

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE CONCERT SHOWCASES THREE YOUNG PIANISTS

Aloha International Piano Festival presents free community event

HONOLULU (May 25, 2010) – The Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) is proud to present a free event – the Young Pianists Recital – featuring three rising stars of the piano on Sunday, June 13 at 2 p.m. at the Hawaii Convention Center. The Young Pianists Recital features three AIPF fellowship students: T.J Tario of Honolulu (age 16), Akane Ikuma of Osaka (age 18), and Michael Stewart of Salk Lake City (age 20). These gifted pianists will perform an inspiring selection of works by Chopin, Ravel, Beethoven, Liszt and more. Admission is free and no tickets are needed for this family-friendly event.

The 2010 Festival runs from June 12 to 19 and includes an evening concert series, masterclasses for students and teachers, and piano competitions. Visit www.alohapianofestival.com for more information.

Aloha International Piano Festival Young Pianists Recital: Program

T.J. Tario, piano

Beethoven: Sonata Op. 81a “Les Adieux” in E flat major, 1st movement

J.L. Truax: Falling Waters

Chopin: Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor, Opus 31

Akane Ikuma, piano

Beethoven: Sonata Op. 57 “Appassionata”

I. Allegro assai

II. Andante con moto

III. Allegro ma non troppo

Michael Stewart, piano

Scarlatti: Sonata in F minor, K. 466

Ravel: *Alborada del Gracioso* from *Miroirs*

John Musto: Fugue

Liszt: *Spanish Rhapsody*

About T.J. Tario

T.J. Keanu Tario is a 16-year-old tenth grader at Kamehameha Schools on Oahu. He was a student of the late Ellen Masaki. Since her passing in 2009, T.J. has been studying with Lisa Nakamichi.

On the national level, T.J. has won first place alternate in 2006 for the MTNA competition junior division. In 2007, he placed first and traveled to the regionals in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he placed third. Internationally, T.J. placed in the top three of the Virginia Waring International Competition of March 2007. He placed second in the Aloha International Piano Competition in 2007 and first in 2009. In 2008, he placed second in the one piano-four hands division of the Stecher and Horowitz New York Piano Competition.

T.J. is an avid composer. His first piece, "Makika" Op. 1 ("Mosquito"), represented Hawaii in the 2008 MTNA composition division. It won first place in the western regionals and then advanced to the nationals.

In his free time, he enjoys making Hawaiian feather leis, reading about Hawaiian culture and history of all sorts, and playing for retirement homes. T.J.'s goal in life is to write an opera, concerto, or symphony piece that best represents the islands of Hawaii and one day, will share his music with the world. In fall 2010, T.J. Tario will begin his studies at the Juilliard School of Music (Pre-college division) under the tutelage of Martin Canin.

About Akane Ikuma

Akane Ikuma started early piano education and ear training by the Kinoshita Method at the age of five in Osaka, Japan. At an early age, she achieved success in piano competitions. In 2002, she won the Osaka division competition of the All Japan Junior Musicians Competition. In 2005, she earned the Special Prize for outstanding performance in F Grade, National Competition Finals at the PTNA Piano Competition. In 2006, she was awarded the Gold Prize in the Yomiuri Newspaper Competition as well as receiving a special Sonare Prize in the National Competition Finals of the PTNA Piano Competition.

In 2008, she won the City of Suita Board of Education Prize and performed at Nakanoshima International Music Festival. In 2009, she was awarded the Promotion Prize of the PTNA Yasuko Fukuda Competition; second place in Solo Piano High School Division Osaka Competition at 63rd All Japan Junior Musicians Competition; first place, Aiko Iguchi Prize, Nomura Prize, and NHK Prize in the PTNA National Competition Finals.

Most recently, Akane was awarded the Culture Art Prize at 2010 Osaka High School Culture Art Union. Akane is currently a senior at the Yuhigaoka High School Music Department studying under Kumiko Hattori. She has studied under Tomoko Miyauchi, Mikiko Inoue, Madoka Mitani, Sumiko Umenoya, Motoko Nakata, Honami Nakata.

About Michael Stewart

Michael Stewart has played the piano for fourteen years and currently studies with Dr. Susan Duehlmeier at the University of Utah. He has won many prizes in competitions, including First Prize in the Aloha International Piano Competition, Second Prize in the Bradshaw and Buono

International Competition (New York), Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition (Maryland), and the Snowy Range Piano Competition (Wyoming), and Fourth Prize in the New York International Piano Competition. He has also garnered top prizes in dozens of other local and national competitions.

Michael has performed more than a dozen times with various orchestras including the Utah Symphony and Salt Lake Symphony, and in master classes with renowned pianists such as Murray Perahia, Martin Canin, and Leslie Howard, just to name a few.

As a soloist, Michael has appeared at Greenwald Hall (New York), Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church (Washington DC), Abravanel Hall, and the Libby Gardner Concert Hall. Michael maintains a piano studio, accompanies numerous soloists and choirs, volunteers at local hospitals and retirement centers, and is the pianist for the Salt Lake Symphony.

About the Aloha International Piano Festival

Founded in 2006 by pianist Lisa Nakamichi, the Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) is a non-profit organization committed to educating Hawaii's children and teachers while enriching the lives of all music lovers. AIPF offers local students the opportunity to learn from world-class pianists in an affordable program that is close to home. Each year, AIPF strives to elevate the awareness of classical music in Hawaii and give people of all ages the opportunity to experience music in a welcoming setting. Visit www.alohapianofestival.com for more information.

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