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CLIBURN NEWS

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WINNERS TAKE OFF



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The 2009 Cliburn winners ignited the Bass Hall stage with their electrifying performances last spring. Over the summer, the six have already begun concertizing across the United States and abroad, to high critical acclaim.

Gold medalist **Nobuyuki Tsujii** has found unprecedented popularity in his home country of Japan, quickly transforming into a public figure and regularly appearing in the media spotlight. Three weeks after winning the Cliburn gold, he remarked: "When I walk outside, I am always surrounded by people on the street. . . ." There is no doubt that "Tsujii" is now the most recognized classical musician's name in Japan.



Nobu's winning moment at the Cliburn received broad media coverage, and every major Japanese newspaper chronicled his success. Soon after his return he was making daily appearances on television. Nobu's debut album recently ranked second in sales in Japan, and a recital DVD took seventh place on the sales chart—both record-setting figures for any pianist in the country's history. Nobu will begin a concert tour of Japan in October, and

"Tsujii Fever" is expected to spread around the world.

Gold medalist **Haochen Zhang** will perform an estimated fifty dates this year, including appearances with the Colorado and San Francisco Symphonies, and at Portland Piano International, Chicago's Ravinia Festival, and the Wolf Trap Discovery Series in Vienna, Virginia. International dates include performances in China, Europe, and Turkey. He recently made his recital debut at the Aspen Music Festival to critical acclaim. Haochen will continue his education at the Curtis Institute of Music under Gary Graffman while he maintains his performing career.

EMBERED



o Party.



Competitor Mayumi Sakamoto is thrilled to receive her pair of custom-fit Justin Boots at the Zoo Party.



Host families relax with their competitors: host Jon Suder with Alessandro Deljavan and Mariangela Vacatello with host Laila Gleason.

