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24 SEMI-FINALISTS SELECTED TO COMPETE FOR \$250,000 CASH PRIZES AT JOSE ITURBI MUSIC COMPETITION AT UCLA

LOS ANGELES, June 20, 2007 – The 24 semi-finalists in the The 2007 José Iturbi Music Competition were announced yesterday at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. Semi-final rounds will take place June 20 and 21 and the final rounds will take place June 22 (vocal) and 23 (piano). The competition offers the highest cash prizes of any classical piano and singing competition worldwide.

The 12 piano semi-finalists are;

Ran Dank, Israel, 26
Rufus Choi, USA, 30
Jie Chen, China, 21
Cathal Breslin, Northern Ireland, 29
Angel Cabrera, Spain, 29
Michelle Yelin Nam, South Korea, 22
Jie Yuan, China, 21
Claire Huangei, USA, 17
Tommaso Cogato, Italy, 26
Alexey Koltakov, Ukraine, 28
Evgheny Brakhman, Russia, 26
Anastasia Markina, Russia, 29

The 12 vocal semi-finalists are;

Karen Vuong, USA, 23
Brian Cali, Italy, 24
Kalil Wilson, USA, 25
Michael Todd Simpson, USA, 29
David Lomeli, Mexico, 26
Karen Slack, USA, 31
Christopher Bolduc, USA, 27
Jamie Chamberlin, USA, 28
Christin Wismann, USA, 23
Alison Cambridge, USA, 28
Rebecca Ringle, USA, 27
Erica Strauss, USA, 31

Photos and biographies of the semi-finalists and judges can be viewed at
www.joseiturbifoundation.org.

The schedule for the remainder of the competition is as follows:

June 20 and 21	Semi-Final Rounds for 12 pianists Semi-Final Rounds for 12 singers Finalists announced
June 22	Final Round for 6 singers followed by Awards Ceremony
June 23	Final Round for 6 pianists followed by Awards Ceremony

\$250,000 of the competition's cash prizes include first place prizes of \$50,000, second place prizes of \$25,000, third place prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 Spanish prizes and \$10,000 "People's Choice" prizes in each category. The Latter award will be voted "live" by the public audience attendees of the final competition round.

"We are delighted that the public is turning out for this unique week-long competition that has brought some of the world's most talented classical pianists and singers to Los Angeles," said Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation. "It is thrilling to watch the world's upcoming, emerging talent engaged in a rigorous life-changing competition."

"In recognition of our shared mission to play a vital role in the early careers of young artists, and our commitment to musical excellence, the UCLA Department of Music is honored to welcome to our campus the Jose Iturbi International Music Competition," added Ian Krouse, Chairman of UCLA's Music Department.

Created in 1985 by Marion Seabury and Donelle Dadigan, The José Iturbi Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to continuing the legacy of José Iturbi, to fulfill his wish to make classical music accessible and enjoyable to people of all ages and walks of life, and to fulfill his desire of bringing to the public's attention today's greatest emerging talents and prize-winning musicians. The foundation's goal is to globally expand the passion for classical music through dynamic competition and compelling live performance.

One of the greatest concert pianists of his time, José Iturbi was a composer, conductor and performer of international acclaim who starred as himself in seven MGM musicals including "Anchors Away" (1945) starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly. He was the first classical musician to receive a Gold Record representing record sales in excess of one million and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

For more information on The José Iturbi International Music Competition, go to www.joseiturbifoundation.org. Tickets are available online for the public to attend all rounds of the competition.

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