



News Update

BARRY SHIFFMAN, *artistic director*

CONTACT: Karen Herlitz, Director of Marketing

karen@rockportmusic.org

Phone: 978-546-7391, Ext. 110

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The Rockport Chamber Music Festival continues with Brahms, Handel, and Bach

The Rockport Chamber Music Festival 2018, the first under the direction of Artistic Director Barry Shiffman, continues in its second week with works of Brahms, Handel, and Bach, but the Festival's theme of "r:EVOLUTION" continues with the concert by the Attacca Quartet with Stephen Prutsman and Danny Koo with works of Shostakovich, Arvo Pärt, and Steve Reich's *Different Trains*.

On **Thursday, June 21 at 7:30 pm**, an all-star ensemble led by **pianist Anton Nel** and **Artistic Director Barry Shiffman** will feature **Brahms'** chamber music masterpieces. The program highlights the vocal splendor of American mezzo-soprano **Samantha Hankey**, who was the 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. The concert also features the incomparable **violinist Chee-Yun**, winner of the 1989 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and the 1990 Avery Fisher Career Grant and culminates with **horn virtuoso William Vermeulen** performing Brahms's Horn Trio.

PROGRAM

BRAHMS: Two Songs for mezzo, viola and piano

BRAHMS: Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108

BRAHMS: Horn Trio, Op. 40

TICKETS: \$46, \$40, \$29

On **Thursday, June 21 at 10 pm**, the first Festival **Classical Cabaret** will be held in the intimate setting on the Shalin Liu Performance Center's third floor and features works of Bizet's *Carmen*, jazz piano arrangements, and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody. The performers for the evening include Samantha Hankey, mezzo-soprano, Stephen Prutsman, piano, John McKean, harpsichord, and the Rockport Fellowship Quartet (Jennifer Murphy, violin, Boson Mo, violin, Laila Zakzook, viola, Julie Hereish, cello). The concert brings a casual, intimate setting for a late night in Rockport! Tickets: \$20

PROGRAM

LIGETI: Continuum for Cembalo

BIZET: Selections from *Carmen*

PRUTSMAN (arranger): Three Jazz Classics arranged for Piano Quintet

A Night in Tunisia (Dizzy Gillespie) | Naima (John Coltrane) | Birdland (Joe Zawinul)

LISZT: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C-Sharp Minor, S.244/2

On **Friday, June 22 at 8 pm**, the concert entitled **WAR AND PEACE** brings the **Attacca Quartet, pianist Stephen Prutsman, and violinist Danny Koo** performing works of Shostakovich, Arvo Pärt, and Steve Reich. Each composer in this program brought a new perspective to music in their generation. Steve Reich's *Different Trains* is performed by the great Attacca Quartet, currently Quartet in Residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and is presented with a video by Beatriz Caravaggio that build on a montage of wartime images. Reich's inspiration for the piece was contrasting his own fond memories riding trains as a child juxtaposed with the memories of Holocaust victims riding trains to the camps. Mr. Prutsman and Mr. Koo perform two of Pärt's most famous minimalist works, incredibly popular for the calm in which the music inhabits.

The internationally acclaimed **Attacca Quartet** was formed at the Juilliard School and made its professional debut in 2007 as part of the Artists International Winners Series in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. In this season the Attacca will also present an ongoing series at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan entitled "Based on Beethoven," featuring performances of the complete Beethoven string quartets. The group currently serves as the Ensemble-in-Residence at the School of Music at Texas State University. A champion of contemporary composers, the Attacca Quartet's most recent album included works of Michael Ippolito, which were performed as part of the group's residency at National Sawdust in Brooklyn and the group's next recording will feature works of Caroline Shaw. **Pianist Stephen Prutsman** has been described as one of the most innovative musicians of his time. Stephen has served as Artistic Partner with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as Artistic Director of the Cartagena International Festival of Music, South America's largest festival of its kind, where he programmed concerts with themes ranging from Mozart celebrations to folk and popular music of the Americas to art and dance music fused together. As a composer, Stephen's long collaboration with Grammy Award-winning Kronos Quartet has resulted in over 40 arrangements and compositions for them. **Violinist Danny Koo** has appeared as chamber musician, soloist, and recitalist around the world. An avid and sought after chamber musician, Danny performs with Music Street, Wellesley Chamber Players, Constantia, Chameleon Arts Ensemble and as part of the First Monday at the Jordan Hall series. In December 2017, Danny signed with 'Credia' and will give concerts and lectures all over Korea during the next season; he also recently partnered with double bassist, Minje Sung, to perform as a duo. He received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from New England Conservatory, studying with Donald Weilerstein, Soovin Kim, and Malcolm Lowe, and was the recipient of the Beneficent Society Scholarship and Vernon Scholarship.

PROGRAM

SHOSTAKOVICH: String Quartet No. 3 in F major, Op. 73

ARVO PÄRT: Fratres

STEVE REICH: *Different Trains* (with video, recorded sound and string quartet)

ARVO PÄRT: Spiegel im Spiegel

ABOUT DIFFERENT TRAINS

In 1988 Steve Reich wrote *Different Trains*, an innovative work in three movements for string quartet and pre-recorded tape. This autobiographical piece evokes the train journeys from New York to Los Angeles that the composer made between 1939 and 1942 to visit the homes of his divorced parents. In the second movement, the remembrance of these journeys as a romantic childhood adventure is overlaid by a *contrafactual* scenario exploring the likely fate of a Jew like him in the Europe of the time: the trains would have been one-way vehicles of deportation to the Nazi extermination camps. The final movement refers to the end of the war period and the rapid process of social transformation, as symbolized by the new trains, but also to the survivors' inability to leave behind the doubts, anxieties and memories of the crimes and devastation of the Nazi regime. In 2016, in a work commissioned by the BBVA Foundation, Beatriz Caravaggio has revisited Steve Reich's ideas, giving the score a visual life. Her cinematographic recomposition builds on a montage of archive images of the wartime period. The film transports us from a bucolic setting of idyllic landscapes and magnificent trains to the survivors' journey to America, by way of a central movement that conjures up the darkest chapters of the conflict. In this passage, the author juxtaposes archive images of deportations, death camps and the liberation. The film is characterized by the division of the screen into three parts, bringing out a rich range of meanings; a slightly out-of-synch triptych that achieves a temporal fragmentation while producing a cohesive *collage* of dynamics and transitions. The video artwork has been synchronized with the Kronos Quartet's canonical 1989 performance of *Different Trains*. A Pre-concert talk will be held for ticketholders at 7 pm. TICKETS: \$42, \$36

On **Saturday, June 23 at 8 pm**, pianist **Stephen Prutsman** presents his **Bach and Forth** program. Described as one of the most innovative musicians of his time, Prutsman moves easily from classical to jazz to world music styles. His Bach and Forth program is a global survey of classical, jazz and world music from the 1500s to present day interspersed with selections from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier Book II as well as works from Beethoven, Wagner, Debussy, Schoenberg, Charlie Parker, as well as Rwandan traditional songs, and much more.

On **Sunday, June 24 at 5 pm**, Grammy Award winning soprano **Suzie LeBlanc** and internationally acclaimed countertenor **Daniel Taylor** perform Love Duets of Handel. Taylor is well-known for his performances in the title role in Gluck's *Orfeo*

at the Edingburgh Festival as well as performing the world premiere of Robert Lepage's production of Ades's *The Tempest*. The program comes from their critically acclaimed CD *Handel: Love Duets*. The chamber ensemble is led by violinist Adrian Butterfield and will include violinist Barry Shiffman, harpsichordist John McKean, the Attacca Quartet, and the Rockport Fellowship Quartet (violinists Jennifer Murphy and Boson Mo, violist Laila Zakzook, cellist Julie Hereish). **Suzie LeBlanc** recordings have received prestigious awards, most notably a Grammy award for Lully's *Thésée*, two Opus awards, and ECMA's Best Classical Album in 2014 for her album "I am in need of music" on poems by Elizabeth Bishop. Suzie teaches at McGill University and is the founder and co-artistic director of Le Nouvel Opéra. This fall, Le Nouvel Opéra will present and record "Nicandro e Fileno", an opera by Paolo Lorenzani in collaboration with Les Boréades de Montréal. Appointed to the Order of Canada in 2015, she has earned four honorary doctorates and a career grant from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ). Recognized as "Canada's star countertenor", **Daniel Taylor** has received invitations from the world's preeminent early and contemporary music ensembles. An exclusive recording artist for Sony Classical Masterworks, Taylor's discography of more than 100 recordings includes the 2017 Juno Award nominated *Four Thousand Winter* with the Trinity Choir, and its companion release *The Tree of Life*. Mr. Taylor is Head of Early Music and Professor of Voice at the University of Toronto, and is Artistic Director and Conductor of the Choir and Orchestra of the Theatre of Early Music, which he founded in 2002. TICKETS: \$59, \$55, \$45

PROGRAM

PURCELL: *Abdelazer Suite* (14')

CPE BACH: *Symphony in C major for strings Wq.182 No.3 H.659* (13')

VIVALDI: *Concerto for 4 Violins Op.3 No.10 in B minor RV580* (11')

HANDEL

Rinaldo: Overture and "Scherzando sul tuo volto"

Tolomeo: "Se il cor ti perde" and Trio Sonata Op. 5 No. 4 HWV399

Solomon: "Welcome as the dawn of day"

Theodora: "Angels ever bright and fair" and "To thee"

Cesare: "Domero la tua fierezza" and "Caro bella"

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.