

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2017

Media Contact:

Dr. Ivo Kaltchev, Co-Director (kaltchev@cua.edu), 202-361-8577 (cell)

Dr. Nikita Fitenko, Co-Director (fitenko@cua.edu), 202-290-5267 (cell)

The Washington International Piano Festival

(www.washingtonpianofest.com)

THE 9TH WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.,
July 23-31, 2017

The 9th edition of the Washington International Piano Festival will take place at the Catholic University of America Benjamin T. Rome School of Music as well as the Kennedy Center for the Arts (Millennium Stage) from Sunday, July 23 to Monday, July 31, 2017.

The Washington International Piano Festival (www.washingtonpianofest.com), was founded in 2009 by the Catholic University of America's piano faculty members Dr. Nikita Fitenko and Dr. Ivo Kaltchev. The goal of this annual one-week-long festival, co-sponsored by the Yamaha Co., Jordan Kitts Music Co., and the Catholic University of America, is to provide the best learning experience for everyone by combining an intensive educational program with an outstanding concert series presented by world-class pianists. The festival is open to all piano students, teachers and amateurs. The program of the festival includes piano recitals, international piano competition, master classes, lectures, workshops, private lessons, panel discussions and auditions for two concerts at the Kennedy Center. Every year we welcome more than 50 faculty, guest-artists and participants from all over the world. All of the festival events take place at the Catholic University of America and the Kennedy Center. This year all participants of the festival will have the pleasure to perform on three magnificent new concert grand pianos in the CUA Ward Concert Hall: a 9-ft Steinway, a 9-ft hand-crafted CFX Yamaha and a 9-ft Bösendorfer.

Here is a list of all events taking place during the festival:

DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS PIANO SERIES

- **Alexander Kobrin (Russia,USA)**, Prizewinner of the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (1st Prize), the Busoni International Piano Competition (1st Prize), Hamamatsu International Piano Competition (Top Prize), the Scottish International Piano Competition (1st Prize), and the Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw (3rd Prize)
Sun., July 23, 7:30pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- **Seok-Rahn Kwon (Korea)**, Prizewinner of the Viotti Valsesia International Competition
Mon., July 24, 7:30pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA

- **Faculty Recital: Francesco Mirabella (Italy) and Piano Duo Yuri Didenko (Russia) and Diana Didenko (Ukraine)**
Tu, July 25, 7:30pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- **Piano Duo Anne and Edward Turgeon (Canada)**, Prizewinners of the Schubert International Competition for piano duos (1st Prize) and the Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition (1st Prize)
Th, July 27, 7:30pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- **Alexander Korsantia, (Georgia, USA)**, Prizewinner of the Artur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition (1st Prize and Gold Medal) and the Sidney International Piano Competition (1st Prize)
Sat., July 29, 7:30pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA

PIANO MASTER CLASSES

- **Prof. Alexander Kobrin (Eastman School of Music)**
Mon, July 24, 10am-12noon, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- **Prof. Yuri Didenko (Moscow Conservatory)**
Wed, July 26, 10am-12noon, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- **Prof. Alexander Korsantia (New England Conservatory)**
Sun., July 30, 10am-12noon, Ward Recital Hall, CUA

THE 4th CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

- Preliminaries: Tu, July 25, 10:00am-12 noon; 1:00pm-6:00pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- Finals: Wed., July 26, 7:00pm-10:00pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- Award Ceremony and Concert of the Winners of the 4th Catholic University of America International Piano Competition, Sat., July 29, 6:00pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA

TWO CONCERTS ON THE MILLENNIUM STAGE OF THE KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE ARTS FEATURING SELECTED STUDENTS

- Sun., July 30, 6:00-7:00pm, Free Admission
- Mon, July 31, 6:00-7:00pm, Free Admission

YOUNG PIANIST SHOWCASE CONCERT SERIES featuring prizewinners of international, national, regional and local piano competitions

- Prizewinners of the 2017 Lancaster International Piano Festival Competition
Sun, July 23, 6:45-7:15 pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- Prizewinners of the 2017 32nd Annual International Young Artist Piano Competition,
Mon, July 24, 6:45-7:15pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA
- Prizewinners of the 2017 3rd Young Musicians Inspiring Change (YMIC) Competition,
Th., July 27, 6:45-7:15pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA

WIPF PARTICIPANTS' FINAL CONCERT

- Mon, July 31, 1pm, Ward Recital Hall, CUA, Free Admission

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- “Career Options for Pianists in the 21st Century”
Dr. Ivo Kaltchev (Bulgaria, USA) – Moderator, Lily Chang (China, USA),
Prof. Diana Didenko (Ukraine), Prof. Yuri Didenko (Russia),
Dr. Nikita Fitenko (Russia, USA), Prof. Hae-Young Kim (Korea),
Prof. Seok-Rahn Kwon (Korea), Prof. Chongxiao Liu (China),
Prof. Francesco Mirabella (Italy) and Dr. Xun Pan (China, USA)
Th, July 27, 10am-12noon, John Paul Hall, CUA, Free Admission

The ticket prices for all festival events are: \$20 (adults); \$10 (seniors and students); free admission for CUA's students, staff and faculty with a valid ID. Tickets for the Young Pianist Showcases also give admission to the evening piano recitals on the same day. Tickets can be purchased at the door or be reserved by sending an email to washingtonpianofest@gmail.com

The following events are admission free: the two concerts at the Kennedy Center, the Round Table Discussion and the WIPF Participants' Final Concert on July 31 at 1pm.

The address of the Catholic University of America Ward Recital Hall is: 620 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20064. Free parking is available on campus as well as on Harewood Street. A detailed schedule of the festival events, application, bios and concert programs can be found online at www.washingtonpianofest.com .