

16 DUO PIANO TEAMS FROM 13 COUNTRIES ADVANCE TO LIVE AUDITIONS FOR THE 12th DRANOFF INTERNATIONAL 2 PIANO COMPETITION

Live Auditions Round in December in Beijing, China, Hannover, Germany and Chicago, IL USA

November 5, 2012

Miami, FL -- The Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation has announced that 16 duo piano teams will advance to the live round of the 12th Dranoff International 2 Piano Competition. The teams hail from Canada, China, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, and South Korea. The live round will take place in three cities: 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.

Gabriele Fiorentino, president of the Dranoff Foundation, said, "We are extremely excited by the quality of the teams in this year's competition. Their commitment to the competition is reflected in the level of their performances and the effort they are making to participate."

After the live rounds, ten teams will advance to the semi-finals which will take place 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 on May 16, 2013. Two performance excellence prizes will also be awarded that evening to the best performance of a specially commissioned new composition and a new two-piano orchestration of a work by American composer, Jerome Moross. Past First Prize winners include the Stenzl Piano Duo (1989), Piano Duo van Veen (1995,) Edward and Anne Turgeon (1997), Seo & Kato (2005), and Piano Duo IM (2008).

For each competition, the Dranoff Foundation 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 to such composers as William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Morton Gould, Michel LeGrand, Robert Xavier Rodriguez, and Ned Rorem.

Artistic Directors for the 12th competition are former Dranoff award winners Aglika Genova & Luben Dimitrov. Jurors for the final two rounds are Anthony Fogg, artistic administrator of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Bernd Goetzke, professor at the Hannover Musikhochschule; Chloe Herteleer, Music Programming Director at De Singel Music Complex, Antwerp; Kate Monaghan, associate director of programming at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; John Perry, professor of keyboard studies at the Thornton School of Music at USC; pianist Volker

Stenzl, Stenzl Duo Piano; and Wing Yu, pianist and chair of the piano department at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music.

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

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.

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