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MEDIA ADVISORY

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CONCERT PIANIST TO LEAD PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL

Portland Piano announces concert pianist Arnaldo Cohen will replace Harold Gray as the next artistic director of Portland Piano International.

"Cohen is exactly what the search committee was looking for," Executive Director Patricia Price said. "He has a deep devotion to educating the next generation of musicians and music lovers, and he is a remarkable talent and gentleman. His artistic vision's clarity is obvious through his incredible pianistic abilities."

The Brazilian-born pianist Arnaldo Cohen, now living in the United States, has long had a reputation for astonishing his audiences with the musical authority and blistering virtuosity of his performances. Long in demand internationally, Mr. Cohen has in the past few years entered a rarefied echelon among performers in America as well. He is regularly invited to appear as soloist with major orchestras, such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His solo recitals everywhere draw enthusiastic crowds of cognoscenti. Critics, too, marvel at his mixture of musical complexity and élan. "A model of balance and imagination" was Steve Smith's verdict in his review of Mr. Cohen's Town Hall recital in *The New York Times*.

Over the last 35 years, Portland Piano has presented more than 150 pianists in recital including Arnaldo Cohen and many more of the world's most famous pianists such as Lang Lang, Murray Perahia, Angela Hewitt, and Emanuel Ax. Founding artistic director Harold Gray retires at the end of the 2012-13 season.