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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS FIRST-EVER *PIANO DAY* IN U.S.

PORTLAND, OR - Portland Piano International (SOLO) is pleased to present the first ever *Piano Day* celebration in the United States. From noon – 10pm on March 29, 2017 pianists will celebrate the piano by performing piano music of all genres with the goal of 1,000 minutes of piano music. Piano Day will take place at four locations in the Portland Metro area at different times: the studio at All Classical, the atrium at City Hall, the platform at the Washington Park MAX Station (260 feet underground!) and the stage at Alberta Abbey.

Pianists of all ages and abilities will perform on some of the City's best pianos. The events will be free to the public, but each performer will be raising funds from the community with a minimum goal of \$10 per minute played. *Piano Day* welcomes all kinds of piano lovers - young and old, amateur and professional, of any musical direction – to join in this year's festivities. The funds raised will be used to support the educational programs of Portland Piano International.

Piano Day began two years ago, when German pianist Nils Frahm declared the 88th day of each year to be a special day to celebrate the piano. The 88th day of the year was chosen because the modern piano (usually) has 88 keys. In 2016, there were more than 20 events held across the globe, from Japan, Australia, Russia, Slovenia, Germany, The Netherlands, Israel, Lithuania, France, the UK and Canada. There were no events in the United States...until now.

"We are launching *Piano Day* as a fun, public event to celebrate the world's most popular musical instrument, give Portlanders of all ages the opportunity to play concert quality pianos, and raise money for educational activities," said Ellen Bergstone Wasil, Executive Director. "We have performers from eight years old, to seasoned artists like Thomas Lauderdale, and fun venues like the underground MAX Station at the Oregon Zoo! We'll livestream from each of the locations so folks everywhere can watch and listen online."

Piano Day is sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co., Paperjam Press and Portland Piano Company; location hosts include Alberta Abbey, All Classical Portland, the City of Portland and TriMet.

More information and performance times are available at www.portlandpiano.org

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, Portland State University and All Classical Media.