

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: For Immediate Release, June 26, 2009

RE: Sunriver Music Festival

PHOTO: Photos available

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Sunriver Music Festival Features Newly Crowned Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist

Once every four years, a select few young pianists emerge victorious from the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition: "the most prestigious classical piano contest in the world." (*Chicago Tribune*). On June 7, 2009, the winners of the Thirteenth Cliburn Competition were awarded significant cash prizes, CD recordings, and three years of international concert engagements.

The Sunriver Music Festival has been selected by the Van Cliburn Foundation to present one of the 2009 winners during the August summer festival in Sunriver. In September 2008, an agreement was met to secure the 2009 Silver Medalist.

"We are so pleased to present one of the newly crowned Van Cliburn winners during our summer festival," explains Pam Beezley of the Sunriver Music Festival. "This is quite an honor for us, because the Van Cliburn Foundation is very selective about the organizations they include in these young musicians' tour schedule."

This year's Van Cliburn Silver Medalist is Yeol Eum Son, 23, of South Korea. Miss Son was also the Van Cliburn winner of the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for the Best Performances of Chamber Music. Yeol Eum Son has performed with the Israel, New York, Seoul, and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras, among other noted orchestras. She was the third-prize winner of the 2005 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition. Ms. Son has made debuts at several international music festivals, including the Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw, the Rheingau Festival in Germany, and the Bowdoin Festival in the United States. She currently studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany, and has recorded a CD of Chopin etudes for Universal Music in Korea.

Yeol Eum Son will open the Sunriver Music Festival's concerts with a solo piano recital in the Sunriver Resort Great Hall on Thursday, August 13. Miss Son will instruct a piano master class on Friday, August 14 and perform with the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra on Saturday, August 15.

“We have had fantastic success presenting the Van Cliburn winners in our concert line up in the past,” adds Pam Beezley. “The quality of the performances is outstanding. The Van Cliburn competition is very well respected by musicians throughout the world and our audiences have big hearts for these young talented musicians.”

The history of the Cliburn Competition began when a young pianist named Van Cliburn won the first Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow, at the height of the Cold War in 1958, bringing him an unprecedented celebrity for an American concert pianist. As he toured the world and sold millions of records, he brought classical music, often for the first time, to listeners of all ages. The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition was created shortly thereafter to perpetuate Van Cliburn’s unique legacy of demonstrating how classical music has the appeal to reach across all borders. Today, the Cliburn Competition is considered one of the most significant music competitions in the world. Winners receive not only a cash prize, but three years of commission-free management as well. The competition has gained international recognition for many of its participants through award-winning television documentaries, national radio series, and productions of winners’ performances.

For more information about the Van Cliburn Foundation, performances and competitions, visit www.cliburn.org.

For more information about the Sunriver Music Festival or Miss Yeol Eum Son’s performances, contact the ticket office at 541-593-9310, email tickets@sunrivermusic.org or visit www.sunrivermusic.org.

**Van Cliburn 2009 Silver Medalist
Yeol Eum Son
Sunriver Resort Great Hall**

Thursday, August 13
7:30pm
Solo Piano Recital

Friday, August 14
1:00 – 4:00pm
Piano Master Class

Saturday, August 15
7:30pm
Piano Concerto with Sunriver Music
Festival Orchestra

Miss Yeol Eum Son appearances are made possible through a generous grant from the Lampstand Foundation.