

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIANO COMPETITION WINNERS PERFORM IN FREE CONCERT TODAY

Concert featuring Lisa Nakamichi and Noriko Uenaka begins at 2 p.m.

FREE CONCERT: Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 2 p.m.
LOCATION: Liliu Theater of the Hawaii Convention Center
TICKETS: FREE
No tickets or reservations are required.
ARTISTS: Michael Stewart, *piano*
T.J. Tario, *piano*
Evan Lin, *piano*
Lisa Nakamichi, *piano*
Noriko Uenaka, *piano*
Winners of the 2009 AIPF Piano Competition

HONOLULU – (June 7, 2009) – The piano competition of the Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) opened with excitement and thrills on Saturday, June 7 as young pianists aged five to 22 competed for Festival honors in the solo division. T. J. Tario and Michael Stewart, the two first place winners of the solo division, have secured the opportunity perform in the Festival’s opening concert today at the Hawaii Convention Center. The concert features Festival director Lisa Nakamichi and guest pianist Noriko Uenaka. Admission is free. No reservations are needed and everyone is welcome to attend at 2 p.m.

The first place winner of the AIPF high school division (ages 15 to 18) is Honolulu’s T.J. Tario, who studies with Ellen Masaki. Tario will perform one of his own compositions, titled “Makika” (mosquito), for which he won the MTNA Baldwin Piano Competition-Composition Division in the Southwest Regional competition.

The first place winner of the young artist level (ages 19 to 25) is Michael Stewart, who traveled from Utah to participate in the Competition and Festival. Stewart has studied with one of the Festival’s guest artists, Dr. Susan Duehlmeier, since 2001. He is a piano performance major at the University of Utah.

In addition, the winner of the 2008 AIPF competition, Evan Lin, will perform a beautiful selection of works by Bach, Haydn, Liszt and Prokofiev. Lin is a Punahou School student who studies with Joanna Fan. He placed first in the 2008 AIPF high school division at age 13.

First prizewinners in the AIPF solo division from Level B through Young Artists receive a full scholarship to attend the 2010 Aloha International Piano Festival (a value of \$500). Prize money of \$1,000 is also awarded to the first prizewinner in the solo division in either high school or young artist levels.

The winners of the 2009 AIPF Competition are:

Level A (up to age eight):

First Place: Clarise Huang

Second Place: Queenie Huang

Third Place: Eugene Son

Honorable Mention: Josette Huang

Honorable Mention: Preston Ku

Level B (ages nine to 11):

First Place: Lauren Nugyen

Second Place: Shandee Teruya

Third Place: Sophia Benz

Junior Level (ages 12 to 14):

First Place: Tyler Ramos

Second Place: Anie Kwok

Third Place: Scottie Cheng

Honorable Mention: Jerry Fu

Honorable Mention: Jake Uchihara

High School Level (ages 15 to 18):

First Place: T.J. Tario (featured in today's concert)

Second Place: Tiffany Cheung

Third Place honor was a tie shared between: Rachel Stanton and Jenny Fu

Young Artist Level (ages 19 to 25):

First Place: Michael Stewart (featured in today's concert)

Second Place: Christie Janczyk

Set in multi-cultural Honolulu, AIPF features concerts, workshops and master classes for pianists of all ages, and an annual piano competition for pianists ranging in age from five to 25. For more information and to learn about Festival concerts and guest artists, please visit www.alohapianofestival.com. Don't miss this week's events, including:

SEAN BOTKIN PLAYS RACHMANINOFF

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Liliu Theater – Hawaii Convention Center

Tickets: \$20. Students up to age 22 can purchase tickets for \$5.

Hometown hero Sean Botkin presents an all-Rachmaninoff recital that promises to thrill young and old. Botkin's recital features Rachmaninoff's spellbinding Sonata No. 1 in D minor and Rachmaninoff transcriptions of works by Bach, Bizet, Tchaikovsky and more.

CHAMBER MUSIC WITH MARTIN CANIN AND NORMAN KRIEGER

Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Liliu Theater – Hawaii Convention Center

Tickets: \$20. Students up to age 22 can purchase tickets for \$5.

Renowned pianists Martin Canin and Norman Krieger unite for a performance of the rarely heard Schubert Allegro for 4 Hands. Then, members of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and alumni of the Hawaii Youth Symphony join with Krieger in performance of Beethoven's Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat major. To complete the concert, violinist Ignace Jang and cellist Mark Votapek partner with Canin in performance of Dvořák's Piano Trio No. 4 in E minor ("Dumky").

WITCHES, WIZARDS AND WONDERS!

Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Liliu Theater – Hawaii Convention Center

Tickets: \$20. Students up to age 22 can purchase tickets for \$5.

Don't miss this grand festival finale filled with witches, wizards and wonders as the acclaimed duo of Susan Duehlmeier and Bonnie Gritton unite for a must-attend performance. Duehlmeier and Gritton will introduce audiences to music inspired by the Hollywood classic "The Wizard of Oz" and the Broadway blockbuster "Wicked," as well as Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Tickets for concerts and classes are on sale now at www.alohapianofestival.com and at the door.

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