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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Pianos in the Parks Encourage Discovery of Parks through Music and Art***

*Popular Program Kicks at Kerry Park Viewpoint on Friday, July 8*

**SEATTLE, July 7, 2016** – The month-long summertime *Pianos in the Parks* program is making a return engagement to area parks and public spaces beginning Friday, July 8, at Kerry Park Viewpoint (211 West Highland Drive) overlooking Downtown Seattle.

The program, made possible by Laird Norton Wealth Management, is designed to encourage the discovery of parks through music and art by placing one-of-a-kind, artist-designed upright and grand pianos in parks and public spaces across King County including Seattle, Bellevue, Carnation, Mercer Island, Redmond and Sea-Tac, for free public use and music exploration.

The pianos – all previously owned – are procured, repaired, tuned, transported and maintained by Classic Pianos; and are painted by student, alumni and faculty artists of Gage Academy of Art at Urban ArtWorks.

The popular program kicks-off tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Kerry Park Viewpoint with a grand piano – titled *Graphic Melody* -- by local artist J. Adam Brinson.

While the piano is made available for public play, a special noon performance featuring local musician [Joe Doria](#) is scheduled. In addition, Gage Academy of Art will be on-site with its Summer Pop-Up – a free pop-up drawing activity featuring models, art materials, easels and artist assistance for anyone to experience art-making from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (live model appears at 12:30 p.m.).

Adding to the kick-off festivities is a giant “Living Floral Tree,” which is expected to be a big hit for those looking for a unique selfie photo-op.



The complete Pianos in the Parks schedule – available at <http://pianosintheparks.com/> -- is as follows:

- **Kerry Park Viewpoint** (July 8) on Queen Anne Hill; piano title: *Graphic Melody*; artist: J. Adam Brinson
- **Kubota Garden** (July 9) in Rainier Valley; piano title: *Galum Alux*; artist: Ovidio Cartagena
- **Sammamish River Trail** (July 10) in Redmond; piano title: *Love is in the Air . . . Chance Encounters*; artist: Sophia Lael
- **Golden Gardens** (July 11) in Ballard; piano title: *Talking at the Same Time*; artist: Joseph Brooks
- **Crossroads Park** (July 12) in Bellevue; piano title: *Paisley Piano – A Tribute to Prince*; artist: Brandy Tomlin
- **Westlake Park** (July 13) in Downtown Seattle; piano title: *Dancin’ Keys*; artist: Barbi Leifert
- **Luther Burbank Park at Calkins Point** (July 14) on Mercer Island; piano title: *Crossings*; artist: Cynthia Wessling
- **Tolt-MacDonald Park** (July 15) in Carnation; piano title: *Sway Alive*; artist: Cassie Murphy
- **Chism Beach Park** (July 16) in Bellevue; piano title: *Imaginary Piano*; artist: Karina Kudinova
- **Alki Beach Park** (July 17) in West Seattle; piano title: *Nostalgic Tides*; artist: Brittany Carchano

In addition to the 10 park pianos, a piano will be available for public use every day for the duration of the program at the Seattle Center plaza next to KEXP – the piano is titled *Genius from the Void* by artist Craig Cundiff.

Ticketed passengers will also find a special piano titled *Golden Ratio Piano* by artist Eve Alyson at Sea-Tac International Airport’s central terminal greeting passengers flying to and from the city of music.



As with Kerry Park, each host park will offer a free daily musical performance – featuring the piano – from noon to 12:30 p.m. for each of the 10 days, along with free activities in several parks, including:

- **Instrument Making** – an instrument-making activity hosted by Seattle Symphony on from noon to 1 p.m. July 13 at Westlake Park.
- **Instrument Petting Zoo** – Classical KING FM’s Instrument Petting Zoo provides a wonderful hands-on experience for kids and adults to get up close to string, woodwind and percussion instruments to try them out, and talk to the musicians who play them. The activation will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on July 16 at Chism Beach Park in Bellevue.

*Pianos in the Parks*, made possible by Laird Norton Wealth Management, is designed to encourage the discovery of parks through music and art by placing one-of-a-kind, artist-designed upright and grand pianos in parks for free public use and music exploration.

“We’ve seen how the placement of pianos in parks encourages the discovery and enjoyment of our amazing outdoor spaces,” said Robert Moser, president & CEO of Laird Norton Wealth Management. “Our local parks are vital to creating a strong and healthy community. At Laird Norton, we’re dedicated to help nurture and protect these spaces now and for future generations.

Laird Norton Wealth Management underwrites and manages the program with generous community support from partners Bellevue Parks and Community Services, City of Bellevue Arts, City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation, Classic Pianos, Classical KING FM, Gage Academy of Art, KEXP 90.3 FM, King County Parks, PlayNetwork, Port of Seattle, Seattle Center, Seattle City of Music, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Symphony, Ten Grands, and Urban Artworks. Additional support is provided by Downtown Seattle Association, KCTS 9 and MICA (Mercer Island Center for the Arts).

For more information on *Pianos in the Parks*, visit <http://pianosintheparks.com/>

**Media interested in attending should RSVP by contacting Randy Hurlow at [randyh@206inc.com](mailto:randyh@206inc.com) or 206-778-5523.**

**Photography and B-roll footage from the 2015 *Pianos in the Parks* is available upon request.**