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Artist biographies, recital program details.
photographs, videos: Media Room, www.portlandpiano.org

Portland Piano International Artistic Director Arnaldo Cohen Announces Inaugural 2013 / 2014 Season of Strikingly Young and Enduring Famous Artists

Acclaimed Piano Series

- Returns to Lincoln Hall
- Offers Double Recitals for Three of Six Artists
- Debuts 2013 Van Cliburn Winner along with Three Other Portland Debuts

With this 2013 / 2014 season, we'll share the beloved, the delicate and the fiercely complex.

-- Artistic Director Arnaldo Cohen

Concluding its 35th season, **PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL** closed one chapter and opened another on Sunday, May 5. Founder **Harold Gray** took the stage for the last time as Artistic Director to welcome his friend and successor, brilliant Brazilian pianist **Arnaldo Cohen**. All Classical's **Robert McBride** then introduced Maestro Cohen as he began an emotional career-retrospective recital of **Bach, Brahms** and **Chopin**. Immediately following his performance, he took a microphone to introduce his 2013-14 artists:

Rafal Blechacz, 28, Polish, Su/M, Sep 29/30, Portland debut

- Sep 29, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin
- Sep 30, Debussy, Szymanowski, Chopin

Jean-Eflam Bavouzet, 51, French, Su/Nov 24, Portland debut

- Beethoven, Bartok, Debussy, Ravel

Vladimir Feltsman, 62, Russian-American, Su/M, Jan 12/13

- Jan 12, Bach, Liszt, Scriabin
- Jan 13, Haydn, Schubert, Schumann

Gold Medalist, 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Su/M, Feb 2/3, Portland debut

- To be announced June 9

Daniil Trifonov, 23, Russian, Su/Mar 9, Portland debut

- Stravinsky, Ravel, Schoenberg, Schumann

Garrick Ohlsson, 66, American, Su/May 4

- Beethoven, Schubert, Charles Griffes, Chopin

With the exception of the May 4 Garrick Ohlsson recital, which takes place at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway, all recitals take place at Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market. Sunday afternoons at 4 PM; Monday evenings, 7:30 PM. Subscription packages are available in

packages of nine recitals (the full Sunday/Monday season), six (Sunday afternoons) or three (Monday evenings) and range in price from \$120 to \$405. Subscriptions may be ordered:

Online: www.portlandpiano.org
By mail: POB 6469, Portland, OR 97228
By phone: 503.228.1388

Single tickets go on sale September 1.

Maestro Cohen confirmed the 2013 / 2014 artists and programs on a very fast trajectory. He began in October 2012, when his appointment was announced, and worked feverishly to secure artists who typically are booked at least two years out. As a world-renowned pianist with a very active schedule of recitals and concerts with the world's leading orchestra, his contacts in the classical music world are extensive and deep. In creating the season, he sought to instill a sense of excitement not only in his choice of artists but also in what he asked them to perform.

In an unusual move, Maestro Cohen curated the season, requesting pianists to prepare pieces outside their usual repertoire. And, in the case of the artists performing double recitals, the artistic director asked for second programs that differ substantially from the first. Thus, the season offers a wider range of music for piano enthusiasts to relish and encourages them to return for more. Maestro Cohen observes

*The piano has infinite meanings in the hands of those who master it.
Those meanings change with every era and composer; they also modify
with the intellectual and emotional shifts of the pianist.*

In the future, he plans to offer double programs for every PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL artist.

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL's strong relationship with the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition underscores the series' commitment to bringing the frisson of discovery to its audience. The 2013 competition will be not be decided until June 9 when the Gold Medalist and Feb 2/3 recitalist will be immediately announced on PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL's website, ENews, Facebook and Twitter pages.

The return to Lincoln Hall, on the campus of Portland State University, where the series presented for many years, is another important change for PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL. Maestro Cohen specifically chose Lincoln Hall, over other venues, because of its superb piano acoustics. With just 475 seats and excellent sightlines, Lincoln Hall promises an intimate, chamber experience for concertgoers. The return to Lincoln Hall also renews PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL's relationship with Portland State University, which under President Wim Wiewel's leadership, has just announced new initiatives to strengthen its arts curriculum and programming.

Music education is a core value for PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL and a particular passion for Arnaldo Cohen, who is also a full professor at Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School

of Music. Free, open-to-the-public Master Classes – recently renamed “Up Close with the Masters” -- are integral to PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL’s program. Each year, just a few season artists work with advanced students in a small-group setting, offerings an extraordinary opportunity not just for student and teacher but for any music lover interested in watching a performer approach a piece, re-think, correct and refine it on the path to intended expression. In 2013 / 2014 “Up Close with the Masters” takes place at

Portland Piano Company
711 SW 14th Avenue at Morrison

with this schedule:

Saturday, November 23, 2 PM
Jean-Efflam Bavouzet

Monday, January 13, 10 AM
Vladimir Feltsman

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL’s Summer Festival, a lively element of Portland’s classical music scene for many years, is on hiatus for 2013 as PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL manages its leadership transition and Maestro Cohen considers new Festival formats. There’s no doubt that more debut artists, bold programming, new initiatives and collaborations are coming to PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL.

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PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL is dedicated to presenting the finest pianists in the world in recital settings and outreach activities for the purpose of enriching and educating our community. Funders and sponsors include the **Regional Arts & Culture Council, Work for Art, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Cultural Trust, National Endowment for the Arts, The Oregonian** and **All Classical Media**.

Artistic Director **Arnaldo Cohen**, a world-renowned concert pianist, was named to succeed PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL Founder Harold Gray in October 2012. He’s appeared in the recital series four times and will make his fifth appearance with the Oregon Symphony February 22-24, 2014, playing Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto #2. Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, he began his music studies on the violin but was influenced to master the piano by famed teacher Jacques Klein. He won the 1972 Busoni International Piano Competition and has played concert halls around the world ever since. In addition to music, his career has been varied – engineer, math and physics teacher, journalist – and he is a full professor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Even as he adds leading PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL to his portfolio, he will continue to concertize with the world’s leading orchestras. He records for BIS.