



News Update

BARRY SHIFFMAN, *artistic director*

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The Rockport Chamber Music Festival brings a r:EVOLUTION

The Rockport Chamber Music Festival 2018, the first under the direction of Artistic Director Barry Shiffman, opens on **Friday, June 15 continuing through Sunday, July 15**, and encompasses a dramatic theme—**r:EVOLUTION**. The Festival's opening weekend embodies that theme with Barry Shiffman leading an unforgettable Opening Night ensemble on Friday, June 15 (8 pm) in a performance of one of the Romantic period's foremost masterpieces—Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*—paired with the dramatic work *Ayre* by the Festival's composer-in-residence Osvaldo Golijov. This song cycle reveals the musical intermingling of Christian, Arab and Sephardic Jewish cultures and is performed by an all-star 11-member ensemble and the dynamic soprano Miriam Khalil. *Sung in Arabic, Hebrew, Sardinian, and Sephardic, with translations*. The ensemble includes Miriam Khalil, *soprano*, Barry Shiffman, *viola*, Andrés Díaz, *cello*, Roberto Occhipinti, *bass*, Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*, Todd Palmer, *clarinet*, James Somerville, *French horn*, Claudio Ragazzi, *guitar*, Ina Zdorovetchi, *harp*, Michael Ward Bergemann, *hyper accordion*, Dave Burns, *percussion*, and Jeremy Flower, *laptop*. The production is directed by Toronto's *Against the Grain* director Joel Ivany and lighting designer Jason Hand. TICKETS: \$72, \$66, \$50

On **Saturday, June 16 at 4 pm**, actor and creator Alon Nashman presents a one-man theatrical presentation adapted from a letter written by Franz Kafka. ***Kafka and Son*** is a blistering, often hilarious, dissection of domestic authority, and a revelatory visit with one of the architects of the modern psyche. The 1-hour play will be set to a recording of the powerful music of Osvaldo Golijov. The program will open with a musical performance of Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina* performed by Danny Koo, *violin*, Barry Shiffman, *viola*, Andres Diaz, *cello*, Roberto Occhipinti, *bass*, Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*, and Todd Palmer, *clarinet*. TICKETS: \$22, \$15

The **Montrose Trio join with violist Barry Shiffman on Saturday, June 16 at 8 pm** for a program of Turina, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. Formed in 2013, the Montrose Trio is a collaboration stemming from a longstanding relationship between Jon Kimura Parker and the Tokyo Quartet. Parker was the Quartet's final guest pianist, and a backstage conversation with violinist Martin Beaver and cellist Clive Greensmith led to the Montrose Trio's creation. Pianist **Jon Kimura Parker** is Artistic Advisor of the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival and Professor of Piano at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. A top prizewinner at the international violin competitions of Indianapolis and Montreal, violinist **Martin Beaver** was a founding member of the Toronto String Quartet and Triskelion, and was the first violinist of the Tokyo String Quartet for eleven years. He is currently on faculty at the Colburn School in LA. Cellist **Clive Greensmith** has been in the Tokyo String Quartet for 14 years and is currently on faculty at the Colburn School in LA. Artistic director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival and classical music at Rockport Music, 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. Additionally, he is the Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition. A Pre-concert talk will be held for ticketholders at 7 pm. TICKETS: \$65, \$59, \$47

PROGRAM

TURINA: Piano Trio No. 2 in B minor, Op. 76

MENDELSSOHN: Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

BRAHMS: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

On Sunday, June 17 at 5 pm, an all-star ensemble featuring pianist **Frederic Chiu**, cellist **Andres Diaz**, *cello*, and clarinetist **Todd Palmer**, along with **percussionists Matt Sharrock, Michael Williams, Dave Burns, and Aaron Trant**, in a performance of Tan Dun's *Elegy: Snow in June*, Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, Prokofiev's Sonata No. 7, and Bach. According to Tan Dun, his *Elegy: Snow in June* was written for the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. The story is based on a 13th century Chinese drama about a woman executed for crimes, despite her innocence. Even nature cried out for her innocence with a heavy snowfall in June. This, paired with movements from Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, written while Messiaen was held in a World War II camp, highlight the Festival's theme r:Evolution through the purity and beauty of these works.

Pianist **Frederic Chiu** makes his Rockport Chamber Music Festival debut performing Bach and Prokofiev. With over 25 recordings, his repertoire includes the complete works of Prokofiev as well as popular classics of Chopin, Liszt and others. He has received recognition as "Record of the Year" by Stereo Review, "Top 10 recordings" by the *New Yorker*, with rave reviews from the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*. He co-directs artistic activities at Beechwood Arts, a non-profit in Connecticut, working at the intersection of Arts, Innovation and Inspiration. First Prize Winner in the 1986 Naumburg International Cello Competition, **Andrés Díaz** has also received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and was nominated for a 2009 Latin Grammy. He regularly performs with orchestras throughout North America and at major festivals, as well as being a member of the Díaz String Trio. He is a professor at Southern Methodist University and holds the Koerner Chair in Cello at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Having been involved in an array of creative and diverse artistic presentations throughout his career, clarinetist **Todd Palmer** has appeared as performance artist, concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator, and educator. Mr. Palmer has collaborated with numerous composers, and went on to champion Golijov's klezmer clarinet quintet *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* and gave the world premiere of David Bruce's *Gumboots* at Carnegie Hall with the St. Lawrence Quartet. In addition to a wealth of chamber music performances, he has also held principal clarinet positions in the Minnesota Orchestra and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, to name a few. A Pre-concert talk will be held for ticketholders at 4 pm. TICKETS: \$46, \$40, \$29

PROGRAM

J.S. BACH (arr. Chiu): "Erbarme dich, mein Gott" from *St. Mathew Passion*, BWV 244

PROKOFIEV: Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 83

OLIVIER MESSIAEN: "Abyss of the birds" from Quartet for the End of Time

TAN DUN: *Elegy: Snow in June*

MESSIAEN: "Praise to the eternity of Jesus" from Quartet for the End of Time

Artistic Director Barry Shiffman on r:EVOLUTION: "The concepts of Revolution and Evolution are intrinsic to humanity and the arts. Music is first and foremost the sound of emotion, so it is natural to find that some of the most compelling sounds emerge in times of conflict and upheaval. I have been fascinated to discover how much the desire for change has been the instigator to push music forward. Sounds of anguish in Shostakovich, the roar of defiance in the heroic music of Beethoven, and the evocation of crushed protest in Tan Dun, Arabic songs of resistance in Golijov, the music all shares an urgency and power that leaves the performer and listener changed."

Join in the exciting new era of music at the 37th annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival. 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 the purchase of five or more concerts and subscribers receive 10% or more 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.