

DRANOFF INTERNATIONAL 2 PIANO FOUNDATION SEEKS APPLICATIONS WORLDWIDE FOR 12th 2 PIANO COMPETITION

Deadline for Applications September 25, 2012

September 1, 2012

Miami, FL – The Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation is now soliciting applications for its 12th International 2 Piano Competition. Three top prizes will be awarded, totaling \$50,000, as well as two awards for performance excellence of \$5,000 each. The Dranoff Competition is the only competition devoted exclusively to two piano repertoire and artistry that is accredited by the World Federation of Music Competitions. Prizes are considered signature awards. Previous winners include Stenzl Piano Duo (1989,) Piano Duo van Veen (1995,) Edward and Anne Turgeon (1997,) Seo & Kato (2005,)and Piano Duo IM (2008.) Applications are due by September 25 and may be found at <http://dranoff2piano.org> or by calling the Foundation at 305-572-9900.

Gabriele Fiorentino, President of the Dranoff Foundation, said, “The initial response for applications to our 12th Competition has been remarkable. The quality of teams is as strong as it has ever been and I can promise that some spectacular performances are awaiting us.”

Duo piano teams participate in four rounds of competition over 10 months. The best teams are culled from the applicant pool to participate in the preliminary round. This round leads to live auditions that take place in Beijing, China (December 1, 2012,) Hannover, Germany (December 7,2012), and Chicago, IL, USA. (December 15, 2012). Teams compete in the city nearest their home. Ten teams will go on to the semi-finals held in Miami, Florida during the week of May 10, 2013. A First (\$25,000), Second (\$15,000), and Third Prize (\$10,000) will be presented at the Grand Finals concert with full orchestra on May 16, 2013. Two performance excellence prizes will also be awarded that evening to the best performance of a new composition and a new two piano orchestration of a work by American composer, Jerome Moross.

In fulfillment of its mission to promulgate and promote two piano literature, the Dranoff Foundation for each competition commissions an internationally recognized composer. The resultant piece is a required element in the semi-final round of competition. For the 12th Competition, composer Gabriela Lena Frank will create the new work. Previous commissions have gone such composers as William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Morton Gould, Michel LeGrand, Robert Xavier Rodriguez, and Ned Rorem. The semi-final round this year also includes in its requirements a new orchestration of “The Last Judgment” by the versatile late American composer, Jerome Moross, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth, and “Martha and Mary,” composed for the Dranoff Foundation by Shelton Berg, Dean of the Frost School of Music, University of Miami

Artistic Directors for the 12th competition are former Dranoff award winners Aglika Genova & Luben Dimitrov and jurors for the final two rounds are John Perry, Professor, Keyboard Studies, USC Thornton School; Volker Stenzl, pianist; Anthony Fogg, Artistic Administrator, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Bernd Goetzke, Professor at the Hannover Musikhochschule;

Kate Monaghan, Associate Director of Programming, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Prof. Wing Yu, pianist and Chair of the Piano Department Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music.

Formerly known as the Murray Dranoff Foundation, the Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation was established in 1987 by the late pianist and educator Loretta Dranoff, in memory of her husband and performance partner. Loretta and Murray were a highly-sought after piano team from 1946 to 1973, performing as Steinway and Columbia artists. In forming the Foundation, Loretta sought to invigorate international interest in two-piano repertoire and artists, assist with young artist career development, and contribute to the community through innovative outreach programs.

In 2004, the Foundation increased its activities beyond the competition. Noting the need for substantially greater emphasis in arts learning and activities in the Miami-Dade public schools, the Foundation developed free community and in-school programs. *Piano Slam*, initiated in 2009, is a multi-media poetry contest for middle and high school students that emphasizes the beauty of the two piano art form and encourages Miami-Dade's teens to experience the excitement of creating art through poetry, dance, and music. *Piano Slam* is produced in collaboration with Miami-Dade County's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation is generously sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami-Dade County, Steinway and Sons, Lufthansa, and The Betsy Hotel, Miami Beach.