

**CALGARY OPERA TO PRESENT
MAGIC PIANO & THE CHOPIN SHORTS
WITH HONENS LAUREATE DR. WINSTON CHOI**

July 7, 2018 (Calgary, Alberta) – Calgary Opera’s General Director and CEO, Keith Cerny, Ph.D., announced today that Dr. Winston Choi, Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition, will perform live accompaniment for two showings of ***Magic Piano & The Chopin Shorts***, on **Friday, September 28 at Studio Bell**. The award-winning animated film features four of Chopin’s *Etudes*, and will be presented by Calgary Opera, as part of the 19th annual **Calgary International Film Festival’s Music on Screen Series**. Other partners for these performances include the **Honens International Piano Competition**, and **Studio Bell – home of the National Music Centre**.

“Calgary Opera is delighted to have Canadian Winston Choi, one of the finest pianists in the world, join us for this collaborative production of *Magic Piano*,” said Keith Cerny. “This unique production allows us to extend our new artistic strategy - focused around artistic innovation, collaboration, and community engagement – to partner with three prominent arts and cultural organizations in Calgary.”

Dr. Choi’s performance is generously underwritten by Andrea Brussa. “I’m delighted to be part of the community circle bringing Honen’s winner Dr. Winston Choi back to Calgary to perform. He’s a wonderful pianist and brings alive the story of what it means to be part of the human collective and the international arts world,” said Ms. Brussa. Dr. Choi has performed in recital and with orchestras across 4 continents. Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition and winner of France’s 2002 Concours International de Piano 20e siècle d’Orléans. his recent season appearances include the National Arts Centre of Canada, the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, New York’s Merkin Recital Hall and Symphony Space, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Detroit Institute of Art, the Kravis Center in Florida, the Festival Encuentros in Buenos Aires, and the Cicle Grans Solistes in Girona Spain.

“To have the opportunity to partner with several colleague organizations on the same project is truly rare,” said Neil Edwards, President & CEO of Honens International Piano Competition. “To be a part of this production is extraordinary.”

The production of BreakThru Films’ delightful animated film, the ***Magic Piano & The Chopin Shorts***, is entertaining for both children and adults, and features live music by Frédéric Chopin. The film tells the story of a young girl, whose tears animate an abandoned piano, turning it into a magic ride that takes her and a young friend to several European capitals – and reunites her with her beloved father.

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“Film and music are made for each other, which is why we are excited to partner with Calgary Opera for the Magic Piano screenings,” said Steve Schroeder, Executive Director of Calgary International Film Festival. “Ticket holders craving a unique experience must absolutely stick around after the screenings for Opera @ The Eddy.”

The film will be presented in two showings **on Friday, September 28 at 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm** at Studio Bell – home to the National Music Centre. Following each showing, ticket holders are invited across the street to enjoy **Opera @ The Eddy**, hosted by **Calgary International Film Festival** and **Studio Bell** – a special chance to enjoy a selection of operatic arias by local singers, with a cash bar and hip atmosphere at the legendary King Edward Hotel.

Tickets for Magic Piano & The Chopin Shorts are \$25.00 for adults, and \$15.00 for children, and are available to the public through Calgary Opera’s website at www.calgaryopera.com