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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Akron to Host Winner of Cleveland International Piano Competition Semi-Finalist for Residency

CLEVELAND, OH - The University of Akron (UA) has announced it will host Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) Semi-Finalist Jonathan Mamora as an artist-in-residence in Spring 2026. The two-week residency will see Mamora in the classroom as a teacher to students ranging from kindergarten to graduate level, engaging in workshops and lectures, as well as performing a recital.

“We are incredibly excited to continue our partnership with CIPC through this residency,” says Todd Gaffke, Interim Director of the School of Music in the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences at UA. “Johnathan Mamora is a world-class artist who will bring a tremendous amount of value to our students and community.”

The residency program, according to Piano Cleveland Artist Director, Yaron Kohlberg, “is yet another chance for CIPC contestants like Jonathan to grow as an artist by sharpening his teaching skills. In return, Johnathan brings his musicianship and intellect back to northeast Ohio to provide mentorship to undergraduate, graduate, and secondary level students.”

Mamora’s resume is impressive. He has performed throughout North America, South America, Europe, and Asia, and is a prize-winner of numerous piano competitions. He is as comfortable in the classroom as he is on stage, having taught masterclasses in Trinidad and Tobago and instructing students at the Eastman Community Music School. He is currently an Associate Professor of Music at Southwestern Adventist University.

Artist growth and support has been a consistent theme for Piano Cleveland, the host entity of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. The 2024 competition was reimagined to identify and support the future leaders of the piano world. “We think of it like this: the competition identified artists like Jonathan who are shaping the future of piano,” Kohlberg says. “But it is our partners like The University of Akron who bring the support for those artists to continue growing. Future leaders will need to spend time in the classroom and the concert hall. The University of Akron is the perfect place for our medalist to learn how to pair their musical acumen with education.”



The partnership between The University of Akron and Piano Cleveland also includes a solo recital by Mamora. An exact date will be announced closer to the residency. As part of the residency, Mamora will utilize The University of Akron's Spirio | r Model D piano, which is considered the world's finest high-resolution player piano. The Spirio, donated by Piano Cleveland Board Member and University of Akron honorary alumna Kathy Coleman, will provide students with a unique educational experience they could find at few other places in the world. For more information about the Cleveland International Piano Competition and Piano Cleveland, including its history, past and present contestants, competition dates, and performance venues, visit pianocleveland.org/.

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About Piano Cleveland

Piano Cleveland promotes Cleveland as a premier piano destination by presenting world-class programming, community engagement, and education initiatives. The organization's four major programs and events include the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the CIPC for Young Artists, a mixed-genre piano festival, and year-round education and community engagement programming.

About The University of Akron and School of Music

The University of Akron's School of Music draws students from throughout Ohio as well as many other states and countries. World class faculty are dedicated to helping students pursue their future in music through undergraduate and graduate degree programs in music composition, education, performance, jazz studies, conducting, and theory. The School of Music presents hundreds of events annually on campus and across Northeast Ohio. The School of Music is part of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, the largest college on the UA campus. With more than 300 associate, bachelor's, master's, doctorate and law degree programs, UA offers career-focused and experiential learning, helping students get ahead in the job market.