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48 COMPETITORS SELECTED TO COMPETE FOR \$250,000 IN CASH PRIZES AT THIRD ANNUAL JOSÉ ITURBI INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

LOS ANGELES, April __, 2009 – 48 competitors have been selected to participate in The Third Annual José Iturbi International Music Competition at UCLA, it was announced today by Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation.

The world's only weeklong competition that adds features of "American Idol" to the world of classical music will take place June 15-20 at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. The competition offers the highest cash prizes of any classical piano and singing competition worldwide. Competitors range in age from 19 to 32 and hail from more than 15 countries.

The 24 piano competitors are:

Konstantin Alexeev, Russia
Rabiga Dyussebayeva, Kazakhstan
Wael Farouk, Egypt
Goran Filipec, Croatia
Karen Hakobyan, Armenia
Mudi Han, China
Xu Han, China
Vladimir Khomyakov, Russia
Stanislav Khristenko, Russia
Alina Kiryayeva, Ukraine
Viacheslav Kiselev, Russia
Alexey Kudryashov, Russia
Dmitri Levkovich, Ukraine
Giovanni Doria Miglietta, Italy
Ksenia Morozova, Russia
Rustam Muradov, Russia
Julia Mustonen, Finland
Emi Nakajima, USA
Anna Shelest, Ukraine
Jia Shi, China
Yekwon Sunwoo, So. Korea
Chetan Tierra, USA
Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland
Alexander Vasadze, Georgia

The 24 vocal competitors are:

Jose Alvarez, countertenor, USA
Jonathan Beyer, baritone, USA
Amanda Crider, mezzo-soprano, USA
Leah Crocetto, soprano, USA
Natasha Flores, mezzo-soprano, USA
Rhoslyn Jones, soprano, Canada

Jessica Julin, soprano, USA
KyungTeak Lim, baritone, So. Korea
SooJoo Lim, soprano, So. Korea
Audrey Luna, soprano, USA
Ani Maldjian, soprano, USA
Kelly Markgraf, baritone, USA
Heidi Melton, soprano, USA
Lauren Michelle, soprano, USA
Knarik Nerkararyan, soprano, Armenia
Yannick-Muriel Noah, soprano, Madagascar
Narine Ojakhyan, soprano, Armenia
Rebecca Sjöwall, soprano, USA
Kevin Thompson, bass, USA
Karen Vuong, soprano, USA
Amber Wagner, soprano, USA
Tamara Wapinsky, soprano, USA
Nicholas Zammit, countertenor, USA
Maolin Zhang, bass-baritone, China

Photos and biographies of the competitors can be viewed at www.joseiturbifoundation.org.
In addition to Cunard Line, sponsors of the 2008 José Iturbi International Music Competition include The Beverly Hilton and Fields Pianos.