

GILMORE KEYBOARD FESTIVAL

2016 Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW: Presented biennially over three weeks in April and May, the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, is internationally recognized as America's largest and most prestigious piano music festival. Twenty-five years after the first Festival, in 2016 more than 100 events will showcase some of the most notable and accomplished pianists and keyboard musicians in the world along with artists just emerging on the international stage. The Festival will be held **April 26 through May 14, 2016**. It's unique setting throughout West Michigan is a major contributor to its success. From classical to jazz in presentations from solo recital to musical theater, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival continually achieves acclaim for presenting music of the highest artistic caliber.

HISTORY: The first Gilmore International Keyboard Festival was held in 1991, and introduced the world to the first pianist to be named a Gilmore Artist, David Owen Norris. The 2016 Festival will be The Gilmore's 13th biennial piano showcase, with 100+ performances, master classes, theater and films, over the course of 19 days.

MISSION: The mission of the Irving S Gilmore International Keyboard Festival is to promote and develop world-class keyboard musical experiences that inspire present and future artists and audiences through the Gilmore Artist Awards, a world-class music festival, an outstanding keyboard education program and the commissioning of new keyboard music.

LEADERSHIP: Daniel R. Gustin has been Director of the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival since January 2000, and drives the artistic vision and leadership of each biennial Festival, management of the Gilmore Artist and Gilmore Young Artist Awards, and commissioning projects.

AUDIENCE: Festival attendance exceeds 30,000 every two years.

PROGRAM: The 2016 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival showcases a broad spectrum of keyboard virtuosity by internationally recognized classical pianists including Rafał Blechacz, Yefim Bronfman, Imogen Cooper, Jeremy Denk, Till Fellner Ingrid Fliter, Nelson Freire, Kirill Gerstein, Richard Goode, Liŷr Williams, and Jeffrey Kahane. The 2016 Festival's jazz concerts and "jazz clubs" feature jazz pianists and bandleaders Thomas Lauderdale, Kenny Barron, Aaron Diehl, Taylor Eigsti, Sullivan Fortner, Elio Villafranca, and Jeremy Siskind.

AWARDS: One of the most prestigious honors in music, the Gilmore Artist Award is presented every four years on a non-competitive basis to an exceptional pianist who, regardless of age or nationality, has the potential to sustain a career as a major international concert artist. Recipients are awarded \$300,000 in support of musical and career goals. Previous recipients of the Gilmore Artist Award are Rafał Blechacz (2014), Kirill Gerstein (2010), Ingrid Fliter (2006), Piotr Anderszewski (2002), Leif Ove Andsnes (1998), Ralf Gothóni (1994), and David Owen Norris (1991).

Additionally, The Gilmore names two Gilmore Young Artists every two years. Founded along with the Gilmore Artist Award in 1989, the Young Artist Award is meant to single out the most promising of the new generation of pianists, under the age of 22, in the United States.

For additional information, please visit thegilmore.org.

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