



News Update

CONTACT: Karen Herlitz, Director of Marketing
karen@rockportmusic.org
Phone: 978-546-7391, Ext. 110
DATE: October 5, 2017

Rockport Music brings Lee Ann Womack, Rosanne Cash, Quinn Sullivan and Justin Townes Earle, and more this November

This November, Rockport Music brings a variety of folk, pop and classical to the Shalin Liu Performance Center with performances by country siren Lee Ann Womack, Rosanne Cash, young phenom guitarist Quinn Sullivan, Justin Townes Earle and much more.

On **Friday, November 3 at 7 pm**, two of New England's most celebrated roots music bands—**Session Americana** and the **Lonely Heartstring Band**--team up for a truly special night celebrating the great Americana tradition in a **Rockport Folk Summit: Pickers & Fiddlers** at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. **Session Americana** is an all-star band-collective of talented musicians who come together to craft a musical experience unlike any other. The experience of a Session Americana show comes from a musical collaboration that's not accidental or easily won. The group brings a kind of ease and genuineness to this timeless music, sometimes presenting the latest batch of original songs, sometimes reaching back into the depths of the American "song bag". Nourished by deep roots in the expansive canon of traditional American music, The **Lonely Heartstring Band** brings an understanding and reverence for the past that they use to inform a push into the future. A bluegrass quintet whose music stretches far beyond any genre-specific title, the group combines soulful instrumental virtuosity with soaring three-part harmonies. With their 2015 IBMA Momentum Award and the imminent release of their debut full-length album on the legendary Rounder Records label, there is every reason to believe that they are at the front edge of a significant career. Tickets: \$26, \$20

On **Saturday, November 4 at 8 pm**, the granddaddy of political satire, The **Capitol Steps** perform. The veteran troupe have become masters at skewering both sides of the aisle, their repurposed covers of pop songs loaded with puns and outrageous one-liners. No one is safe! The Capitol Steps have elevated political satire to an art form. Before *The Daily Show*, *Full Frontal*, and *The Colbert Report*, this Washington, DC-based comedy troupe gave audience laugh cramps with their bipartisan lampooning. The Capitol Steps began in 1981 as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize their employers, and haven't let up since. If you've been keeping with the news, you know there's no shortage of material. The troupe is coming back to Rockport with a new show of musical and political comedy. It doesn't matter if you're a Republican or Democrat, a snowflake or a deplorable: neither side is safe from the group that puts the "MOCK" in Democracy! Tickets: \$55-\$79

On **Friday, November 10 at 8 pm**, country music siren and Grammy winner **Lee Ann Womack**, known for huge hits like "I Hope You Dance" and "Ashes By Now," makes her Rockport debut. Armed with a brand new album, a throwback record called *The Lonely, the Lonesome and the Gone*, a record that harkens back to the East Texas honky-tonks of her youth. Most folks know Lee Ann Womack through her modern classic "I Hope You Dance," an enormous crossover hit in 2000 whose inspiring themes and indelible melody saturated both country and mainstream radio (as well as becoming the standard father-daughter dance at weddings over the world). Yet Womack already had a burgeoning career before that single rocked the Billboard charts. Her self-titled debut in 1997 introduced the world to a throwback country traditionalist with smash hits "Never Again, Again" and "The Fool." In her third album, *I Hope You Dance* showcased a

more mainstream pop sound, but it was the melody and poetic lyrics of the album's title track that rocketed the album to #1 on the country charts and even cracked the top 20 of the pop charts. Womack continued making records on her own terms and with her own musical vision, moving over to the Americana label Sugar Hill Records to release the dark and raucous *The Way I'm Livin*, which was nominated for two Grammy's. Her most recent effort *The Lonely, the Lonesome, and the Gone* comes out in late October and harkens back to her East Texas roots. Tickets: \$45-\$59

On Saturday, November 11, at 8 pm, New Bedford native **Quinn Sullivan** makes his Rockport debut. He may only be 18 years old, but the blues rock guitar-slinger counts the legendary Buddy Guy as an admirer and mentor and has already shared the stage with the likes of Eric Clapton, B.B. King, Los Lobos, Derek Trucks and Joe Bonamassa. Armed with a searing, explosive tone and a style that echoes his mentor Guy and other legends like Hendrix and Clapton, Sullivan plays guitar like a man well beyond his years. He's already released three albums, including this year's acclaimed *Midnight Highway* and appeared on national TV, with guest appearances on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Oprah*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, *Conan* and twice on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. At age six, he appeared on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and garnered more attention when Buddy Guy asked him to come on stage and play during a performance at New Bedford's Zeiterion Theater in 2007. A solid bond was formed between the great Chicago bluesman and the young guitarist; and two years later, Sullivan opened for Buddy Guy on his East Coast tour, played his own set at the summer music festival Lollapalooza, as well as the Austin City Limits Festival. He released his debut album, *Cyclone*, in 2011, following it with *Getting There* in 2013. His newest release, *Midnight Highway*, features the radio-charting single "She Gets Me." Tickets: \$19-\$36

On Thursday, November 16 at 8 pm, **Rosanne Cash** performs for the first time at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. One of the country's pre-eminent singer/songwriters, Rosanne Cash has long transcended her birthright as country music royalty, carving her own hit-laden career that has spanned close to 40 years. Rosanne Cash's impressive recording career includes 15 albums that have earned four Grammy Awards and nominations for 11 more, as well as 21 top-40 hits, including 11 No. 1 singles. She is also an author whose four books include the best-selling memoir *Composed*, which the *Chicago Tribune* called "one of the best accounts of an American life you'll likely ever read." She was awarded the SAG/AFTRA Lifetime Achievement award for Sound Recordings in 2012 and received the 2014 Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. She served as 2015 Artist-in-Residence at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. In 2015 she was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame and recently she was inducted into the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame. Cash's landmark 2009 album, *The List*, won the Americana Music Album of the Year award. In her latest release, *The River and the Thread*, a collaboration with husband/co-writer/producer and arranger John Leventhal, Cash evokes a kaleidoscopic examination of the geographic, emotional, musical and historic landscape of the American South. The album has received impressive worldwide acclaim and received three Grammy Awards in 2015. Tickets: \$65-\$98

On Saturday, November 18 at 8 pm, **Justin Townes Earle** returns to the Shalin Liu Performance Center. He brings for his opening act, Joshua Hedley. Justin Townes Earle has emerged as a genre-busting acclaimed singer-songwriter, infusing country, blues, folk and indie rock into his vintage Americana sound. The son of beloved country folk musician Steve Earle, Justin is touring off his newly released album *Kids in the Street*. Since launching his recording career a decade ago, Justin Townes Earle has established a reputation as a singular leading light in the Americana music community. With fearless, personally charged lyrical insight and infectious melodic craftsmanship, the young veteran singer-songwriter has built a rich, personally charged body of work. His 2007 debut *Yuma* set the stage for a steady stream of acclaimed albums: *The Good Life* (2008), *Midnight at the Movies* (2009), *Harlem River Blues* (2010), *Nothing's Going to Change the Way You Feel About Me Now* (2012), *Single Mothers* (2014) and *Absent Fathers* (2015). In the process, he built a large and devoted fan base that continues to support his work. Now on his seventh album *Kids in the Street*, Earle raises the creative and personal stakes to deliver a deeply soulful set that's both emotionally riveting and effortlessly uplifting. Tickets: \$29-\$39

On **Sunday, November 19, at 3 pm**, the Grammy Award-winning **Ying Quartet** joins with fellow Grammy winner cellist **Zuill Bailey** and newly appointed Rockport Music Artistic Director **Barry Shiffman** for a program of Schumann, Brahms, and a new commission by Christopher Theofanidis.

PROGRAM

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS: The Conference of the Birds (new work)

SCHUMANN: Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129 (transcribed for cello and string quartet)

BRAHMS: String Sextet, No. 2 in G major, Op. 36

The Grammy Award-winning **Ying Quartet** combines brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world. The Quartet's belief that concert music can also be a meaningful part of everyday life has also drawn the foursome to perform in settings as diverse as the workplace, schools, juvenile prisons, and the White House. Their 2007 Telarc CD of Tchaikovsky works was nominated for a Grammy Award. In addition, their much-heralded collaboration with the Turtle Island Quartet, *Four + 4*, explored the common ground between the classic string quartet tradition and jazz winning a Grammy Award in 2005. Previously the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University, the Quartet is now quartet-in-residence at the Eastman School of Music, maintaining full time faculty positions. The Ying Quartet first came to professional prominence in the early 1990s as resident quartet of Jesup, Iowa, a farm town of 2000 people where they played in homes, schools, churches, and banks. The residency, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, was widely chronicled in the national media. Winner of a 2017 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for *Tales of Hemingway*, **Zuill Bailey** is a distinguished soloist, recitalist, artistic director and recording artist. His celebrated *Bach Cello Suites* and Britten Cello Symphony/Sonata CD's soared to Number #1 on the Classical Billboard Charts. In addition to his 2017 Grammy Award CD *Tales of Hemingway*, he has also released critically acclaimed live performance recordings with the Indianapolis Symphony, and many others. Bailey was awarded the Classical Recording Foundation Award for his recording of Beethoven's complete cello works. In addition to his extensive touring engagements, he is the Artistic Director of El Paso Pro-Musica (Texas), the Northwest Bach Festival (Washington), guest Artistic Director of the Mesa Arts Center (Arizona) and Professor of Cello at the University of Texas at El Paso. Mr. Bailey's cello was made by the great Venetian cello maker, Matteo Goffriller in 1693. Internationally acclaimed violinist and violist **Barry Shiffman** is well-respected as a musician, educator and administrator. He was co-founder of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, and currently serves as both the Associate Dean and Director of Chamber Music at the Glenn Gould School and Dean of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. During his 17 years with the SLSQ he appeared in over 2,000 concerts in venues around the globe, and recorded several critically acclaimed discs under an exclusive contract with EMI Classics. He has also served in numerous roles at the Banff Centre, including Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition. He is currently Artistic Director of classical music at Rockport Music. A Pre-concert talk with Artistic Director Barry Shiffman will be held for ticketholders at 2 pm. Tickets: \$39-\$55

HD BROADCASTS

On **Saturday, November 18 at 12:55 pm**, *The Exterminating Angel* has its Met premiere, conducted by the composer, Thomas Adès. The 2016 opera, co-commissioned by the Met and sung in English, is based on the screenplay by Luis Buñuel and Luis Alcoriza for the acclaimed 1962 Buñuel film. Tickets: \$29-\$32 A Met Lunch is available for purchase and is held at 12 pm.

On Friday, November 17 at 7 pm, Stephen Sondheim's legendary musical *Follies* is staged for the first time at the National Theatre and broadcast live to cinemas. New York, 1971. There's a party on the stage of the Weismann Theatre. Tomorrow the iconic building will be demolished. Thirty years after their final performance, the *Follies* girls gather to have a few drinks, sing a few songs and lie about themselves. Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$15 Seniors & Students, \$5 Youth
Sunday, November 26, 2 PM

Bolshoi Ballet in HD: *Taming of the Shrew*

Acclaimed choreographer **Jean-Christophe Maillot** brings out the wit, fast-paced athleticism and vibrancy from the Bolshoi Ballet dancers in Shakespeare's rowdy comedy. Principals Ekaterina Krysanova and Vladislav Lantratov clash, challenge and eventually give themselves to one another. Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$15 Seniors & Students, \$5 Youth

NEWLY ANNOUNCED

Sunday, February 18, 7 PM

JD Souther

A songwriting legend and country rock pioneer, JD Souther comes to Rockport for the first time armed with a veritable treasure trove of classics, including several made famous by The Eagles (“Heartache Tonight,” “Best of My Love”) and Linda Ronstadt (“Faithless Love”). His infectious pop sensibility and effortless croon have led to a near 50 year career. Tickets: \$46, \$40, \$29

Thursday, March 1, 8 PM

Howard Jones

Known for hits like “What is Love?” and “No One is to Blame”

Tickets: \$52, \$45, \$38

Friday, April 6, 2018

Ann Hampton Callaway

Ann Hampton Callaway is a born entertainer and one of the leading champions of the great American Songbook, best known for her Tony-nominated performance in the hit Broadway musical *Swing!* and for writing and singing the theme song to the hit TV series *The Nanny*. Tickets: \$59, \$55, \$45

Thursday, May 17, 8 PM

Jesse Colin Young

One of the leading lights of the 60’s “flower power” movement, singer-songwriter Jesse Colin Young remains a vibrant musical force. Most known for his 1969 smash hit “Get Together,” which continues to be an iconic anthem for peace and tolerance to this day, Young has forged a long-sustaining career built on his soaring tenor, infectious melodies and thought-provoking lyrics. Tickets: \$59, \$55, \$45

Unless otherwise indicated, all concerts and events are held at Rockport Music’s stunning, seaside Shalin Liu Performance Center at 37 Main Street, Rockport, Massachusetts. Subscriptions are available with purchase of four or more concerts and subscribers receive a 10% discount. Please visit our website rockportmusic.org or call the Box Office at 978-546-7391 for tickets or more details on upcoming concerts. Rockport Music is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



ABOUT ROCKPORT MUSIC

Founded in 1981 as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music presents exceptional concerts and cultural events in the “stunning acoustics and dramatic setting” (*Boston Globe*) of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Best known for its summer chamber music festival featuring some of the world’s finest ensembles and soloists, Rockport Music has expanded its offerings to include year-round presentations of jazz, folk, pop, and world music, high-definition broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera and National Theatre (London), and special film presentations. Education and community outreach activities serve nearly 10,000 students and adults throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore annually.