



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

October 21, 2009

International pianists come to Calgary to compete for world-class prize

(Calgary, AB) – Beginning tomorrow, international pianists from 12 countries will be competing in the Honens International Piano Competition for a prize valued at more than \$500,000, in addition to \$100,000 in cash prizes.

Twenty-one pianists from Canada, China, Ecuador/Spain, Hong Kong, Israel, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States will compete during the event.

The competition, beginning October 22 and running until November 6, is one of the world's most prestigious events of its kind and offers lucrative career development programs. The series includes over 50 concerts including nine free community events.

In addition to its triennial competition, Honens presents its winners on the world's top concert stages and brings leading international musicians to Calgary for exclusive Canadian performances.

"The Honens competition is one example of how Calgary is becoming known as a top destination for artists to build and develop their careers," says Terry Rock, President & CEO, Calgary Arts Development. "It's a reflection of the caliber of Calgary's arts and culture scene."

This week's CalgaryCulture.com highlights:

For more information about these events, visit CalgaryCulture.com and follow us on Twitter [@CalgaryCulture](https://twitter.com/CalgaryCulture).

Listings on CalgaryCulture.com are free for all Calgary artists and arts organizations, and all Calgarians are encouraged to sign up for the free newsletter from CalgaryCulture.com – it's the easiest way to tap into the dozens of arts events, festivals and cultural celebrations happening each week in Calgary.

[Honens International Piano Competition](#)

October 22 – November 6, Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, Rozsa Centre (University of

Calgary) and other locations

Calgary's Honens International Piano Competition, founded in 1991, is one of the world's great music competitions. Every three years, pianists from all parts of the globe compete for cash prizes and an even more lucrative Artistic and Career Development Program to launch and sustain their careers. Honens discovers "Complete Artists" – musicians who add knowledge, audacity, risk, individuality and the widest perspective to all they create or perform.

Esther Honens dreamed of enriching the lives of all Calgarians. Honens presents nine free concerts during its Sixth International Piano Competition to inspire many in our community who cannot normally attend for financial, health or mobility reasons.

Alberta Ballet presents Romeo and Juliet

October 22 – 24, Jubilee Auditorium

Alberta Ballet's three-year Shakespeare Cycle opened with Kirk Peterson's magnificent Othello and was followed by Christopher Wheeldon's critically acclaimed triumph A Midsummer Night's Dream. This season the cycle is concluded with an encore presentation of Grand-Maître's intense and riveting Romeo and Juliet, set to one of the most brilliant scores ever written for ballet, by the great Sergei Prokofiev.

Alberta Theatre Projects presents I, Claudia

October 20 – Nov 8, Martha Cohen Theatre, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts

This extraordinary one-woman show maps the raw but beautiful interior life of a misfit adolescent. Claudia, twelve and three-quarters, finds herself suffering from the triple afflictions of puberty, unpopularity and her parents' divorce. Using four astonishingly expressive masks, the performer evokes the anguished Claudia, her grandfather, her dad's new girlfriend and the school janitor. Alternately wrenchingly sad and funny, I, Claudia casts a spell of rare power in the theatre.

Fire Exit Theatre presents Lilia

October 21 – 25, Engineered Air Theatre - Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts

The indomitable Lilia Skala comes to life in her granddaughter's deeply personal celebration of a life in the theatre. Buoyed by a resolute faith, the Austrian stage actress flees the Third Reich and finds herself labouring in a New York zipper factory before working her way back to Broadway and the silver screen - eventually to star in the acclaimed Lilies of the Field opposite Sidney Poitier.

[Y Stage at Vertigo Theatre Company presents Beneath the Banyan Tree](#)

October 23 – 25, Vertigo Theatre, 161, 115 - 9 Avenue SE

Ages 6 and up

When Anjali moves from India to Canada, nothing from her old life seems to fit. Fearing that her peers will mock her bright clothes and foreign food, she shies away from seeming "too Indian"—except in her imagination. Here her creativity runs wild through Indian song and dance, conjuring three colourful friends from Indian fable who help her summon the courage to be herself. But what will happen when Anjali shows her true self to her new friends?

[Mob Hit Productions presents Fully Committed](#)

October 15 – 24, Arrata Opera Centre, 1315 7 St. SW

Right this way, please. Your usual table is, of course, ready, and our special tonight is a frenetically-paced one-actor comedy served up with an almost endless array of zany personalities. Relegated to the basement reservation desk of a trendy Manhattan restaurant, Sam, an out-of-work actor, struggles to manage the expectations of obnoxious clients, demanding celebrity liaisons, and a tempestuous chef. Seasoned with satire, this deliciously wry production promises to keep audience's bellies full with laughter.

[Wordfest presents Rex Murphy](#)

October 27, Calgary Public Library, John Dutton Theatre

Wordfest is bringing Canada's most opinionated man to Calgary. On October 27th at 7:30pm, come to the John Dutton Theatre at Calgary's Central Library to hear popular commentator Rex Murphy discuss his new book, *Canada and Other Matters of Opinion*. Offering a thoroughly Canadian perspective on a range of topics including: Canada's place on the international stage, Obama, Don Cherry and of course, Tim Horton's, Rex Murphy's appearance promises to be engaging, entertaining and informative—just like his book.

[Theatre Alberta and Alberta Playwrights' Network present PlayWorks Ink 2009](#)

October 22 - 25

Colleen Murphy is renowned for creating work that braves dark questions and kindles meaningful engagement with audiences. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to catch one of the boldest and most fearless voices in Canadian theatre today at a weekend of workshops, discussions, and readings of fresh, new plays. PlayWorks Ink is for theatre professionals, educators, students,

patrons, and all those eager to explore and illuminate the darkened corners of the creative unknown.

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Contact Information

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About Calgary Arts Development

Calgary Arts Development was created in 2005 to lead long-term, strategic development of the arts sector in Calgary, guided by the 2004 Civic Arts Policy. Calgary Arts Development invests municipal arts funding of \$3.75 million annually in 160 local arts organizations, provides support to the arts community, private developers and public and private sector funders engaged in arts space projects and engages in strategic marketing initiatives to increase arts participation and raise awareness of Calgary's arts sector locally, nationally and internationally. Visit CalgaryArtsDevelopment.com for more information about our activities and initiatives.