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10 JUDGES ANNOUNCED AND 48 COMPETITORS SELECTED TO COMPETE FOR \$250,000 IN CASH PRIZES AT 2009 JOSÉ ITURBI INTL MUSIC COMPETITION

LOS ANGELES, May 4, 2009 – 48 competitors have been selected to participate in The Third Annual José Iturbi International Music Competition at UCLA this summer, it was announced today by Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation. The competitors were selected from hundreds of applicants in 39 countries.

The José Iturbi Foundation's competition awards the largest cash prizes (more than \$250,000) of any classical piano and singing competition worldwide. Some journalists have described the competition as "Classical Idol" since the competition gives cash prizes for "people's choice" awards in addition to the prizes voted by the ten "world class" judges. The José Iturbi International Music Competition will take place June 15-20 at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. Sponsors of the 2009 José Iturbi International Music Competition include The Beverly Hilton, California Bank and Trust, The Hollywood Museum and Steinway & Sons.

Matthew Epstein, Daniel Pollack, Carol Vaness, Eduardo Delgado, Bruce Sutherland, Vladimir Viardo, Oxana Yablonska, Marvelee Cariaga, Sharon Daniels and Robin Thompson and have been confirmed as the 10 "world class" judges for the event.

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 judges and a list of competitors can be viewed at www.joseiturbifoundation.org. Tickets are available at the UCLA Central Ticket Office (telephone: 310.825.2101). To go directly to the Iturbi ticket page at UCLA Central Ticket Office:

http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/aogg42?camefrom=CFC_UCLA_SPECIAL

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