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Announcing the 2016-2017 SOLO Piano Series presented by Portland Piano International

(Portland, OR) Portland Piano International is proud to announce the 39th season of its newly rebranded SOLO Piano Series. Artistic Director Arnaldo Cohen has selected six artists, each of whom will perform two completely different programs over two consecutive days.

The 2016-2017 season begins in October with the return of the dynamic Russian pianist Denis Kozhukhin, who last performed for the SOLO Series in 2014. Next is the Portland debut of Argentinian Nelson Goerner, a frequent collaborator with Martha Argerich. Russian-American Natasha Paremski returns to Portland in January 2017, a year after a stunning performance with the Oregon Symphony. American George Li makes his Portland debut after his second place finish in last year's Tchaikovsky Competition; Li was recently selected for an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Welsh pianist Llŷr Williams also makes his Portland debut; Williams is known for performing Beethoven sonatas, including a complete cycle of sonatas performed in a two-week marathon at the Edinburgh Festival. Finnish pianist Paavali Jumppanen will close the season; he has just completed recording the full cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas.

October 8 & 9, 2016	Denis Kozhukhin	Russian	
December 3 & 4, 2016	Nelson Goerner	Argentinian	<i>PDX Debut</i>
January 14 & 15, 2017	Natasha Paremski	Russian-American	
February 11 & 12, 2017	George Li	American	<i>PDX Debut</i>
April 1 & 2, 2017	Llŷr Williams	Welsh	<i>PDX Debut</i>
May 13 & 14, 2017	Paavali Jumppanen	Finnish	<i>PDX Debut</i>

The season's programs feature Beethoven works as 2017 marks the 190th anniversary of Beethoven's death. In particular, ten Beethoven sonatas will be performed: Goerner (1), Paremski (1), Li (2), Williams (2) and Jumppanen (4).

Each recital is performed at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall, Saturdays and Sundays at 4 pm. For more information, go to <http://portlandpiano.org/season16-17/> or call 502.228.1388.

About our SOLO Artists

Denis Kozhukhin

Born in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia into a family of musicians, Denis Kozhukhin began his piano studies at the age of four with his mother. He was launched onto the international scene after winning First Prize in the 2010 Queen Elizabeth Competition in Brussels at the age of 23. His playing is characterized by an extraordinary technical mastery balanced by a sharp intelligence,

calm maturity and wisdom. Kozhukhin has that rare and special gift of creating an immediate and compelling emotional connection with his audience.

Nelson Goerner

A native of Argentina, Nelson Goerner has established himself as one of the foremost pianists of his generation. He has performed with many of the major orchestras including the Philharmonia Orchestra under Claus Peter Flor, the Deutsche Symphonie Orchestra of Berlin under Andrew Davis, the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Emmanuel Krivine, the Hallé Orchestra under Mark Elder, the Suisse Romande with Neemi Jarvi and Raphael Fruhbeck de Burgos, the Orchestra of the 18th Century with Frans Bruggen, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie with Ivor Bolton, and the NHK Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo under Fabio Luisi.

Natasha Paremski

Natasha was born in Moscow but moved to the United States at the age of 8 and became a US citizen shortly thereafter. She is now based in New York. With her consistently striking and dynamic performances, she reveals astounding virtuosity and voracious interpretive abilities. She continues to generate excitement from all corners as she wins over audiences with her musical sensibility and flawless technique. Natasha was awarded several very prestigious artist prizes at a very young age, including the Gilmore Young Artists prize in 2006 at the age of 18, the Prix Montblanc in 2007, the Orpheum Stiftung Prize in Switzerland. In September 2010, she was awarded the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year.

George Li

A silver medalist in the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition and winner of the prestigious XIV Concours International Grand Prix Animato 2014 Paris, George Li is regarded as one of the world's most talented and creative young pianists. His astonishing technique, distinctive tonal quality, and exceptional musicality have earned him consistent critical acclaim (New York Times, Washington Post, International Piano Magazine, Toronto Star, The Boston Phoenix, The Boston Music Intelligencer) and enthusiastic audience response worldwide for his solo recitals, orchestral collaborations and chamber music performances.

Llŷr Williams

Welsh pianist Williams is widely admired for his profound musical intelligence and for the expressive and communicative nature of his interpretations. He has worked with orchestras including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Sinfonia Cymru, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Meininger Hofkapelle, Berner Kammerorchester, Limburgs Symphony and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg. Williams is an acclaimed performer of Beethoven with one complete piano sonata cycle under his belt and another under way. His eclectic taste is reflected in his discography.

Paavali Jumppanen

Paavali Jumppanen is an internationally-renowned pianist, a versatile performer equally at home as a concerto soloist, chamber musician and recitalist. His vast repertoire spans piano literature from Bach to the Avant-garde. He has worked with numerous contemporary composers and premiered many solo piano and chamber works. His collaborations with esteemed composers including Pierre Boulez, William Duckworth, and Henri Dutilleux as well as composers of his

native Finland – among them Perttu Haapanen, Lauri Kilpiö, and Riikka Talvitie – have opened for him a broad perspective into the dynamic nature of new music. In recent years, Paavali has dedicated much of his time into performing cycles of the complete Beethoven and Mozart Piano Sonatas. He has also often performed all of the Beethoven Piano Concertos and chamber sonatas.

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. In addition to our SOLO Series, we present an annual Summer Festival (June 16 – 19, 2016), Rising Stars, Commissioning Project and Tholen Fellows Project. Funders and sponsors include the Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Work for Art, James F. and Marion Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, Portland Piano Company, Higgins Restaurant, Portland State University and All Classical Media.

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