



THE CLIBURN

## 2020 CLIBURN FESTIVAL: BEETHOVEN AT 250 ARTISTS AND FORMAT ANNOUNCED

*2020 Cliburn Festival: Beethoven at 250 will take place February 27–March 1, 2020, at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth with artists-in-residence Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano; and the Verona Quartet.*

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**FORT WORTH, Texas, November 21, 2019**—The Cliburn announces details for the 2020 Cliburn Festival: Beethoven at 250 taking place February 27–March 1, 2020, at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The 2020 Cliburn Festival will feature works spanning the career of Ludwig van Beethoven performed by highly accomplished artists-in-residence (including two Cliburn laureates) in five concerts over four days. The artists-in-residence will be joined by local musicians to showcase the versatility and variety of Beethoven's music.

The Cliburn joins a worldwide celebration of the 250th birthday of one of the world's greatest composers: Beethoven. He is revered as a musical revolutionary—having propelled music and its capabilities into the modern era—and also beloved for his profound connection to the joys, griefs, and hopefulness of humanity.

Cliburn Festival artists-in-residence will come together to explore his remarkable oeuvre of solo, chamber, and vocal works in five concerts over four days. It will be a showcase of the genius and spirit of Beethoven. The Festival features pianists **Kenny Broberg** (2017 Cliburn silver medalist), **Sean Chen** (2013 Cliburn third-prize winner), and **Filippo Gorini** (2015 Telekom-Beethoven first-prize winner); and the **Verona Quartet**.

Single tickets and subscription packages for the 2020 Cliburn Festival are on sale now. Single tickets start at \$20. Five-concert subscription packages start at \$80. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) or by calling the box office at 817.212.4280.

The 2020 Cliburn Festival is sponsored by Amegy Bank.

### 2020 CLIBURN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | 7:30 PM

#### **OPTIMISM**

*written to express hopefulness to a darkening world*

Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano

Verona Quartet

David Grogan, baritone

Sonata for Piano, Four Hands in D Major, op. 6  
Selected Scottish Songs, op. 108  
Sonata No. 3 for Piano and Cello in A Major, op. 69  
Sonata No. 8 for Violin and Piano in G Major, op. 30, no. 3  
Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, op. 110

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 7:30 PM

**TURNING POINTS**

*written in the telling moments of transition*

Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano  
Verona Quartet

Selected Bagatelles, op. 33  
String Trio in G Major, op. 9, no. 1  
Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat Major, op. 27, no. 1  
Piano Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, op. 90  
String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, op. 135

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | 2:00 PM

**BELOVED**

*written to commemorate the immortality of great love*

Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano  
David Grogan, baritone

Piano Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp Major, op. 78  
*An die ferne Geliebte*, op. 98  
Diabelli Variations, op. 120

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | 7:30 PM

**HOMAGE**

*written as a salute to his greatest influences*

Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano  
Verona Quartet  
David Grogan, baritone

Variations on "La ci darem la mano" from *Don Giovanni*, WoO 28  
Twelve Variations on "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen" from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, op. 66  
String Quartet No. 1 in F Major, op. 18, no. 1  
Selected Goethe songs  
Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, op. 125, (IV) ("Ode to Joy") (arr. Liszt/Chen)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 2:00 PM

## HERO

*written to celebrate humanity's triumph over struggle*

Kenny Broberg, Sean Chen, Filippo Gorini, piano  
Verona Quartet

Piano Trio in C Minor, op. 1, no. 3

Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, op. 106 ("Hammerklavier") (IV) (arr. Plylar)

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, op. 13

Sonata No. 9 for Violin and Piano in A Major, op. 47 ("Kreutzer")

\*Programs are subject to change.

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[Download hi-res photos of 2020 Cliburn Festival artists-in-residence](#)



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## ABOUT KENNY BROBERG

2017 CLIBURN SILVER

American pianist Kenny Broberg continues to build a reputation for “blazing intellect, impeccable technical skills, and the ability to build a strikingly imaginative and intelligent program.” His fresh interpretations are complemented by a natural, honest stage presence and “an almost miraculous array of tone qualities” (*Theater Jones*). The Minneapolis native first came to international attention when he captured the silver medal at the 2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; he followed this with a bronze medal win at the 2019 International Tchaikovsky Competition, adding to his numerous competition prizes at the Hastings, Sydney, Seattle, and New Orleans International Piano Competitions.

He has appeared with the Royal Philharmonic, Minnesota, Sydney, Seattle, and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, working with conductors Ludovic Morlot, Leonard Slatkin, Nicholas Milton, Nicholas McGegan, Kent Nagano, Vasily Petrenko, and Stilian Kirov. Recent and upcoming recital tours include his debuts in China and Japan, as well as across Australia and the United States. Universal Music Australia and Decca Gold have released albums featuring his live performances.

The first musician in his family, Kenny started piano lessons at age 6, when he was first fascinated by his mother’s upright—a wedding gift from her parents. He studied for nine years with Dr. Joseph Zins before entering the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music, where he earned a Bachelor of Music with Nancy

Weems. He currently studies with 2001 Cliburn Gold Medalist Stanislav Ioudenitch at Park University. Alongside his teachers, he is influenced by the recordings of Alfred Cortot, William Kapell, and Claudio Arrau.

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## ABOUT SEAN CHEN

### 2013 CLIBURN THIRD PRIZE

Hailed as a charismatic rising star with “an exceptional ability to connect with an audience combined with an easy virtuosity” (*Huffington Post*), American pianist Sean Chen, winner of the 2013 American Pianists Awards and third-prize winner at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, has continued to earn accolades for “alluring, colorfully shaded renditions” (*The New York Times*) and “genuinely sensitive” (*Los Angeles Times*) playing. He was named a 2015 fellow by the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing Arts.

Sean has performed with many prominent orchestras, including in Fort Worth, Indianapolis, and San Diego, and solo performances have brought him to major venues worldwide, including Jordan Hall in Boston, Subculture in New York City, the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Salle Cortot in Paris. A multifaceted musician, Sean also transcribes, composes, and improvises. His transcription of Ravel’s *La valse* has been received with glowing acclaim, and his encore improvisations are lauded as “genuinely brilliant” (*Dallas Morning News*). An advocate of new music, he has collaborated with and performed works of many contemporary composers, including Lisa Bielawa, Jennifer Higdon, Michael Williams, Niccolo Athens, and Michael Gilbertson.

Born in Florida, Sean grew up in the Los Angeles area of Oak Park, California. His impressive achievements before college include the NFAA ARTSweek, Los Angeles Music Center’s Spotlight, and 2006 Presidential Scholars awards. These honors combined with diligent schoolwork facilitated offers of acceptance by MIT, Harvard, and The Juilliard School. Choosing to study music, Mr. Chen earned his Bachelor and Master of Music from Juilliard, meanwhile garnering several awards, most notably the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. He received his Artist Diploma in 2014 at the Yale School of Music as a George W. Miles Fellow. His teachers include Hung-Kuan Chen, Tema Blackstone, Edward Francis, Jerome Lowenthal, and Matti Raekallio.

Sean is currently living in Kansas City, where he is the Millsap Artist in Residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, and his wife, Betty, is a violinist in the Kansas City Symphony.

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## ABOUT FILIPPO GORINI

Since winning the First Prize and Audience Prize at the Telekom-Beethoven Competition in Bonn in 2015, Italian pianist Filippo Gorini has enjoyed a steadily rising career. His concert appearances have drawn unanimous acclaim on many prestigious stages such as the Berlin Konzerthaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Munich Herkulessaal, Società del Quartetto di Milano, and the Samsung Concert Hall in Seoul.

Recent highlights include recitals in the Tonhalle Zurich, Louis Vuitton Foundation Paris, Amici Della Musica

Florence, Meany Center for the Performing Arts Seattle, and Vancouver Playhouse, amongst others, and concertos with the Flanders Symphony Orchestra with conductor Jan Latham-Koenig on their United Kingdom and Benelux tour and with Orchestra Verdi of Milan under the baton of Claus Peter Flor. In 2019–2020, Filippo will make his debut in Salzburg with the Mozarteum Orchestra and returns to the United States for the 2020 Cliburn Festival.

Filippo's debut disc featuring Beethoven's Diabelli Variations, released in August 2017 on Alpha Classics, has garnered critical acclaim, including a Diapason d'Or Award and 5-star reviews on *The Guardian*, *BBC Music Magazine*, *Le Monde*, and more. A new CD is due to be released in January 2020. He has also received other awards such as "Una Vita per la Musica - Giovani" of the La Fenice Theatre, the Young Euro Classic Award, and the Beethoven-Ring of Bonn.

Alongside his solo career, Filippo continues to perform as a chamber musician; in 2016 he performed at "Chamber Music Connects the World" in Kronberg with Steven Isserlis, who later invited him to take part in the Chamber Music Seminars in Prussia Cove. In the upcoming season, he will collaborate with violinists Jonian Ilias Kadesha and Marc Bouchkov in international concert performances. He actively follows the world of contemporary composition, and has played works by composers such as Stockhausen, Kurtág, Lachenmann, Gervasoni, and Lanza in the past season alone.

After graduating with honours from the Donizetti Conservatory in Bergamo, and completing a Postgraduate Course at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Filippo continues his studies with Maria Grazia Bellocchio and Pavel Gililov, and is mentored by Alfred Brendel.

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## ABOUT VERONA QUARTET

**Jonathan Ong & Dorothy Ro**, violins; **Abigail Rojansky**, viola; **Jonathan Dormand**, cello

Hailed by *The New York Times* as an "outstanding ensemble," the Verona Quartet is dedicated to showcasing the art form of the string quartet and to elevating their music making to convey the poetic narrative of storytelling. The Quartet's members represent four different nations (United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, and Canada), but their singular approach and unanimity of purpose in both musical and cultural cooperation has quickly earned the group a reputation for its "interpretive strength... robust characterization [and] commanding resonance" (*Calgary Herald*).

Since winning the 2015 Concert Artists Guild Competition, the Verona Quartet has established itself as one of the most sought-after string quartets of its generation, delighting audiences at venues worldwide including Wigmore Hall (London, UK), Izumi Hall (Osaka, Japan), the National Theatre (Abu Dhabi, UAE), Melbourne Recital Hall (Melbourne, Australia), and, in New York City, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Its progressive approach to collaboration and programming includes numerous cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary enterprises. Past projects have included a performance art installation with visual artist Ana Prvacki, artistic exchange with traditional Emirati poets in the UAE, and collaborative work with dancers from Brooklyn's Dance Heginbotham.

Among its many accolades, the Verona Quartet have been D'Addario Artists since 2017 and can be seen regularly on The Violin Channel as Violin Channel Artists. In addition to being named by *Musical America* as "New Artists of the Month" in May 2016, the group has garnered worldwide recognition by winning top prizes at

international competitions across four continents including the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition (London), the 8th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition (Japan), and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition (Australia), in addition to its CAG victory in 2015. The Quartet is currently the quartet-in-residence at the New England Conservatory of Music's Professional String Quartet Training program, under the mentorship of Paul Katz, and has previously studied at The Juilliard School under the Juilliard String Quartet and David Finckel, as well as at Indiana University under the Pacifica Quartet. Other notable mentors include Atar Arad, Donald Weilerstein, Martha Katz, Alex Kerr, Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian, and Gerhard Schulz.

The Verona Quartet's "thoughtful, impressive" performances (*Cleveland Classical*) spring from the spirit and power of storytelling. The Quartet believes that the essence of storytelling transcends genre and so the name "Verona" pays tribute to William Shakespeare, one of the greatest storytellers of all time.

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## ABOUT THE CLIBURN

**The Cliburn advances classical piano music throughout the world.** Its international competitions, education programs, and concert series embody an enduring commitment to artistic excellence and the discovery of new artists. Established in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1962, the quadrennial **Van Cliburn International Piano Competition** (sixteenth edition, May 27–June 12, 2021) remains the most visible expression of that mission and is, as always, committed to its original ideals of supporting and launching the careers of emerging artists, ages 18–30. It shares the transformative powers of music with a wide global audience, through fully-produced webcasts and by providing comprehensive career management and concert bookings to its winners. Rounding out its mission, the Cliburn also produces the **Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival** for exceptional 13- to 17-year-old pianists (third edition, May–June 2023), and the **Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition** for outstanding non-professional pianists age 35 and older (eighth edition, May 24–30, 2020).

Over a four-year cycle, the Cliburn contributes to North Texas' cultural landscape with over 170 classical music performances for **150,000 attendees** through competitions, free community concerts, and its signature **Cliburn Concerts** series at Bass Performance Hall, the Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavilion, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and Scat Jazz Lounge. It presents 1,000 **Cliburn in the Classroom** in-school, interactive music education programs for more than 200,000 area elementary students. During the same time period, it garners the world's attention with **over eight million** visits from 170 nations for live concert and competition webcasts; **300 concerts** worldwide booked for competition winners; more than **5,000 news articles** about the Cliburn and its winners; and regular national radio broadcasts to **245 public radio stations**. [Cliburn.org](https://www.cliburn.org)

### 2020 Cliburn Festival Sponsor

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