

CONTACT: Rich Brase
marketing@portlandpiano.org
503.201.6158
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**Rising Star Tina Chong Premieres Composition by
Oregon Composer Sarah Zipperer Gaskins
in Portland and Vancouver**

(Portland, OR) Portland Piano International is proud to announce the fourth work composed through its Commissioning Project and performed in cooperation with its already-established Rising Stars program. Performances in Portland and Vancouver will feature Canadian pianist Tina Chong playing the world premiere of a composition by Portland composer Sarah Zipperer Gaskins. This new work is titled *Nocturne for the Yearning*.

Each hour-long performance is free and open to the public. In addition to *Nocturne for the Yearning*, Ms. Chong will perform Nocturne Op. 6, No. 2 from *Soirees Musicales* by Clara Schumann, *Papillons*, Op. 2 by Robert Schumann and Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Op. 82 by Sergei Prokofiev. Ms. Zipperer Gaskins will be present at all performances.

Scheduled performances are:

May 5, 2016	3 pm	<i>Thursdays @ 3</i> All Classical Portland	Portland, OR
May 6, 2016	7 pm	Portland Piano Company 711 SW 14 th Ave	Portland, OR
May 7, 2016	3 pm	Touchmark at Fairway Village 2911 SE Village Loop	Vancouver, WA

Portland Piano International is focusing on the power of new works by helping build the solo piano repertoire for the 21st century and beyond. Sarah Zipperer Gaskins' work is the fourth of twelve compositions to be premiered over the next two years. The first six Oregon composers have been selected and the remaining six will be chosen later in 2016.

The two-year Commissioning Project is funded through a Creative Heights Grant from The Oregon Community Foundation. Portland Piano International was selected as one of only 13 organizations statewide for the first round of these new grants, which were established through the Fred W. Fields Fund. Portland Piano International thanks the generous sponsors who have made the Rising Star series possible: Autzen Foundation, Jackson Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation and U.S. Bank.

About Tina Chong

Hailed as "... a deity of elegance" by the New Brunswick Beacon, pianist Tina Chong is a sought after recitalist and chamber musician in North America. A native of Banff, Canada, Tina has been described as, "...mature and yet fresh, imbued with tradition and yet inhabited by individuality, the marks of an artist" (*The Herald Times*). As a passionate performer and teaching

artist, Tina strives to invigorate her audiences with her infectious energy and exciting programming. She is currently being represented by Mit Bravour.

Since her orchestral debut at the age of nine, Tina has appeared as a guest soloist with orchestras throughout the world including the Calgary Philharmonic, the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Tina's recital career has brought her to such venues as the Sala Chopin in Mexico City, the Sheldon Center in St. Louis, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the National Arts Centre and Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Under the management of Jeunesses Musicales of Canada, Tina has gone on several whirlwind concert tours throughout Eastern Canada. Most recently, she has been featured in the Portland International Summer Festival, Lachine Festival, and the WFMT Series of Chicago.

Crafting performances of the highest artistry and virtuosity, Tina has been a prizewinner in an impressive number of major international competitions. Tina captured the "Best Canadian Prize" at the 2011 Montreal International Musical Competition, the grand prize at the 2010 CMC International Stepping Stone Competition in Canada, and second prize at the 2009 Jacques Klein Piano Competition in Brazil. Other top placements include the Aspen Music Festival concerto competition and the Seneca Chamber Orchestra Competition.

An artist of great versatility, Tina has collaborated with some of her generation's best instrumentalists and operatic singers, many of who are performing in the world's most prestigious orchestras and opera companies. Her projects have led her to work extensively under the guidance of violinist Jaime Laredo, violist Atar Arad, clarinetist James Campbell, baritone Timothy Noble, and soprano Carol Vaness.

Tina's early love of Mozart jumpstarted her piano lessons at the age of three. She is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where she studied under the guidance of Angela Cheng. She has also worked closely with artist-teachers Robert McDonald, Jerome Lowenthal, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Julian Martin, Arie Vardi, and Menahem Pressler. Tina is now a doctoral candidate at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music having studied with Arnaldo Cohen. She is a recipient of the Indiana University Chancellor's Fellowship and is currently being supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Sarah Zipperer Gaskins

A native of Atlanta, GA, Sarah Gaskins has an active career as a composer and performer. Her works have been commissioned by ensembles including the internationally renowned Mana Saxophone Quartet, and featured on new music concerts and conferences throughout the U.S. She has performed in or helped organize several new music concerts and festivals. She received her DM and MM in composition at Florida State University while studying under Ladislav Kubík and Clifton Callender. She earned a BM in music theory at Furman University while studying under Mark Kilstofte.

Her duet for violin and piano, "8:10 at the Café" was performed at the College Music Society's 2008 National Conference. She was selected as a National Finalist in MTNA's 2010 Composition Competition. She has presented papers at the New Orleans Music Theory Conference, Florida State's Music Theory Society Forum, the South Central Society for Music Theory Conference, and Music Theory Society Southeast. Gaskins has taught music courses at

Florida State University, Gardner-Webb University, Furman University, Lewis & Clark College, and Portland Community College.

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 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.

Portland Piano International
P.O. Box 6469 Portland, OR 97228 503.228.1388
portlandpiano.org