Join the r:EVO L U T I O N!

INNOVATION—FELLows—CABARETS—POP-UPS

The much-anticipated 2018 Rockport Chamber Music Festival is the first under the artistic direction of Barry Shiffman. Opening on June 15 and continuing through July 15, the Festival encompasses a dramatic theme of r:EVO L U T I O N. This theme is captured in the Opening weekend with composer-in-residence Osvaldo Golijov’s spectacular song cycle Ayre, presented in a beautifully staged theatrical presentation revealing the musical intermingling of Christian, Arab and Sephardic Jewish cultures.

Artistic Director Barry Shiffman elaborates, “This performance is a perfect example of evolution, with the original song cycle reimagined through the artistic team, especially soprano Miriam Khalil, with breathtaking results. Golijov both inspires and is inspired by artists, and to experience the evolution of a work between artists and a living composer is nothing short of magical.”

The Festival’s momentum doesn’t slow down, with such world-class artists as the Brentano Quartet, A Far Cry, violinist James Ehnes, Pinchas Zukerman Trio, the comedic duo Igudesman and Joo, and closing with the great Emerson Quartet and cellist Colin Carr. Young competition winners are prevalent throughout the Festival with the two previous first-prize winners of the Banff International String Quartet Competition, the Rolston and Dover quartets, as well as the recent Cliburn competition winner Yekwon Sunwoo. Hailing from Marshfield, Massachusetts, mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey, a graduate of Walnut Hill and Juilliard, is a young vocal superstar with two major competition wins—Grand Finals winner of the 2017 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2018 Glyndebourne Opera Cup. She makes her Metropolitan Opera debut next season, just after her debut in our Festival!

Barry Shiffman shares part of his vision,

It is vital that art has momentum, and space to evolve. Part of the evolution is cultivating new artistic experiences. An example is the Rockport debut of Davóne Tines, who is one of the most important young bass baritones in America. The idea for this program was developed by Davóne as he envisioned how a young black American would sing spirituals. We are not just presenting, but actively involved in the development of his program. Several of these presentations will include theatrical lighting and the dramatic design of the concert hall allows for the setting to be an equal partner in the performance. I am excited to watch our artists be inspired by the space.

Festival r:EVO L U T I O N continues on pg. 06
As in past years, the lineup for the Summer at Rockport concert series reflects an impressively diverse cast of artists and genres. One particular musical style that stands out this summer is the fiddle-fueled, boot-stompin’ genre known as western swing.

A cousin to both the classic big band swing of the Benny Goodman variety as well as the gypsy jazz made famous by Django Reinhardt, western swing (sometimes called Texas swing) was born in Texas and Oklahoma. Starting out in the late 1920’s, western swing fused country (or “hillbilly music” as it was colloquially called then) with hot club jazz and swing, and was typically fronted by a fiddle player. It was primarily a dance music, bolstered by electrified string instruments like guitars and pedal steel, and given a strong backbeat to fill the dancefloor. Throughout the 1930’s and 40’s, its popularity reached its peak, becoming especially popular in California during World War II, as artists like Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, Spade Cooley and his Orchestra, and Hank Thompson and his Brazos Valley Boys toured all over the country and enjoyed huge hit records. Wills in particular became a sensation, with tunes like “San Antonio Rose,” “Stay A Little Longer” and “Bubbles in My Beer” becoming standards of the genre. As the swing era faded, so did the prominence of western swing, but it has been kept alive throughout the years by groups like Asleep at the Wheel and Hot Club of Cowtown, and with high profile songwriters like Willie Nelson and Lyle Lovett.

This summer we are featuring a handful of groups who pay tribute to western swing music, beginning with the nostalgia-laden country and western group Riders in the Sky on July 2. The veteran foursome, all expert players and pickers, lean heavily on the “western” part of the country and western genre, adding a hefty dose of family friendly cowboy kitsch into their brand of swing—think dusty saloons, wide open prairies, Roy Rogers and “Rawhide.” You may know them well from their recordings for the lovable cowboy Woody in Toy Story 2. Later on that month, we are treated to the Texas fiddle trio of the Quebe Sisters, who arrive in Rockport on July 21. One of the more buzzed-about western swing groups in the country, the talented young Quebes (rhymes with “maybe”) have graduated from routinely sweeping fiddle competitions as children, to touring the world and releasing critically acclaimed records that feature their gorgeous sibling harmonies and expert musicianship. They rely heavily on the western swing canon for their shows, with stunning arrangements of Bob Wills, Hank Thompson and Cindy Walker classics. Another talented lady trio coming to our rocky shores is Red Molly on September 28. While not as traditionally western swing as the Quebes, Red Molly still employ the genre’s swinging arrangements and jazzy flair, but with added accents of bluegrass, gospel and folk.

Of course this summer you can enjoy plenty of other styles, as we’re offering Celtic, jazz, soul and folk artists throughout the next several months. But we hope you make it out to one of our delightful western swing bands as well. Cowboy boots are optional.

RIDERS IN THE SKY

QUEBE SISTERS

WE’RE MOVING!!

Rockport Music’s offices—administrative, box office and operations—will join together in our NEW OFFICES at 16 Main Street, Rockport by June 4 (across the street from the Shalin Liu Performance Center).

We are truly excited to bring our team together under one roof!
We sure do love our singers in Rockport. Every summer it seems we parade a veritable who’s who of vocal talent on our stage, but this year just might top them all in terms of sheer talent and breadth of style. For jazz lovers especially, this summer’s roster is a bountiful one. The ever-elegant Dianne Reeves arrives on July 22 bringing along her soulful, boundary-crossing style and magnetic, commanding stage presence. In August the daring and technically brilliant Kurt Elling returns to perform during the Rockport Jazz Festival, and later in the month Jane Monheit showcases tunes from her recent Ella Fitzgerald tribute record. The powerful pipes of former Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan will be on display in early June, followed in July by the gospel folk anthems of the Grammy-nominated Ruthie Foster, a singer-songwriter of astounding empathy and intelligence with a dynamic voice that could move mountains.

The singers aren’t all of the jazz variety though. Raul Malo, frontman for alt country heroes The Mavericks, gives a solo show in May, and will show off his love of soul, Latin, blues and the American Songbook. The powerful pipes of former Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan will be on display in early June, followed in July by the gospel folk anthems of the Grammy-nominated Ruthie Foster, a singer-songwriter of astounding empathy and intelligence with a dynamic voice that could move mountains.
The Campaign–Your Gift Matters

Rockport Music’s In Concert with You campaign is still making progress towards the ambitious goal of $12 million—with nearly $10,850,000* towards our goal (90%) raised to date.

The In Concert with You campaign will provide much-needed funding enabling us to bring more great music to you, our patrons; expand learning opportunities for children and adults; support the organizational leadership guiding us into our next phase of growth; as well as the ongoing maintenance of our stunning building through the Shalin Liu Performance Center Preservation Fund. Also added to our campaign initiative is the Shalin Liu Performance Center Building Preservation Endowment, generously established by our dear friend Shalin Liu.

Thank you to all who have already given or pledged to the campaign. This campaign is for all of us, no gift is too small, or too great, and we look forward to speaking with you in the coming months about how you can join in.

For more information, please visit the campaign website at InConcertWithYou.org or contact Susan Coffin, our Director of Development, at scoffin@rockportmusic.org or 978.546.7391 x113.

Stephen Bell & Garth Greimann, Campaign Co-Chairs

Why give to Rockport Music?

That may best be explained by some of our donors.

“The Shalin Liu Performance Center is a gem… it must be preserved!”

“Our children and their children should have the opportunity that we have...to experience the joy in attending concerts and sharing musical experiences with friends.”

“The Shalin Liu Performance Center is not only a superb concert hall, but a gathering place for friends and newcomers to the North Shore. It builds community.”
Eastern Europe – a place of mystery, unfamiliar food, and Roma (gypsy) music. Every other year musicians from Rockport High School travel abroad for music making and as tourists, and this year they went to Austria and the Czech Republic, playing concerts and experiencing the sights and sounds of the region.

To help prepare the students for their trip, Rockport Music engaged musicians for two residencies to help familiarize the students with the music of those countries and with an unusual instrument that they will certainly hear on their trip, possibly being played as a “street instrument.”

In October of 2017, the Bohemian Quartet, a string quartet, gave interactive presentations to students, workshopped Roma music, and welcomed students on stage to participate in playing four pieces on their free Community Concert. The Quartet also gave students cultural and historical information. When students experience Roma music as listeners, it is enlightening. However, the opportunity to play it in a public concert takes their understanding to another level. This is the Bohemian Quartet’s second time to provide a residency in Rockport, and they have been a group that students often ask to have back.

In March, Nick Tolle, one of a handful of cimbalom players in the United States, gave demonstrations to students in Rockport Elementary, Middle, and High schools. This instrument is related to the American hammered dulcimer, and is rarely seen or heard in the U.S. In Eastern Europe every restaurant has their own cimbalom player as well as “gypsy violinist,” and it is often heard performed on the streets there. It is also popular in other European countries, especially Spain. Played with two sticks with padded ends, this large trapezoidal instrument is tuned somewhat randomly in its upper registers, and is extremely difficult to play.

In May, students will experience modern Eastern European music, and again hear the cimbalom, this time with a chamber group as part of a residency by the Ludovico Ensemble.
ABOUT THE ROCKPORT FELLOWS
This year’s Festival will launch the new Rockport Fellows program which brings violinist Danny Koo, pianist Tony Yang and a special Rockport Fellowship Quartet of young artists—violinists Boson Mo and Jennifer Murphy, violist Laila Zakzook, and cellist Julie Hereish. These young artists are competition winners in the early stages of their careers. The experience for them and for the Festival audience members is invaluable and electrifying. Barry elaborates:

I believe there is a responsibility for every established music presenting organization to invest back in the ecosystem of the arts, by nurturing emerging young artists, and by providing established artists with opportunities to create, innovate and explore. The next generation of classical music is built on the foundations we lay today, and Rockport has an opportunity to contribute directly to the vibrancy of today, and the brilliance of tomorrow.

Throughout the Festival, the Fellows will be involved in mainstage concerts as well as bringing music to the community through pop-up concerts, family concerts, and other activities.

Rockport Fellow Danny Koo shares his thoughts:

It’s all about connecting with the community, bringing our love of classical music and embedding it in the community of Rockport, and that’s something I’m really passionate about and excited to do.

LATE NIGHT IN ROCKPORT
A new late-night concert series—Classical Cabaret—will feature a casual, intimate 45-minute performance on the performance center’s third floor. This is an up-close and personal musical experience where the audience is just a few feet from the musicians sitting at café tables with a glass of your favorite beverage.

WATCH OUT FOR RANDOM MUSIC
Be ready, you may be strolling along Halibut Point at sunset to the soft strains of a string quartet, or find a cellist playing Mozart in the corner of your favorite coffee shop.

Do not miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting new era of music at the 37th annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival!
Mary Malone’s roots in Rockport go back for generations. She has fond memories of summers here as a child and almost weekly visits to the town as an adult. When she retired, after years of living in Cambridge and working in financial services, she moved back to her family home in Rockport.

Mary’s first involvement with Rockport Music was as a volunteer for the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, when it was a four-week summer festival performed in the Rockport Art Association. In 2008, she was elected to the Board of Trustees, where, as an officer and committee chair, she became actively involved in a variety of Board initiatives, including planning for the Shalin Liu Performance Center. After three terms, Mary retired in 2017 and was elected a Trustee Emeritus.

She notes, “When I joined the Board, I did not imagine the transformation that was about to unfold for Rockport Music,” as it was to become a year-round presenter of a broad range of extraordinary music in its own home, a world-class performance center overlooking Sandy Bay. She remarks, “Joining with all those who worked tirelessly to make Rockport Music the remarkable success story that it is today could not have been a more rewarding experience.”

Mary attends concerts of many genres—classical, jazz, pop—and enjoys Met Opera HD performances. “It is a real treat to enjoy such exceptional and diverse offerings within five minutes of my home,” says Mary, “and to me, what is special about a Rockport Music performance is the connections and sense of community I experience in the hall—the intimate connection to the performers; the sensory connections, including crystal clear acoustics and ever-changing ocean views; and the warm social connections to a community of music lovers.”

To help future music lovers enjoy the same experience available to her, Mary decided to become a Linden Tree Society member and name Rockport Music as a percentage beneficiary of her IRA. Retirement plan assets can carry a heavy tax burden when passed on to family members and can be complicated enough for heirs to require the help of an advisor. She says, “By designating Rockport Music, a charitable organization, as the beneficiary of a portion of my IRA, I can make a gift that is free from income and estate taxes. At the same time, my will directs other assets, such as appreciated securities, to family and friends, without creating a tax problem for them.”

“Rockport Music never stands still—and I want to make sure that its mission of enriching lives through extraordinary music and educational programs continues to grow and evolve,” Mary says. “I am giving my gift to help support this important mission for future generations, and I’m hoping it will inspire other supporters whose generosity will help to make that possible.”

Mary Malone: “Rockport is part of my heritage. I want to make it a part of my legacy.”

BY KATHY URNER-JONES

For more information, contact Kathy Urner-Jones at 978.546.7391 x132 or kurnerjones@rockportmusic.org.
:: Summer 2018 Calendar ::

**MAY**
- MAY 3: Harpeth Rising
- MAY 9: Education Concert | Ludovico Ensemble
- MAY 10: National Theatre in HD | Macbeth
- MAY 12: Boston Children’s Chorus
- MAY 17: Jesse Colin Young
- MAY 18: Shawn Colvin
- MAY 25: Naturally 7
- MAY 26: Raul Malo

**JUNE**
- JUNE 1: Lee Ritenour
- JUNE 2: Gala | Preservation Hall Jazz Band
- JUNE 7: Rad Trads
- JUNE 8: John Sebastian
- JUNE 9: Ronan Tynan
- JUNE 10: Bolshoi Ballet in HD | Coppélia
- JUNE 11 & 12: Gordon Lightfoot
- JUNE 15: Festival Opening Night
- JUNE 16: Theatre | Kafka & Son
- JUNE 16: Montrose Trio & Barry Shifman
- JUNE 17: Frederic Chiu & Andrés Díaz
- JUNE 21: An Evening of Brahms
- JUNE 21: Classical Cabaret | Carmen & Liszt
- JUNE 22: War and Peace: Attacca Quartet
- JUNE 23: Stephen Prutsman, piano
- JUNE 24: Handel Love Duets
- JUNE 27: Rockport Fellowship Quartet & Tony Yang
- JUNE 28: James Ehnes, violin & Andrew Armstrong, piano
- JUNE 29: Film | Virtuosity–The Cliburn
- JUNE 29: Brentano Quartet & Yekwon Sunwoo, piano
- JUNE 30: Family Concert | Rockport Fellowship Quartet & Tony Yang

**JULY**
- JULY 1: Minsoo Sohn, piano
- JULY 2: Riders in the Sky
- JULY 5: Open Rehearsal | Rolston Quartet & Davóne Tines
- JULY 5: Film | Exit Music
- JULY 6: Rolston Quartet & Davóne Tines, bass-baritone
- JULY 6: Classical Cabaret | Bach & Golijov
- JULY 7: A Far Cry
- JULY 8: The ARC Ensemble & Davóne Tines
- JULY 9: The Subdudes
- JULY 12: Bach Suites with Colin Carr, cello
- JULY 13: Dover Quartet & Barry Shifman, viola
- JULY 14: Family Concert | Dover Quartet
- JULY 14: Igudesman & Joo
- JULY 14: Classical Cabaret | Schumann & Popper
- JULY 15: Emerson Quartet & Colin Carr, cello
- JULY 16: Jim Messina
- JULY 17: Met in HD | Madama Butterfly
- JULY 18: Alexa Tarantino Quartet with Ulysses Owens, Jr.
- JULY 19: Enter the Haggis
- JULY 21: Quebe Sisters
- JULY 22: Dianne Reeves
- JULY 23: Met in HD | Il Trovatore
- JULY 25: Jazz Workshop Faculty Concert
- JULY 26 & 27: Arlo Guthrie
- JULY 28: Brothers Four
- JULY 29: Ruthie Foster
- JULY 30: Met in HD | Eugene Onegin
- JULY 31: Jake Shimabukuro

**AUGUST**
- AUG 3: Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio
- AUG 4: Jazz Fest | Harold López-Nussa
- AUG 5: Pinchas Zukerman Trio
- AUG 6: Met in HD | Turandot
- AUG 9: Jazz Fest | Grace Kelly
- AUG 10: Jazz Fest | Kurt Elling
- AUG 11: Jazz Fest | Monty Alexander Trio
- AUG 12: Jazz Fest | Joe Lovano Quartet
- AUG 15: Della Mae
- AUG 16 & 17: Paula Cole
- AUG 19: Larry Carlton