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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Quarter-Finalists Announced for the 2024 Cleveland International Piano Competition

CLEVELAND, OH – Piano Cleveland, host of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, has announced the sixteen Quarter-Finalists who will play in Cleveland during the July 28 - August 10 competition. The sixteen Quarter-Finalists from nine countries were selected from a field of 55 First Round contestants who played in either Paris or Cleveland earlier this spring. Over three weeks in July and August, the contestants will deliver free public performances, play a variety of repertoire at the ticketed competition events, and ultimately compete for the \$75,000 Mixon First Prize. Since its inception in 1974, the CIPC has been considered one of the world's premier piano competitions. As it enters its fiftieth year, the competition has reimagined its guidelines to allow contestants to play a broader range of repertoire. The goal, according to Piano Cleveland President, Yaron Kohlberg, "is to identify the future leaders in the piano world." The Quarter-Finalist field consists of recent award winners and rapidly rising stars. "These sixteen pianists are more than excellent musicians," Kohlberg says. "These are dynamic artists who are reimagining what classical musicianship looks like—and sounds like—in a global community. This year's competition is charting new territory."

The 2024 Cleveland International Piano Competition Quarter Finalists are (name, age, home country): Robert Bily, 27, Czech Republic; Michelle Candotti, 28, Italy; Antonio Chen Guang, 29, China; Leo de María, 28, Spain; Jacopo Giovannini, 26, Italy; Giuseppe Guarrera, 32, Italy; Mirabelle Kajenjeri, 26, France; Jakub Kuszlik, 27, Poland; Maxim Lando, 21, United States; Khanh Nhi Luong, 28, Vietnam; Jonathan Mamora, 29, United States; Arisa Onoda, 28, Japan; Evren Ozel, 25, United States; Zhu Wang, 27, China; Zijian Wei, 25, China; Zihao Wu, 26, China.

Although the competition starts on July 28, contestants will arrive in Cleveland a week prior to deliver free public performances in the greater Cleveland area in coordination with The Concert Truck—a mobile venue featuring a piano. "Part of the vision of Piano Cleveland is to engage the public," says the organization's executive director, Marissa Moore. "We want the piano to pop up in unexpected places and be enjoyed outside the concert hall." The partnership between Piano



Cleveland and the Concert Truck has been made possible through a generous sponsorship by The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation. Specific dates and locations for the concerts will be available at pianocleveland.org within the coming weeks.

The competition officially begins on July 28 with an opening ceremony at the Hanna Theatre where contestants will team up to perform popular music transcriptions. Contestants will then proceed through three rounds of competition, held at Severance Music Center. All sixteen will compete in the Quarter-Finals from July 29-31, featuring solo piano performances. Eight will move on to the Semi-Finals, held August 1-4, which feature solo recitals and chamber music. From there, the field will be narrowed to the final four. The four Finalists will then perform a salon concert on August 6 and 7 as well as the competition's signature finale of concerto performances with The Cleveland Orchestra on August 9 and 10.

For ticket pricing and packages as well as full contestant biographies and repertoire, visit pianocleveland.org/.

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About Piano Cleveland

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 Cleveland International Piano Competition, the CIPC for Young Artists, a mixed-genre piano festival, and year-round education and community engagement programming.