



2018 HONENS PRIZE LAUREATE

NICOLAS NAMORADZE

“Set to become one of the truly important artists of his generation.” —Emanuel Ax

Pianist and composer Nicolas Namoradze, whose performances have been hailed by critics as “sparkling... sensitive and coloristic” (*New York Times*) and “simply gorgeous” (*Wall Street Journal*), came to international attention upon winning the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada—among the largest competition prizes in classical music. *The Calgary Herald* called him “unparalleled,” and “a pianist’s pianist,” stating: “Namoradze is not the conventional competition pianist, but his individuality was evident from the outset. While he certainly has the virtuosity to spare, he gained the top spot through his remarkable clarity of execution, refinement and variety of tone, and his uncanny ability to make even the most ordinary passagework sound meaningful and distinctive ... The refinement of his playing was of international standard and everywhere his interpretative skills commanded attention and admiration.”

Highlights of the current season include a critically acclaimed, sold-out Carnegie debut recital at Zankel Hall, about which *ConcertoNet* wrote: “[Namoradze] is a pianist who proved that, once in a while, the distinguished members of the jury make a good choice and select a winner who plays like a true artist; who impresses not with pyrotechnics but rather with keen intelligence, a rich tonal palette and refinement ... It was a most auspicious debut by an artist representing that rare breed, a thinking virtuoso.”

This season will also see the releases of select live performances from the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition on the Honens label and a program of Schumann and Namoradze on the Steinway label. Further upcoming activities include recitals at Wigmore Hall (London), Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, 92nd Street Y (New York), the Gardner Museum (Boston) and the Konzerthaus Berlin; a recording on the Hyperion label; and worldwide engagements with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Miami International Piano Festival, and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Enthusiastic of innovative programs and technologies that expand the reach of classical music around the world, Nicolas has been closely associated with Juilliard Global Ventures, where he represented Juilliard students in the Juilliard-Nord Anglia Performing Arts Program. He is also featured in the most-watched episode of Juilliard Open Studios with his teacher, Emanuel Ax, and appears as a guest educator on the history of the piano for Juilliard edX courses. Nicolas’ interest in contemporary music and lesser-known works of the piano repertoire has led him to present original and exciting programs embracing works such as Godowsky’s infamous *Studies on Chopin Études*, sets of Ligeti *Études*, rarities such as Dvořák’s *Piano Concerto*, and many works by his contemporaries.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Budapest, Vienna, and Florence, Nicolas moved to New York to obtain his master’s degree at The Juilliard School. He now pursues his doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center, holding the Graduate Center Fellowship. His teachers have included Emanuel Ax, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Zoltán Kocsis, Matti Raekallio, and Elisso Virsaladze in piano, and John Corigliano in composition. Nicolas serves on the faculty of Queens College.

HONENS

Honens discovers, nurtures, and presents Complete Artists—21st century pianists for 21st century audiences.

The Honens International Piano Competition takes place every three years and is considered one of the world's most prestigious events of its kind. Honens prepares its Laureates for the rigours and realities of professional careers in music and creates opportunities for growth and exposure. The annual Honens Festival is one of Canada's premier classical music events, intended to share Mrs. Honens' love of world renowned music with Albertans every year.

ESTHER HONENS

Esther Honens created a legacy of musical excellence to be enjoyed for generations. In 1991, knowing she was near the end of her life, Mrs. Honens gave \$5 million to endow an international piano competition in her hometown of Calgary, Canada. Her generosity, vision, and love of music continue to touch the lives of Calgarians, Canadians, musicians, and music-lovers around the world. Honens Legacy Partners follow in Esther Honens' footsteps by securing Honens' future. They support achievements in realizing Esther Honens' vision, including wide reaching programming through the annual Festival and enriching community outreach projects.

LAUREATE REPRESENTATION

Worldwide

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