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**CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF GREATER TORONTO
LAUNCHES
CCC TORONTO INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION**

*Rounds I-III at P.C. Ho Theatre in Scarborough
Final Round November 8 at Koerner Hall, Royal Conservatory, Toronto*

The attention of the music world will be on Toronto when the first **CCC Toronto International Piano Competition** launches November 1-8, 2010. The event has attracted 100 entrants from around the world. It is organized by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. Artistic directors are pianists **Lu Wang** and **Lang Ning Liu**, Toronto-based pianists who are both enjoying successful international careers as soloists and as duo-pianists.

The CCC Toronto International Piano Competition offers a total of \$28,000 U.S. in prize, with the first-prize winner receiving \$15,000 U.S. along with orchestral and solo concert engagements. Second prize is \$8,000 U.S., and third, \$5,000 U.S.

Twenty-five competitors have been selected, and will be announced in September.

As **Lang-Ning Liu**, Artistic Director of the Competition, commented, "Hard work, exceptional talent and training are crucial, but not always enough to guarantee success for a solo pianist. One of the biggest challenges is finding the opportunity to be heard and appreciated. We have dedicated ourselves to creating a professional, international arena that will allow young, talented pianists to render their artistic visions to the best of their abilities, and to promote world-class excellence in the art of pianism. Live streaming on the internet will showcase their talent to the whole world."

Competition President is **Dr. Ming-Tat Cheung**, Chairman and President of the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC) of Greater Toronto. Dr. Dong-Dong Dong is the Vice-President of the Competition.

Since the postmark deadline of June 30, Toronto's CCC has received 100 entries from 25 countries, most of them from Canada, mainland China, Japan, Korea, Russia and the U.S.A. The entrants are almost evenly divided between men and women, with an average age of 25.7 – the majority being 26-30 years old. The youngest are a 12-year-old girl, Szuyu Su, from Taiwan, and 13-year-old boy, Robin Pan from Canada. The eldest is an American woman of 35, the maximum age. Other competitors come from France, Italy, Israel, Malaysia, Poland, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Algeria and Belarus.

DVDs submitted by the entrants were evaluated by the Competition's Artistic Committee.

THE ROUNDS:

The 25 competitors they selected will arrive in Toronto October 31. The **Competition Opening Ceremony, Monday, November 1** features the draw for competition order, followed by piano try-outs. In **Rounds I and II, November 2-3 and 4-5 respectively**, competitors must each play a total of 55 minutes of different repertoire from memory. Six semi-finalists will compete in **Round III, Sunday, November 7**. In it, they play a 50-minute solo recital of their own choice. Three finalists will be named that evening and perform with orchestra on **Monday, November 8**. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the conclusion of the evening.

A competition break, Saturday, November 6, features master classes with the competition jurors.

JUDGES:

The jury will be chaired by **Professor Yoheved Kaplinsky**, Chair of Piano and Director of the Pre-College program at New York's Juilliard School, and a distinguished judge of many international competitions. On the panel are Canadians **Marc Durand** (professor of piano, Université de Montréal and artistic coordinator of the Banff Centre's 2010 Piano Master Class program) and **Marietta Orlov** (Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, and the Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School); Americans **Richard Dyer** (former chief music critic of the Boston Globe) and **John Giordano** (jury chair, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition since 1973, and music director emeritus of the Fort Worth Symphony); **Yong Hi Moon** of Korea (professor of piano, Peabody Institute of Music, U.S.A.); and **Arie Vardi** of Israel (chair, Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, and professor of piano, Hochschule für Musik in Hannover and at the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University).

Honorary advisors are Peter Simon, President of the Royal Conservatory, Toronto; James Anagnoson, Dean of the Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School; world renowned pianist Dang Thai Son, and Prof. David Beach of the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory.

THE ORCHESTRA:

In the Final round, each of the three pianists performs a concerto with the Toronto Concert Orchestra conducted by **Kerry Stratton**(www.kerrystratton.com).

LOCATIONS & TICKETS:

The **Opening Ceremony and first three rounds** take place at the state-of-the-art, 626-seat **P.C. Ho Theatre, Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto**, 5183 Sheppard Ave. E. (at Progress/Sheppard bus stop). Sessions run 1-8 p.m. and cost \$10 for an entire day. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or reserved by phoning (416) 292-9293 ext. 232, or by e-mailing tickets@cccpiacompetitions.org.

Ticketing for the November 6 Master Class will be announced in a later time. **The Competition's Final (concerto) round is held Monday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.** at the **Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W.** Tickets, \$25 to \$35, are available by phone at (416) 408-0208 or www.rcmusic.ca.

A **\$70 ticket package** will include admission to all three rounds at the P.C. Ho Theatre and a \$35 ticket for the final round at Koerner Hall.

THE SPONSORS: The CCC Toronto International Piano Competition is made possible by the Celebrate Ontario grant, Rolex Canada Ltd., Philip Leong, Downtown Fine Cars Group, and other dedicated sponsors. Sponsors for the Competition pianos are the Piano & Keyboard Centre and Yamaha Canada. The University of Toronto and The Royal Conservatory are major collaborators.

Accommodation and local transportation will be provided by community volunteers to the competitors who require it.

Details on all phases of the Competition, including the distinguished international judging panel and other key personnel are at www.cccpiacompetitions.org/international.html

RELEVANT WEBSITES:

Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto - www.cccgt.org

Lang-Ning Liu - www.artoflangning.com

Lu Wang - www.valentineconcert.com/luwang.html

Yoheved Kaplinsky - www.juilliard.edu/asp/fsnew/faculty_details.php?FacultyId=361&School=College&Division=Music

High-res JPEG Photos will be posted at www.cccpiacompetitions.org/international.html.

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Pronunciations

Lang Ning Liu - Lahng (almost like Long) Ning lee-OH (vowels on last name elide)	
Yoheved Kaplinsky - yo-HEV-ed ka-PLIN-skee	(Marc) Durand - Du-ro(ng)
Marietta Orlov - ma-ree-ET-ta OR-lawv	(John) Giordano - jor-DAH-no
Yong Hi Moon - yong hee moon	Arie Vardi - AR-ee VAR-dee.
Anagnoson - a-NAG-na-son Stratton - STRA-tun	Dang Thai Son - dahng tie sohn (tie as in necktie)

