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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pianos in the Parks Encourage Discovery of Parks Through Music and Art

Popular Program Returns for a Second Year with More Pianos Across More Parks

SEATTLE, July 6, 2015 – The month-long summertime *Pianos in the Parks* program is making a return engagement to area parks and public spaces beginning July 16, expanding to 22 Puget Sound area locations due to popular demand.

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, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Sea-Tac, for free public use and music exploration.

All 22 previously owned pianos are procured, repaired, tuned, transported and maintained by Classic Pianos; and are painted by student, alumni and faculty artists of Gage Academy of Art.

The specific parks and public spaces which will host the pianos through Aug. 16 will be announced at a public **kick-off celebration from noon to 1:30pm on Thursday, July 16 at Lake Union Park** (860 Terry Avenue North) near the park's model boat pond in downtown Seattle. At the celebration, local artists who painted the pianos will unveil their works of art – followed by a musical performance in which all 22 instruments will be played by local pianists. Also participating in the event are a number of musicians, city and county officials, and program partners. Following the unveiling, the public will have an opportunity to view all 22 pianos, meet the artists, and be treated to additional musical performances.

“Last year we saw how a single, beautifully decorated piano can bring the community together and encourage the discovery and enjoyment of parks and public 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. We’re excited this year to grow the program with more pianos in more parks.”



Laird Norton Wealth Management underwrites and manages the program with generous community support from founding partners Classic Pianos, Gage Academy of Art, KEXP 90.3 FM, Seattle Symphony, PlayNetwork, Seattle City of Music, Seattle Parks & Recreation and King County Parks; as well as new partners Bellevue Parks & Recreation, Kirkland Parks & Community Services and Mercer Island Parks & Recreation, Classical KING FM, City of Bellevue Arts Program, Mercer Island Center for Arts, and Seattle Center. The program also receives support from KCTS 9 and Port of Seattle.

The pianos will welcome park-goers in their respective locations thru Aug. 16. During this time, people of all skill levels and musical persuasions are urged to enter a Pianos in the Parks video contest for a chance to perform as part of the Seattle Center's Concerts at the Mural presented by KEXP 90.3 FM on Friday, Aug. 21. Entrants simply need to upload a video of their performance using one of the participating pianos to the Pianos in the Parks website, <https://www.pianosintheparks.com> beginning July 16.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media is invited to attend the kick-off celebration event on July 16th. Pre-event interviews and a behind-the-scenes tour to the art studio with participating artists as they work on painting their pianos are also available upon request.

Photography and B-roll footage from the 2014 Pianos in the Parks is available upon request.