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**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 9, 2014**

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**SUBJECT: PIANIST ERIC HIMY KICKS OFF 2014-2015 BACKSTAGE SERIES AT
JASPER ARTS CENTER**

Pianist Eric Himy will play Backstage on Saturday, October 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Jasper Arts Center. His program, *American in Paris*, will revolve around the influence of famous composers on the music of George Gershwin with selections from Debussy, Ravel, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Chopin, Albeniz, and DeFalla as well as Gershwin himself.

The New York Times has described Eric Himy's playing as *flawlessly poised with elegance and brilliance*. His compelling artistry has intrigued audiences on five continents and his technique has been compared to that of the legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz. Although Himy has performed around the world, his most notable concerts have been at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Recital Hall and on NPR among others.

In the concert that Himy will present Backstage on Saturday, he explores Gershwin's music and its relationship to other classical composers in his recital *Gershwin in Paris*. Part conversation, part concert, Himy weaves together stories, anecdotes, and music into an unforgettable performance. Himy is known for his thorough research and writing on Gershwin's music. He has consulted original manuscripts and reinserted the excised music for a series of concerts and has become one of the most highly regarded interpreters of Gershwin and French music performing today.

Mr. Himy began piano studies at age six, giving his first concert at age 10. He went on to receive a Masters of Music degree from the famed Juilliard School where he studied with Thomas Schumacher, Adele Marcus, and Josef Villa. He was guest soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at age 15 and has gone on to win numerous competitions and awards including the *Gold Medal at the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati*, the *Kosciuszko Chopin Prize in New York* and *top honors in the Milosz Magin International Competition in Paris*.

Jasper Community Arts is a department of the City of Jasper. Additional support is provided by Friends of the Arts, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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