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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Piano Cleveland Announces Partnership with Central Conservatory of Music

CLEVELAND, OH — Piano Cleveland has announced its partnership with the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) in Beijing, China leading up to the First Round of the Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC). The partnership brings together two of the leading institutions in the classical piano world, providing hands-on learning opportunities to the CCOM community and a world-class experience for CIPC competitors.

As part of the partnership, sessions from the First Round of the 2027 CIPC will be held at CCOM for students and other community members to attend free of charge. While in Beijing, the First Round Jury of the CIPC will also work with select CCOM students in masterclasses and professional development workshops.

The Cleveland International Piano Competition has enjoyed a worldwide recognition as one of the leading piano competitions, according to CCOM Piano Department Chairman and piano faculty member Professor Danwen Wei. "It is of vital importance for CCOM's faculty and students to be connected to such a world class organization, to witness first-hand how top level talents of today perform, to communicate with leading international musicians about their views of excellence," he says. "We believe strongly that this partnership will yield wonderful benefits for both organizations."

The Central Conservatory of Music's partnership indeed adds more than prestige to the world-renowned competition.

The addition of CCOM fulfils the CIPC's goal of inclusion according to Piano Cleveland's Artistic Director, Yaron Kohlberg. "We have long recognized the logistical and economic barriers placed on musicians," says Kohlberg, who medaled in the 2007 CIPC. "Partnering with the Central Conservatory of Music is not only a great honor, but it also increases accessibility to pianists located in Asia."

Other First Round locations include the Cleveland Institute of Music in the United States and Salle Cortot in Paris, France.



The Competition Rounds

Up to sixty pianists will be selected to compete in the First Round by the Preliminary Jury in January 2027. Accepted contestants will work with Piano Cleveland to identify the best First Round location. Once all First Round contestants have performed their live solo recitals, the First Round Jury will select 16 Quarter-Finalists to come to Cleveland. From July 25 through August 7, the field will narrow from the 16 Quarter-Finalists to eight Semi-Finalists, and ultimately Four Finalists. The Finalists will face two distinct challenges during their Final Round. First, they will play in a first-ever collaborative public performance called the Final Four(hand) Challenge. Then, as has become the hallmark of the CIPC, the Finalists will perform with The Cleveland Orchestra during the Final Concerto Round.

The 2027 competition also marks the launch of the **Roe Green Travel Fund**, which will cover travel costs and housing for contestants participating in the summer rounds of the competition in Cleveland. Additional travel stipends will support pianists during the First Round.

Applying for the Competition

Applications for the 2027 Cleveland International Piano Competition are open to pianists ages 18–32. The early application deadline is November 4, 2026, with a final deadline of December 4, 2026. Details about the submission process can be found on Piano Cleveland's website.

More information about the competition structure, application process, and prizes can be found at Piano Cleveland's website, 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 and its Artist Development Program, the CIPC for Young Artists, a mixed-genre piano festival, and year-round education and community engagement programming.

About Central Conservatory of Music

As one of the top institutions for professional music education in the world, the Central Conservatory of Music is the only music university accredited as a Project 211 and Double First-Class key university, maintaining China's most comprehensive and systematic hierarchical music talent training system. Gathering the country's finest faculties in performance, composition, music theory and instrument making, it consistently leads the highest standard and development of professional Chinese music art.

Committed to international artistic exchanges, the conservatory's faculty and students regularly perform at world-class concert halls and win major international competitions, presenting the artistic charm of modern Chinese music to the globe. As the initiator of the Belt and Road Music Education Alliance, it maintains long-term in-depth cooperation with top music institutions in Spain, Italy and across Europe, promoting continuous cultural dialogue and artistic integration between China and Europe.