

## 17-Year Old Canadian Piano Sensation Marika Bournaki To Make Carnegie Hall Debut

### Concert Celebrating the Year of Glenn Gould will feature works from Bach to Rachmaninoff

“Marika Bournaki’s playing exuded passion all evening and the public warmly rewarded her for it.”

-- Ronald Martel, *La Tribune*

**TORONTO (March 27, 2008)** – Hailed by critics around the world, 17-year old Canadian piano sensation **Marika Bournaki** will make her solo debut at Carnegie Hall on May 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.; performing a recital as part of the *Year of Glenn Gould* celebration in association with *The Glenn Gould Foundation*.

The program, which will feature works by Bach, Beethoven, Stravinsky, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, will be performed in the intimate Weill Recital Hall. Ms. Bournaki kicked off the *Year of Glenn Gould* in September 2007 when the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa officially opened its highly-praised year-long commemorative exhibition *Glenn Gould: The Sounds of Genius*. Then just 16, she performed Bach's English Suite no. 2 in F Minor on Gould's favorite instrument, his fabled Steinway CD-318.

“Ms. Bournaki is a gifted young artist with a fine career ahead of her,” said Brian Levine, Managing Director, Glenn Gould Foundation. “It is a pleasure for us as be associated with a young musician of such promise and passionate dedication to her art.”

Currently attending the venerable Julliard School, Ms. Bournaki studies with Yoheved Kaplinsky and has already been recognized internationally for her prodigious achievements. In 2007, she was selected as one of only eight pianists world-wide to participate in the acclaimed *14<sup>th</sup> Annual Verbier Festival* in Switzerland. In 2006, she was the youngest competitor at the prestigious *17<sup>th</sup> International “Roma 2006” Piano Competition* and was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.

Awarded a *Prix d'Excellence* by Radio-Canada as well as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prizes at the *Canadian Music Competition*, *The Montreal Classical Music Festival* and the *Concours Inter-Élèves Vincent d'Indy*, Ms. Bournacki has the distinction of being a featured soloist with the *Montreal Symphony Orchestra*, the *Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal* and the *McGill Chamber Orchestra*.

In 2002, she was honoured with 1st Prize at the *Pro-Piano Romania International Piano Competition* in Bucharest, Romania, and was awarded the *Mihail Jora Prize* by the Association of Music Critics for her recital performed at the George Enescu Memorial House in Sinaia, Romania.

After national auditions, Ms. Bournaki appeared on the CBC Radio series *Up and Coming*. Featuring Canada's most promising young classical musicians, the concert was taped live in Montreal and broadcast nationwide. She was then invited to play a solo recital at the *Domaine Forget International Music Festival*, in St-Irénée, Québec. Later that summer she was invited to perform before Québec's Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Lise Thibault during her annual summer concert.

Ms. Bournaki has performed in front of distinguished audiences, including the world-renowned dramatic tenor Ben Heppner, the late Academy-Award winning director, playwright and screenwriter Anthony Minghella, award-winning author Michael Ondaatje and famed composer, musicologist and broadcaster Peter Shickele, Paris-based concert pianist H el ene Mercier among others.

A patron's dinner will take place in advance of the concert. For more information about the event go to [www.glenn Gould.ca](http://www.glenn Gould.ca) or phone 416.962.6200. Tickets for the recital go on sale to the public Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Reserved seats are USD\$30. Visit [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org) for more information.

### **About the Glenn Gould Foundation**

Established in 1983 in Toronto, the Glenn Gould Foundation's mission is to extend awareness of the legacy of Glenn Gould as an extraordinary musician, communicator, and Canadian, and to advance his visionary and innovative ideas into the future.

Among the Foundation's earliest projects was the creation of the Glenn Gould Prize. Awarded every three years, the prize Laureate is selected by an international jury of the world's most distinguished musicians, journalists, arts patrons, and music aficionados. In 1993, the Foundation expanded the Glenn Gould Prize to include the City of Toronto Glenn Gould International Prot g e Prize in Music.

The Prot g e, selected by the Glenn Gould Laureate, is an outstanding musical artist who shows the promise in his/her career that was shown by the young Glenn Gould.

The Foundation encourages others to develop projects concerning Gould and the field of music and communication. It has been associated with numerous broadcasts, publications, exhibitions, and conferences internationally. Some of the projects in which the Foundation is currently involved include: providing support and liaison for *Being Glenn Gould*, the weeklong film festival at Berlin's historic Babylon Theatre; The Glenn Gould Film Festival in Moscow; three Glenn Gould concert tributes in Buenos Aires; Herm s Paris' Glenn Gould installation at the Pompidou Centre; screenings of Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Centre and the yearlong exhibition of *Glenn Gould: Sounds of Genius* at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa among many others.

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