Glenn Gould School with Marietta Orlov and from Rice University under Jon Kimura Parker. Kim is currently pursuing her Doctorate degree at Northwestern University with James Giles.



Yedam Kim (32 South Korea) - Fourth Prize Winner

Born in South Korea, YEDAM KIM studied piano with Eun-Ock Kim and Hae-jeon Lee. Living in France since 2002, Yedam graduated with her Master's degree from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in 2010, where she studied with Henri Barda and Bruno Rigutto. She received her postgraduate degree in 2013 from the Mozarteum of Salzburg with Jacques Rouvier and obtained the 'Diplôme de Concertiste' at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris in 2015 with Henri Barda. She also completed her Master's degree in opera coaching at CNSM de Paris and has studied with Rena Shereshevskaya until 2019. Yedam is a prizewinner of several international piano competitions, including Second Prize at the Epinal International Piano Competition (2013), Sixth Prize at the Seoul International Music Competition (2017), and Sixth Prize at the Hong Kong International Piano Competition (2016). Recently she won Second Prize at the International Piano Competition in Ekaterinburg (2018), First Prize in the 'Juries in Competition' at the Mozarteum in Salzburg (2019), Second Prize at the Santa Cecilia International Competition (2019), Second Prize at the Euregio Piano Award International Competition (2019) and Second Prize at the Gurwitz International Piano Competition. She has played in prestigious halls across Europe and South Korea as a soloist, chamber musician, and with orchestra, including recitals in Konzerthaus in Berlin, Salle Pleyel, Salle Cortot, Théâtre du Châtelet and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow.

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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.

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