



Contact: Ryan Ireland
Communications and Marketing Manager
Piano Cleveland
216-707-5397
Ryan.Ireland@pianocleveland.org

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Piano Cleveland Kicks off Piano Days

CLEVELAND, OH – Premier concert musicians will be coming to Cleveland as part of Piano Days, a two-week festival featuring artists from all over the world presented by Piano Cleveland from July 20 – August 2.

Best known as the host entity of the world-renowned Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC), Piano Cleveland hosts the festival every three years, offering performances by artists like The 5 Browns, Natalie Tenenbaum, Utsav Lal, BLKBOK, and more.

“Our competitions have a sterling reputation thanks in part to our relationships with The Cleveland Orchestra, Severance Music Center, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Canton Symphony Orchestra,” says Piano Cleveland Executive Director, Marissa Moore. “The Piano Days festival gives us a chance to present world-class artists in a non-competition setting.”

The 5 Browns at Playhouse Square

Playhouse Square will host the opening and closing acts of Piano Days. The 5 Browns will be playing as part of the Piano Days kick-off gala—a brunch hosted at the Mimi Ohio Theatre. As the final performer for Piano Days, Julliard-trained musician Natalie Tenenbaum will display her talents as not just a pianist, but also as a singer-songwriter and storyteller with a show that incorporates live electronics and lighting design at the Hanna Theatre.

“We have a great relationship with Playhouse Square,” says Moore. “Last summer we hosted the sold-out Grand Piano Playoff at the Hanna and this spring we’ve welcomed their performers as part of our community concert series. We’re thrilled to bookend Piano Days with events hosted by Playhouse Square.”

Utsav Lal at Gilmour Academy

Lal’s program will begin with an education program, followed by a catered dinner of traditional Indian cuisine before he takes the stage to perform with tabla player, Nitin Mitta.

“Gilmour Academy has always been a great partner organization,” says Moore. “For an event with both a strong educational component and a multisensory experience, we could not have asked for a partner better than the Gilmour.”



CIPC Laureates Perform at Cleveland Institute of Music

The Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) has a long history with Piano Cleveland that stretches back to the organization's origins in 1974. Last year, the institute provided practice space for the CIPC contestants. As a Piano Days venue, CIM will welcome back CIPC artists Mirabelle Kanjenjeri (2024 Semi-Finalist) and Kotaro Fukuma (2003 First Prize Winner). Kanjenjeri will present a program exploring her Ukrainian and Burundian heritage as well as music from her home country, France. Fukuma's program juxtaposes French impressionists like Debussy and Ravel with more contemporary Japanese composers. Both Kanjenjeri and Kotaro will host masterclasses at CIM as part of Piano Days educational programming.

BLKBOK at Dobama Theatre

BLKBOK brings neoclassical sensibilities inspired by rap and contemporary music genres to his two-night engagement which is presented in partnership with Dobama Theatre.

Moore, who is also a board member for Dobama, is excited by the partnership. "Dobama Theatre is the perfect partner for this performance and we are so glad they are available for two nights. BLKBOK turns out a show that is a must-see."

The full festival lineup includes ticketed performances from other artists such as Julliard-trained sibling quintet, The 5 Browns; Indian jazz composer Utsav Lal; former CIPC laureate, Mirabelle Kanjenjeri; neoclassical pianist BLKBOK; CIPC First Prize winner, Kotaro Fukuma; and genre-bending performer, Natalie Tenenbaum.

As part of its focus on community, Piano Cleveland will also host free concerts at Van Aken District and Crocker Park leading up to the festival as well as masterclasses taught by CIPC laureates at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

A full listing of Piano Days events, artist biographies, and ticket information can be found at 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.