



Twinkling The Ivories

October 2009

Inspiration is Near – The Honens International Piano Competition

“The Honens International Piano Competition is one of THE WORLD’S* most prestigious events of its kind and Canada’s leading presenter of music for piano.” WOW! This is how this event is described and defined on the website www.honens.com (*my emphasis).

This will be happening RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP! The Honens Competition takes place every three years in *Calgary*, and this is the year, starting October 22.

This is excellent news for those of us (which I hope includes you) who are passionate about piano music, love classical music, and love to hear it performed with beautiful tone, awesome technique, inspiring grace and enthusiasm. This is an amazing opportunity to hear and see some of the most talented, gifted, and dedicated pianists and piano teachers currently practicing and performing in the world today. They come from all over the world and most definitely are top-of-the-line, world-class musicians. For two weeks in Calgary, they are playing solo recitals, chamber ensemble concerts, and concertos with orchestra and are talking about music and what life is like as a musician every day. It is a competition and for the performers it is a very big deal, but who wins and gets prizes and who advances to the next level is of little concern to us who just want to revel in their music. Every one of them is a winner and worth time and money to hear.

Furthermore, between all the concerts, there are free events – inspiring talks about music every day, and especially the *MASTER CLASSES* every morning during the quarterfinals – October 22 – 28! Alberta piano students (just like our own ESPS students), who have auditioned and been accepted for these master classes, have the opportunity to have a lesson with one of the teachers on the Honens jury. The insight and expertise of these exceptional teachers will be shared with all who are listening and observing as well. These advanced level lessons are wonderfully inspiring. The instruction will relate to technique, performance skill, musical style, artistic interpretation and more.

I’m having trouble communicating how exciting I think all this is. What a chance this is. How long-lasting and far-reaching this is. I went to one day of this competition, as well as to the final concert when it happened three years ago, and I’m still talking about it. If you think your child needs motivation, this could very well be the boost you are looking for. These concerts and master classes would be most appreciated by keen students, ages 8 and up.

For many months, we’ve been hearing about the Olympics coming to Vancouver. And indeed, how exciting and wonderful it is to have this world-class competition in our own neighbouring province. For all the enthusiastic skaters, hockey players, snowboarders, skiers and other athletes that we have in our ESPS community, Honens would be the event of a lifetime to attend and not at all difficult to imagine how inspiring it would be. Hopefully many of you are planning to go for at least a part of it.

The Honens is the Piano equivalent of the Olympics.

But there’s more good news. ESPS has set aside some money to help subsidize the cost of attending Honens. Talk to your teacher to see if you might qualify.

Check out the website (www.honens.com) to hear wonderful performances of previous Honens competitors and to get more information.

–by Ruth Johnson

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Get Involved with the Board!

Thanks to those of who attended our recent Annual General Meeting. We are pleased to welcome back Board Members Karen Spencer, Don Dyck, Betty Lee and Shannon Prithipaul and look forward to another year of short meetings, great snacks, and a real commitment to furthering the vision of ESPS.

If you are interested in getting involved or would just like to attend our meetings, please contact Kim Green at 780.488.0548.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

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| October 28, 2009 | February 24, 2010 |
| November 25, 2009 | March 24, 2010 |
| December 16, 2009 | April 28, 2010 (General Meeting) |
| January 27, 2010 | May 19, 2010 |

Fall Institute – November 7-8, 2009

You may have recently received a registration form from your teacher for the upcoming Fall Institute, November 7-8, 2009 at Suzuki Charter School.

Each year, the Fall Institute offers master classes, parent sessions, and a special enrichment activity, all designed to help motivate you and your child. This fall, we welcome guest teachers that include Doris Harrel (a Houston-based Suzuki educator), Susan Magnusson (an ESPS favourite from Langley, B.C.) and Nicole Elliott (who travels to us from Saskatchewan). Additionally, Dani Altieri, a local dance artist and educator, will offer the kids an action-packed hip-hop dance class.

For children, the Institute can be a great benefit. They have an opportunity to learn from someone new and can also find it motivating for practice to have an event to prepare for. Also, it's always beneficial for them to have an opportunity to observe others playing. They might get to hear an interesting new piece of music or observe another child facing similar challenges.

Families can register as participants or just as observers. As a participant, children receive a master class with a guest teacher, attend the hip-hop enrichment class, and have more opportunities to learn by observing others' lessons. Parents are also invited to attend one of the daily parent sessions. As an observer, children and their parents are invited to observe lessons at any level.

Watch for registration information and forms at your teacher's studio. Deadline to register is October 24, 2009.

October 2009 Graduations

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and well-deserved graduations:

Volume 1

Evan Holt

Jannon Kong

Bianca Nowazek

Marcus Wong

Jackson Zhou

Volume 2

Connor Bauer

Sam Kohan

Volume 3

Christopher Otto

Jacob Paetsch

Bao Williamson

Vivian Wong

Volume 4

Michaelene Poworoznik

Volume 5

Liesl Sham

Volume 7

Kristin Thordarson

