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ALOHA PIANO COMPETITION ANNOUNCES WINNERS

Honolulu music festival enjoys larger crowds, audience participation

HONOLULU – (June 18, 2009) – The Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) concluded on a high note on Saturday, June 13 with the concerto division competition and prizes going to local and international pianists. The 2009 AIPF concerto division competition winners are:

Level A (up to age eight):

Eugene Son, age 8 (student of Ellen Masaki)

Level B (ages nine to 11):

Scottie Cheng, age 11 (student of Joanna Fan)

Junior Level (ages 12 to 14):

Evan Lin, age 14 (student of Joanna Fan)

Young Artist Level (ages 19 to 25):

Mari Abe, age 25 (from Osaka, Japan)

“The Festival extends its warmest thanks to Ellen Masaki and Mark Wong for their support and dedication to music and education in Hawaii,” said Lisa Nakamichi, director, AIPF. “We were delighted to welcome many new participants to Festival events this year, including young pianists from the mainland and Japan. True to tradition, the Honolulu audiences were welcoming and gracious in their appreciation of each concert, and it was a pleasure to see many families enjoying the music together. In 2010, we will endeavor to expand the Festival to include even more of the family-friendly events that thrilled audiences young and young-at-heart last week.”

Each year, AIPF gathers together aspiring pianists, acclaimed professional musicians and music lovers from around the world for a week of concerts, master classes and piano competitions. AIPF was created by concert pianist Lisa Nakamichi to offer Hawaii’s pianists the opportunity to learn from celebrated musicians close to home, while giving young people the chance to compete in a high-level competition.

About the Aloha International Piano Festival

Founded in 2006 by pianist Lisa Nakamichi, the Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) offers Hawaii’s local piano students, as well as visiting international students, opportunities to learn from world-class pianists in a nurturing environment. The AIPF enriches the greater community with opportunities to enjoy free and low-cost concerts performed by acclaimed artists. Each year, AIPF strives to elevate the awareness of classical music while offering people of all ages the

opportunity to experience music in a relaxed setting. Visit www.alohapianofestival.com for more information.

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