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## CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION PRESENTS ITS FIRST ROUND CONTESTANTS AT BALDWIN WALLACE AND IN PARIS

**CLEVELAND, OH** – Baldwin Wallace will host 24 of Cleveland International Piano Competition’s 55 First Round contestants from March 27 – March 29. The remaining 32 contestants will play the following week at Salle Cortot, École Normale de Musique in Paris, France. The partnership between the competition and Salle Cortot has been fifty years in the making. The Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) was originally founded in 1974 as the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition, named for the renowned French pianist. Over five decades the competition has grown in prestige and size, launching the careers of famed pianists such as Angela Hewitt, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Antonio Pompa-Baldi. As the CIPC celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the competition was reimagined. The goal, according to Yaron Kohlberg, the President of Piano Cleveland, host entity for the competition is “to identify and support the future leaders in the piano world.”

Kohlberg says the partnerships with Baldwin Wallace and Salle Cortot strengthen the forward-thinking goals of the competition. “Our friends at Baldwin Wallace and Salle Cortot both recognize the value in allowing artists to express their full selves,” he says, explaining the reimagined competition format now asks First Round contestants to create their own programs to include lesser-known composers. “Whether you attend the First Round in either Cleveland or Paris, you are going to see and hear something different in the competition world.” In another departure from traditional competition structure, after their performances, each contestant will be interviewed by the First Round jury about their program decisions and career goals. The new structure, Kohlberg says, takes an interest in the artist’s view of the piano world, adding, “Investing in the future of classical piano means fostering the growth of the artist.”

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All First Round performances are free and open to the public. All performances will be streamed on [pianocleveland.org](http://pianocleveland.org) and the Piano Cleveland YouTube channel. For more information about the Cleveland International Piano Competition and Piano Cleveland, including a detailed schedule of events, visit [pianocleveland.org/](http://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.

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