

Rockport Chamber Music Festival—The Early Years, 1982–1995

Seasons' Performers and Media Organized by Year (Revised 7.29.11)

Taken together, these materials, when augmented by the tapes of actual concerts, will constitute a substantial if not complete picture of the early years of the Festival. Additional materials would include: broadcast tapes from WBUR, WBGH, and National Public Radio; performance tapes made by Peter Storkerson, Tom Stephenson, and Bruce Humphrey; videos footage shot by both Ed Tuck and the Lowells; minutes of board meetings; copies of grant applications; seasonal press releases; and copies of fund raising letters. I list these sources not because they are available or necessary but simply to be comprehensive in summarizing potential sources of information. Of course, oral interviews with principals and musicians would enhance the record.

This is a working summary. Emendations will be made from time to time as additional media items are discovered. This summary, compiled from the files of Lila Deis, one of the festival's founders, by her husband Karl Lauby, includes print and electronic media, ever elusive to track. There were likely more media mentions than the approximately 100 items below, especially calendar listings. This summary includes most, but NOT all, of the major press. I have inserted some comments in parentheses intended to clarify, explain, or amplify. The excerpted selections are just that. The clips are attached when available.

Lila—and the quality of the music, performances, venue, format, and programming—generated most of the press in the early years and throughout her time with the festival. For a couple of seasons in the mid-80s, Lila's publicity efforts were augmented by those of Karen Carbone, a Rockport-based publicist and employee of the Rockport Art Association. Lila retained Sheila Porter, the classical music publicist, to generate publicity for the 10th anniversary. Others contributing to the media effort included David, Paul, all those quoted, and of course, the fine musicians. Like all things "Lilaesque," this was a team effort.

There is some remarkable media here locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, as is fitting for a glorious and successful musical moment. As mentioned, this summary misses some clips and some people's efforts. I take responsibility for any omissions and thank David for reviewing this document.

Karl Lauby

1982 – 6 items

Concert dates: June 3-6 and 10-13

Groups: Week 1– Annapolis Brass Quintet and American String Quartet

Week 2– New York Bach Ensemble and An die Musik

5.27.82 The Boston Globe Critic's Tip by Richard Dyer

Photo caption: "...newest of New England's summer music festivals, RCMF...solo appearance followed by two joint concerts. The concept is intriguing, the performers expert, the city beautiful...worth investigating." @ 130 words as photo caption with An die Musik

(KLF notes: The genesis of the format is crystal clear in David's mind as related at dinner on July 19, 2011: Lila came up with the two groups collaborating each week on pieces they would not normally have the musical forces to play. David added that before they collaborate, each group demonstrating its own identity for the audience with works they present in concert without collaboration. During the collaborative concerts, the audience can see the difference. Hence, the Thursday/Friday one-ensemble concerts and the Saturday/Sunday collaborative concerts.)

5.29.82 Gloucester Daily Times Announcement by Kevin Sullivan

Headline: Chamber music festival next week

(KFL notes: Thirty years later, it is amazing to read this article and the quotes from Paul, David, and Lila that so accurately look decades ahead.) "RCMF directors hope to make it a center for internationally-known musicians as well...festival will bring four highly acclaimed chamber music groups to town...will become an annual event...Saturday and Sunday performances will be more experimental...Alpher said chamber music is vital, innovative, imaginative, and exciting... 'diversity both for the performers and the audiences' said Deis... 'we are trying to bring people into Rockport...from all over New England' Alpher said... 'we are lucky to get people who are as renowned...a chamber music festival of national significance...importance reaches beyond Cape Ann' said Sylva..." @ 200 words plus photo of An die Musik

6.5.82 Gloucester Daily Times Photo caption

Photo caption of New York Bach Ensemble with a listing of week-two groups, composers, dates, and times @ 60 words

6.7.82 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk

Headline: Chamber music on Cape Ann as never before

"...concerts by ABT and ASQ represent the high-water mark of chamber music on Cape Ann...the evening as one of intense music-making." RAA... "a wonderful setting for chamber concerts." @ 500 words

6.11.82 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Chamber music satisfies
"Occasionally, there are concerts where everything is just perfect. Those who attended last night's presentation of chamber music by...An die Musik...heard one."
@ 500 words with photo of David Alpher and Daniel Rothmuller in rehearsal.

7.21.82 Salem News Review by Nelson Benton
Headline: Music fest is off to great start.
Reviewed concerts at RCMF and at Marblehead Summer Music Festival.
Benton was critical of RCMF, writing that Marblehead with the intimate surroundings of the quaint church were preferable to the "cavernous" RAA. Benton praised Lila's "beautiful soprano voice" and wrote that the ABQ and ASQ "...suffered from not having enough time to play together." "...two chamber music festivals provide a refreshing alternative (to the theatre dominated performing arts scene) ...for those interested in an evening of entertainment and enlightenment." @ 750 words. (KFL notes, as of 7.14.11, there appears to be no web site for Marblehead Summer Music Festival. There is a Marblehead Festival of Arts (founded in 1962 per its web site) but it does not list chamber music among its extensive offerings. Also, a music festival in Lowell similarly offers no chamber music. Apparently the Marblehead Summer Music Festival folded in the 80s or 90s.)

1983 – 9 items

Concert dates: June 2-5 and 9-12

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and New England Woodwind Quintet
Week 2 – New York Bach Ensemble and An die Musik

Spring 83 Essex Life Feature by Lisa Hammel
Title: Let There Be Music
This feature tells the story (KFL notes: very accurately) of the founding of the festival, the people who put it together, and the first season's goings on. It is not a music review and concludes with a mention of the upcoming 2nd season. (KFL notes: Lisa Hammel was a Rockport summer resident and a free-lance writer appearing in the NYT among other outlets. As of July 2011, she appears to be listed in the Manhattan phone book.) @ 5,000 words with 5 photos by David Watts and Jeanne Deis

6.2.83 North Shore Weekender Feature by Andrea Atkins
Headline: Chamber Music Festival opens 2nd season tonight
"Who'd have thought this community by the sea would be the perfect spot for a Chamber Music Festival? Two musicians from New York, that's who..."
(KFL notes: Andrea proceeds to tell the story of the founding very accurately with all the characters and sequence of events.) Andrea tells of Lila's emotional reaction at the end of the first week's concert, chronicles the gist of the collaborative organization, and announces the year's program. @ 500 words with photo of Manhattan String Quartet

6.3.83 Lawrence Eagle-Tribune Feature by Earl Miller

Headline: "Cape Ann gets its music festival"

Miller recounts how "40 years ago" (KFL: that would have been 1943) the Gloucester city fathers spurned chamber music players from NYC who gathered around Gloucester in summer to play chamber music and who suggested starting a chamber music festival. The city fathers view as recounted by Miller was that the conservative fishing village of Gloucester didn't want these "artsy folk" from New York around. Hence, the musicians went to Marlborough. (sic) (KFL notes: Marlboro was indeed founded in 1951 by Rudolf Serkin, the Cape Ann town he had an interest in was likely Rockport, and there may have been other reasons for the chilly reception he and musician colleagues received.)

Miller announces the season and mentions: "One of the special features is the combining of ensembles...to perform larger chamber works not often heard in concert today." The article features Linda Comparone, flutist, with her Methuen, Boston University, and Westwood background. @ 500 words with photo of New York Bach Ensemble

6.3.83 Gloucester Daily Times Listing of 2nd season

Headline: Chamber Music festival

Focuses of David's new piece written for an unusual combination of instruments (trio for flute, violin, and French horn), other Alpher pieces and grants they received, and the collaborative nature of the concerts that make for a "unique opportunity." @ 250 words

6.6.83 Gloucester Daily Times Floater photo w/caption

Photo of the opening night concert of Manhattan String Quartet

6.6.83 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Steve Hatch

Headline: Chamber music an exceptional treat

"...RCMF pulls off a *tour de force* in only its second season." Quotes Paul and David re the setting. Concludes: "That's the atmosphere, and it cannot be matched. The music likewise is unmatched...because it then melded them in works that rarely are heard in performance." Hatch proceeded to review each of the four concerts. Manhattan's Schubert quartet: "...wonderfully emotive ebb and flow." New England's Poulenc sextet: "...lively and moving with moments of melancholy." Ian Greitzer, clarinet, playing Brahms' *Quintet for Clarinet and Strings*: "...his finest performance, strong, clear tones, delicate pianissimos, clean fingerings in a lovely piece." Alpher's premiere: "...a joyously uptrending march...festive..." Lila Deis "...the fine soprano worked with both ensembles in a delightful performance of ...lbert...closed the piece with a wonderful moaning note." In Schubert's *Auf dem Strom*: (Deis) "...was solid but not overwhelming. Pamela Paikin was superb on horn." @ 500 words

6.7.83 The Boston Globe Calendar Choice
Listing of season and evening's concert. "...two of the country's most accomplished chamber ensembles.." Times and ticketing information @ 100 words

6.7.83 The Boston Globe Review by Michael Kimmelman
Reviewed the Saturday evening concert. "...spirited and practiced ensemble playing produced fine and sometimes outstanding performances..." and many favorable comments on both groups' playing. (KLF adds: Michael is himself a fine pianist and chamber musician who was is the chief art critic at *The New York Times* and is the Times' roving art critic in Europe based in Berlin as of 2011.)

6.9.83 Christian Science Monitor Season listing
Headline: "...music by the sea." "...one of those modest events that reward summer travelers...a harbinger of profuse music festival to come...RCMF holds alluring promise." @ 200 words

6.13.83 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Steven Hatch
Headline: Chamber music festival ends in splendid form
"RCMF suffered from success and soaring temperatures, bugs and bells..."
In short, a rave review: "...a large influx of out-of-town music lovers...unbelievably moving Tschaikovsky's *Sextet in D Minor*...brilliant violin of Eliot Chapo who entranced audiences throughout the festival's second four-performance week...sextet so well done...fantastic piano duet, three Slavonic dances by Dvorak performed by David Alpher and Constance Emmerich...Emmerich is staggering technically...combined with the interpretive finesse of Alpher...the introduction of Chapo and Gerard Reuter, a supremely talented oboist, was a delight...Rachmaninoff's *Sing Not the Songs of Georgia*...(performed by) "...an outstanding ensemble...Smetana's *Trio in G Minor*...all three in turn gave great justice to solos, ranging from purposeful power to sweet melody...Nothing stood in the way of musical excellence throughout the two-week festival..." @ 450 words

1984 – 6 items plus WBUR

Concert dates: May 31-June 3 and June 7-10

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and Annapolis Brass Quintet

Week 2 – New York Bach Ensemble and An die Musik

5.31-6.10 WBUR Radio Taping and Broadcast
Beginning in 1984, WBUR taped nearly all concerts for several years and broadcast selections that editors chose and that performing musicians approved. This arrangement continued for many years. Peter Storkerson was the first on-site recording engineer. Then Bruce Humphrey and Tom Stephenson were the engineers. (KFL notes: Lila has most of the concerts on cassette tapes. As of 7.18.11, KFL has not consulted the WBUR archives regarding what they might have, if anything. In counting media exposure, I did not tally the multiple broadcasts from this ongoing taping arrangement but they were numerous over many years.)

5.30.84 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Chamber Music Festival debuts
Announced the opening of the season, with a view formed by Fisk's attending prior years' concerts, and including the season schedule. "...programming and reputation promise a great deal...probably see a full house nearly every concert...audiences from as far away as Minnesota, Nebraska, and Texas...highlights this year: conversation with the first composer-in-residence, Jerzy Sapiyevski and performance of *Four Movements for Five Brass* by Rockport's Collier Jones..." Cited collaborative organization. "...first two years...the highest level of chamber music performance on Cape Ann...essential combination of understanding and technique...qualities present almost constantly—an achievement many other chamber music festivals could envy." "Equally notable has been this festival's choice of music. While the mainstream of chamber music programming has opted for extremes of one kind or another, we have been treated to a wonderful variety of new and old, familiar and unknown, for as long as the festival has existed..." @ 500 words

6.1.84 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Quartet plays magnificently
In short, this is a rave review of the Manhattan. "...a chamber group that knows exactly what it is doing...an exceptional example...play together magnificently...always hear about but seldom hear...Manhattan's performance excelled in all regards...David Alpher's excellent program notes...a marvelous opening to what promises to be a fine series of concerts." @650 words

6.3.84 The New York Times Travel feature by John Deedy
Headline: Tradition by the Sea. This is a Cape Ann travel piece containing one paragraph of 50 words on RCMF with basic listing information. @2000 words with 5 photos and a sidebar, all featuring Cape Ann

6.4.84 The Boston Globe Review by Derrick Henry
Headline: Rockport chamber festival draws a loyal following
"...packed house, the series has attracted a loyal and enthusiastic following...Sapiyevski's nine-minute setting for soprano and string quartet of Anne Spencer Lindbergh's poems...proved entertaining, humorous...Lila Deis handled the RCMF - The Early Years, Media Summary

virtuosic solo part with aplomb and exemplary diction...Brahms...four-square, rather vehement...Schumann's *Maerchenbilder*...strong, sensitive realization by Dexter and Alpher..." @ 300 words

6.6.84 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Chamber music festival provides interesting mix

The first six paragraphs explain and commend the collaborative arrangement. The entire review was expository rather than critical. Arthur Brooks, the hornist in Mozart's *Quintet in E Flat* was highly praised; "...one of the finest (and youngest) horn players in the country...prodigious technique...superb musical sensibilities." @ 1500 words

6.11.84 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Bach Ensemble thoroughly enjoyable
"...second half of the RCMF opened with a thoroughly enjoyable (and varied) concert...Schumann songs...short masterpieces saw pianist David Alpher and soprano at their very best...Deis has a stage presence that is a joy to experience: confident, at ease, dramatic but subtly so, and never stiff and stagy...Martinu's *Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano*...crisp, high-voltage playing that illuminated the beauty...Beethoven's *Trio* Opus 1 No. 1...O'Sullivan's cello playing was especially effective..." @ 750 words

1985 - 6 items

Concert dates: June 6-9, June 13-16, and June 20-23

Groups: Week 1 – An die Musik and Jubal Trio

Week 2 – Deis, Alpher & Poy and Trio Del'Arte

Week 3 – Empire Trio and Portland String Quartet

6.10.85 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Tom Hogan
Headline: Variety spices opening of Chamber Festival
This review combined all four opening week concerts. (KFL notes: Clearly Sy Fisk was no longer on the beat.) Nice words but no in depth exposition or criticism and modest frequency and space during the Festival's run. @ 350 words with photo of Lila and Constance Beavon

6.10.85 The Boston Globe Review by Arthur Hepner
Headline: Rockport Chamber Festival provide a feast
"...success induced" extension "to 3 weeks...high performance standards amid pleasing surroundings...*Jig Is Up*...well-played...Rossini and Donizetti duets...Deis and Beavon, endowed with rich, colorful voices, performed with wonderful agility and excellent insights...capacity audience loved every bit of it." @ 400 words

6.13.85 The Boston Globe Feature by Richard Dyer
Headline: Rockport Series Comes a Long Way
Dyers recounts the founding, the Linden Tree Inn chapter (almost accurately), identifies the main founding players, interviews David and Lila, spells out the collaborative format, recounts the varied tasks of David and Lila, and mentions the opening week's program. @ 450 words

6.17.85 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Tom Hogan

Headline: Alpher variations are no baloney

" *Antoniobaloneyo* is the improbable name of David Alpher's new piece...world premiere...It works. So does the music...Alpher's thoughtful and sensitive keyboard technique...lieder recital by soprano Lila Deis...Deis sang with great warmth and passion, and a sweet richness of tone that suits these Romantic songs...equally good voice last night in Schubert...all Schubert program...sparkling performance of the rarely heard four-handed *F Minor Fantasy* played by Grace McFarlane and Alpher...spirited reading of the Trout...drew a standing ovation." @ 350 words

6.26.85 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Tom Hogan

Headline: Chamber festival ends on lively note

After a cute opening, Hogan reviews the last week of concerts. "Each piece on the program brought some new surprise and delight...Empire Trio...with bright witty melodies...Jenner coaxed incredibly rich silky-smooth tones from her violin...Posner's playing...warm and bright...Martinu featuring the agile clear tones of Charles Neidich on clarinet...weekend programs with combined forces were just as full...Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*...deft and buoyantly 'weightless'...Schumann...deeply sonorous and dramatic...Haydn...sprightly and deft piano of Alpher with Jenner and Ross...darker Chopin...wistfully Romantic *Shepherd on the Rock* sweetly sung by Deis with Neidich and Posner...most rousing was Brahms *G Major String Quintet*...bright sweetness of violins...rich dark harmonies in violas...mellow smoothness of tone in Ross's cello...played with great verve...dramatic *Vivace* seemed a fitting end for what has been a lively festival at Rockport this year..." @ 350 words

8.24.85 Gloucester Daily Times Feature by Kevin Sullivan

Headline: Composer tuned in to Townies

This is a feature on David as a composer and town resident mentioning both his compositions and the festival at some length. Relates the Nelson Goodman/*Las Meninas* story. Quotes David extensively with some quotes from Paul. @ 1500 words with 2 photos of David

1986 - 6 items

Concert dates: June 5-8, June 12-15, and June 19-22

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and Emmanuel Wind Quintet

Week 2 – Trio dell' Arte and Apple Hill Chamber Players

Week 3 – An die Musik and Neidich, Deis, and Ivanina

June 86 New England Getaways Season announcement

Headline: Rockport Chamber Music Festival

Article recounts founding, founders, and format, mentions Rockport as an artist colony, describes the Festival as being "an immediately successful music event," mentions that WBUR began taping and broadcasting concerts across four states in 1984, and lists the coming year's performances. @ 400 words

6.12.86 North Shore magazine Review by Susan Bulba
Headline: Varied, daring works key festival's success
Review of the first week's four concerts. First three graphs celebrate the venue. Next, praises the founders' achievements. The music review: "...Mozart *Quartet in D*...flawless, but too conventional...followed by excitement of a new piece by Lennon... Friday...Emmanuel...charismatic...held the house in its grasp...Mozart's *Quintet in E flat*...powerful musical personality of David Alpher at the piano...his brilliant touch...Harbison's quintet...thanks to the festival for bringing this wonderful piece before a new public...Saturday's standing-room only...John Dexter's viola nearly wept as he played Shostakovich's *Sonata for Viola and Piano*."
Balance of the review praises David's program notes, repertoire, and the whole experience. @ 750 words and a photo

6.24.86 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Susan Bulba
Headline: A perfect blend of art and music
Review of second and third weeks' concerts. First half of review concentrates on *Las Meninas*, relating the story of David's writing the piece, describing its format and presentation, and praises the work for its elucidation of the paintings and relating the nexus between art and music. Balance of review calls out excellence of individual performers: Hartshorne, Neidich, Ivanina, Deis, Rothmuller, and praises Deis, Alpher and the festival for excellence and originality, choice of repertoire, and exploring painting and music. @ 750 words with photo of Manhattan in performance

6.24.86 The Boston Globe Review by Nancy Miller
Headline: Rockport chamber fest at its best
"Behind its bubbly title, this turned out to be one of the most satisfying concerts of chamber music in some time. It had all the right ingredients...superb, committed and highly musical performances and a setting that...seemed hard to beat...tribute to Scandinavia, with thoughtfully arranged music...Clarinetist Charles Neidich and pianist Elena Ivanina, both unusually sensitive artists, invested the four movements with wit, elegance and an array of marvelously subtle colors...the set of songs presented by Lila Deis proved equally impressive...both ravishingly beautiful...Brahms *Clarinet Trio*...Neidich's shimmering exposition...galvanized the ensemble that inspired musical discussion – alive, spontaneous, yet buoyed by absolute unity of intent – to which all in the packed house were privileged to hear."
@ 500 words

June likely Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Review (can't locate article)
Headline: Not known
(KFL notes: This review was laudatory and contained the quote: "Superb chamber music festival in a spectacular seaside setting..." Lila used the quote in her design of the season flyer for 1987. Unfortunately, I am not able to locate the article or find it on the paper's Web site.)

The Strad

Review (reviewer not named)

Headline: none (British)

“...I was able to attend only one of these on June 21. If programs next June equal this year’s in diversity and imagination, I will be in residence at Rockport and share my impressions the The Strad’s readers...Mozart *Trio in E flat Major*, K498...Neidich, a superb clarinetist, in a performance praiseworthy for its excellence of ensemble...*Las Meninas*...Alpher’s harmonic language is euphonious without being complex...Debussy’s *Sonata for Cello and Piano*...Rothmuller, a masterful instrumentalist...collaborated superbly with Ivanina, a fine pianist.” @ 500 words

1987 - 16 items

Concert dates: June 4-9, June 13-16, June 20-23, and June 27-30

Groups: Week 1 – Annapolis Brass Quintet and Bach Chamber Soloists

Week 2 – Neidich, Riva, Deis and Ravel String Quartet

Week 3 – The Jubal Trio and Trio dell Arte

Week 4 – An die Musik and Manhattan String Quartet

5.31.87 The Call, Woonsocket, R.I.

Travel feature by Linda Beaulieu

Headline: Fine arts flourish in this spectacular seaside setting

Chamber music and RCMF are the lead section of 11 paragraphs in this travel feature describing the appeal, attractions, and events of Cape Ann. RCMF section @ 450 words

5.31.87 The Boston Sunday Globe

Marquee by Margo Miller

This roundup of cultural goings on in the region has a paragraph on David Alpher's commissions that mentions RCMF.

6.1.87 Gloucester Daily Times

Season announcement, no by-line

Headline: Chamber Music Festival returns

Announced expansion to four weeks, the entire season, and the first student intern, Steve Anzivino, from Lowell University. @ 750 words plus photo of John Dexter warming up backstage

6.3.87 Gloucester Daily Times

Feature on food by Pam Mansfield

Headline: Chamber music and food, a perfect blend

Piece features festival food and intermission treats, interviews Beverly Williams and Lila, mentions many of the main players and long-standing food specialties.

Recounts the “Murray deLila” story. Sidebar lists seven recipes. @ 1200 words plus photo of Bev Williams and Lila cooking in the Sylva kitchen

6.4.87 Middlesex News

Announcement of season

Headline: Rockport Chamber Music Festival

Season announcement contained in larger events piece. @ 150 words

- 6.4.87 Lawrence Eagle-Tribune Announcement of season
 Headline: Rockport festival begins this weekend
 Announces expansion to four weeks, recounts funding, lists program. @ 400 words
 plus photo of Annapolis Brass Quintet
- 6.4.87 North Shore magazine Preview by Manon McKinnon
 Headline: Chamber Music Fest begins tonight at the RAA
 Announces musicians and some repertoire plus photos of two collaborative
 ensembles in performance.
- 6.7.87 The Boston Globe Travel feature by Christina Tree
 Headline: Music, art meld in Rockport
 RCMF takes the lead in this travel/Rockport-as-destination feature. David and many
 townspeople are interviewed, many aspects of Rockport are covered with RCMF
 opening its sixth season is the hook. @ 3000 words with 3 photos including An die
 Musik in performance
- 6.10.87 Gloucester Daily Times Photo caption
 Headline: Music Festival continues
 Listing and photo of Ravel String Quartet. @ 50 words
- 6.11.87 North Shore magazine Review by Susan Bulba
 Headline: Rockport Chamber Music Festival off to a great start
 A review of the first week's concerts: "...an impressive background in baroque and
 in brass literature...fascinating to see players operate in varied musical
 situations...Adriana Contino...transition from viola da gamba to cello...sprightly and
 lively...Heinrich Biber's *Sonata No. 10 for piano and harpsichord*...Lieberman took...a
 glorified exercise and made it into music...Poulenc's *Sonata for Flute and
 Piano*...made more wonderful by Alpher's wonderful piano...if not the master of
 Krueger's lovely flute...a real partnership...Scarlatti's *Canata Su je Sponde del
 Tibro*...Lila Deis can be depended upon for a brilliant soprano sound, bright
 expressiveness, and a stunning appearance...Brahms *Trio in E flat Major*...Arthur
 Brooks' horn oozed in and out of David Alpher's piano...with pathos and triumph...a
 grandly moving, sensitively performed finale." @ 700 words
- 6.11.87 Gloucester Daily Times Photo caption
 Headline: Artists may sketch musicians participating in music festival
 Photo caption mentions beginning of second week of festival, lists the artists, invites
 artists to sketch musicians at rehearsals, and gives contact information for rehearsal
 schedule. @ 100 words and photo of a watercolor of a string quartet

- 6.13.87 Gloucester Daily Times Photo essay
 Headline: Beeman students enjoy music, opera
 Under the heading "School news," a photo essay reports on RCMF's performances in the schools by Lila Deis and Douglas Riva presenting *Madama Butterfly* and the Annapolis Brass explaining how their instruments worked and playing them with garden hoses. @ 200 words plus photo of Douglas Riva and children
- 6.14.87 The Boston Globe Review by Arthur Hepner
 Headline: Eclectic evening at Rockport Festival
 "...sixth season...increased to four weeks...the eclecticism that has characterized these concerts from the beginning has attracted a steadily growing audience, and the gamble my turn out to be a sound one...(replacing) a brace of five songs by Dominick Argento...Deis ...wryly and craftily tossed off six brief songs of Charles Ives with skillful piano accompaniments from Douglas Riva...Deis is such a clever stylist...that one would scarcely suspect she was experiencing throat difficulties. (KLF notes: Lila had asthma then, often exacerbated by high pollen counts in June in Rockport.)...in place of the Argento, Neidich performed a movement from Messiaen's "abyss of the Birds...Neidich dispatched the gradual evolutions from whisper to wild outburst with controlled tension and breathtaking suspense...playing was dramatic and flawless...Riva...Neidich...Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*...received a sprightly treatment..." @ 400 words
- 6.19.87 Gloucester Daily Times Photo caption; listing
 Headline: Practice makes perfect
 Photo of Susan Jolles of the Jubal Trio rehearsing for the evening's concert. Listed dates and times. Calendar listing appeared separately. @ 50 words plus photo of harpist Susan Jolles
- 6.30.87 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Susan Bulba
 Headline: A zestful mix of music, art
 A review of the last week of concerts. (KFL comments: Susan Bulba begins the review by asserting that "When David and Lila decided to locate RCMF at the RAA six years ago they were, in effect, committing the festival to explore the relationship between music and art." KFL continues: I do not recall any such discussion let alone "commitment." RAA was chosen because it was an excellent venue, available, free and both the space and the RAA leadership were welcoming. Any art/music relationship was purely coincidental, useful and valid as it turned out to be.) The review: "...*The Painter's Music; the musician's Art* ...SRO...no one went away disappointed...An Die Musik...verve and freshness...Saturday's concert utilized the Festival's special method of cross pollination for musical fertility, combining the members of An Die Musik and Manhattan String Quartet...Brahms *Sextet in B Flat Minor*...Roland Greuter was positively brilliant...Rothmuller's instrument oozes confidence and rich tone...the intensity of six superb string players all pouring their hearts into this masterful work was overwhelming...This was an extremely successful weekend, both in programming, attendance and performance....perhaps a bit more conservative musically than...earlier weekends, but the success was due to

the performers and the programming juxtaposition, not to musical caution...the challenge...let us hear some of the great classics of chamber music performed by the best in the business." @ 1800 words plus photo of David playing the piano

10.4.87 The New York Times Feature by Lisa Hammel

Headline: Cape Ann, Where Corner Are Vistas

Travel feature includes one paragraph on RCMF. @ 100 words

1988 – 14 items

Concert dates: June 2-5, June 9-12, June 16-19, and June 23-26

Groups: Week 1 – Cantabile Trio and Scarborough Chamber Players

Week 2 – Meliora String Quartet and Leiberman & Kroll

Week 3 – New Jersey Chamber Music Society and Neidich, Deis, and O'Riley

Week 4 – Manhattan String Quartet and An die Musik

(KFL notes: Christopher O'Riley, the pianist, cancelled for Week 3 shortly before the festival was to open. Lila and David scrambled to find a replacement pianist. They found one, who shall remain nameless, who looked great on paper, sent impressive if old reviews—"Lion of the keyboard"—and good tapes, and sounded confident. In fact, he could not play the music, as rehearsals soon revealed. At that point, Tuesday with a Thursday opening, Lila and David really punted to rearrange talent and programs. Few in the audience noticed.)

5.23.88 Gloucester Daily Times Season announcement, no by-line

Headline: The Rockport Chamber Music Festival geared for 7th season

"...The critically acclaimed Festival will present 16 concerts over four weeks..." and proceeds to list performers, dates, some repertoire and a generous smattering of review quotes from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Boston Globe*, and *The Strad*, London. @ 500 words

5.26.88 North Shore magazine Season announcement, no by-line

Headline: Rockport Music Festival

Listing of all concerts, date by date, with ticket details and a photo. @ 400 words with photo of Scarborough Chamber Players

5.29.88 The Boston Globe Advertisement

An ad, one column x 4 inches, for the RCMF season

June 88 Boston magazine Season announced by Teri Keough

Headline: Music by the Sea

"...Rockport is gaining a reputation for its annual music festival." Mentions founders, format making possible wide-ranging repertoire, "...many of them rarely performed..." and the season's offerings. @ 500 words plus Motif No. 1 photo

5.26.88 what's up? Cover story by Susan Hershey

Headline: RCMF offers unique musical treat

This travel story, with RCMF as its main focus, relates Rockport's being an artist colony, tells of the festival's founding and history, quotes David and Lila, provides background information on them, explains the festival's format, relates the connection between the festival and the town, and lists the season's concerts and Rockport inns. @ 1200 words and 4 photos, 3 by Jeanne Deis; cover shot is of Nardo Poy playing his viola against a backdrop of Motif No. 1

6.2.88 Gloucester Daily Times Opening concert listing

Headline: Art Association hosts 7th music festival

Under the papers “Art Goings on” column, the piece reads: “...With the backdrop of the First Summer Show...two musical ensembles in the acoustically perfect (and newly refurbished) Hibbard Gallery...” The evening’s program follows. (KFL notes: As RCMF grew and drew more and more out-of-towners to RAA, Ann Fisk, RAA director, made some changes in the RAA summer shows to have juried shows up during the concerts and to have a change-of-show at the mid-point in the festival.)
@ 150 words

6.2.88 Gloucester Daily Times Feature by Ralph Ranalli

Headline: Gala kicks off chamber festival

Subhead: Musicians given a chance to experiment

A pre-opening night, behind-the-scenes feature that includes: musicians reunited at RCMF for the first time since Juilliard...musician reunions being part of the founders' philosophy behind the concerts...the founders' intent to make the festival unique in format and interesting for the musicians...'The fun part is playing,' Lee said. 'Here, all the business is taken care of and all we do is eat, play, and perform.' @ 700 words plus two photos, one of Roberta Cooper and Marian Hahn in rehearsal and a candid of Lila and David

6.16.88 Lawrence Eagle-Tribune Review by Priscilla C. Deck

Headline: Chamber festival is magic; Continues for two weeks

“...Meliora continued the festival’s tradition of musical excellence...demanding program...Haydn *Quartet in C*...perfect accord among the players...music was full of life, energy and sparkle...Barok *Quartet #6*...haunting sadness...by an exquisite viola solo by Maria Lambros...Meliora did what one finds so often at RCMF: an evening of musical perfection from which the audience emerges not only moved but also enlightened...” @ 700 words plus photo of Meliora String Quartet

6.4.88 The Boston Globe Review by Anthony Tommasini

Headline: Rockport Chamber Music Fest off and running

“...goal of the festival...per Deis and Alpher...to present musicians from ensembles of high artistic quality and encourage them to share concerts, to program unusual pieces...and join forces and perform together. Cantabile selected works which are not often played and were welcomed listening. Drucker...Cooper...and Hahn are bold and highly-skilled artists...both performances were alive and kicking...second

half...was another world entirely...lighter music...in fetching performances by Scarborough Chamber Players...performances were buoyant and charming...Alpher's music...fanciful..." @ 750 words with photo of Cantible Trio in performance elsewhere. (KFL note: Anthony Tommasini, as of 2011, has been the chief music critic of *The New York Times* for several years.)

6.9.88 North Shore magazine Season preview by Karen Carbone
Headline: Rockport Chamber Festival celebrates its 7th season
This is a piece on the founding, history, and behind-the scenes working of the festival with quotes from David, Lila, and Eric Lewis. It also announces the balance of the season. @ 1200 words

6.15.88 Gloucester Daily Times Feature by Susan Bulba
Headline: They 'treat' em nice and feed 'em well'
In a Food section feature, "The RCMF is widely acknowledged as a musical feast...Rockporters decided a couple of seasons ago that the musicians who feed our souls must themselves be well fed...the Stantons offered their yard for an annual barbecue series... Stanton and his King Street neighbors...Stephanie Cole, Jan Randolph, Penny Olson pool cooking talents for the benefit of the visiting musicians..." Piece related festival history and includes six RCMF mainstay recipes. @ 750 words plus photo of Ron Stanton grilling

6.17.88 Gloucester Daily Times Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Chamber music triumphs
"If music is food for the heart and mind, then RCMF is something like grand picnic, where the goodies are enjoyed al fresco and the spirit is broad and spontaneous...the best of these performances would be quite at home in the chamber concert halls of Boston and New York; of course, most of these musicians have played there, so in a way it's little surprise...the real point is that some of this week's efforts exceeded what one often hears from some of the bigger names in chamber music...Meliora...Alpher...in Brahms' fiercely energetic *Quintet in F Minor*...heroic, rocket-driven energy the players poured into it here..." @ 800 words.

6.30.88 Gloucester Daily News Preview by Ralph Ranalli
Headline: Gala evening to raise fund for festival
Announced fund raiser, "American Songbook," for "An Evening of American Music," the music of Gershwin, Porter, Herbert, Kern, and Berlin with Howard Kline, Neidich, Alpher, and Deis. @ 200 words

7.1.88 Gloucester Daily Times Photo essay
Headline: Practice makes perfect
Photos of David, Lila, and Howard Kline practicing for fund raiser, "American Songbook," for "An Evening of American Music." Two photos of David, Lila, and Howard

1989 – 4 items (odd to have no *Gloucester Daily Times* clips)

Concert dates: June 1-4, June 8-11, June 15-18, and June 22-25

Groups: Week 1 – Colorado String Quartet and Annapolis Brass Quintet

Week 2 – New Jersey Chamber Music Society and Wave Hill Trio

Week 3 – Giangiulio & Riedo and Manhattan String Quartet

Week 4 – Directors & Friends (Deis, Alpher, Wiersma, Lambros, Kannen, Rosenbaum, Kahn, Jolles)

6.6.89 Lawrence Eagle-Tribune Review by Priscilla C. Deck

Headline: Singers, musicians addicting at chamber music festival

“The first of four weeks...ended gloriously...ranged from Barber to Brahms...striking performances by...Alpher and Deis...lovely symbiosis between the poem and the musical line...sensitively drawn by...Deis and the Colorado...Alpher and Annapolis collaborated in Beethoven’s *Sonata in F* for horn and piano...each player displayed fine chamber music instincts as well as virtuosity in this difficult-to-balance combination...Alpher and Colorado in Dvorak *Quintet in A Minor*...the musicians seemed to draw on an endless sources of technical and musical skill, typified by beautiful moments of piano and cello duet in the first movement...When you attend your first...serious risk ...of every night. It is a truly glorious opportunity. Don’t miss it.” @ 350 words plus photo of Colorado

6.9.89 Providence Journal Bulletin Review by Channing Gray

Headline: Music lovers find their quarry at Rockport festival

“...For the past eight seasons such top-notch groups as the Annapolis Brass, An die Musik, and the Manhattan String Quartet have gathered here for what is fast becoming one of the most respected classical summer music series in the area...But the music is the big attraction...varied, often innovative programs...The performances were as polished as you are likely to hear at any of the more established festivals...But the basic premise has remained the same—provide a forum where talented players can share ideas...While the Annapolis Brass gave one solid performance after another, the all-female Colorado Quartet brought a rare degree of intelligence and intensity to their performances...the last Beethoven quartet, the *F Major*, Opus. 135 ...was pushed right to the limits...” @ 800 words

6.13.89 The Patriot Ledger Review by George W. Harper

Headline: Rockport Chamber fest offers compelling music

“The conventional wisdom has always been that chamber music just doesn’t sell. ...no one seems to have gotten the word to the enthusiastic crowd that showed up for Sunday afternoon’s installment of this year’s RCMF...The Schuman Quintet...Sunday’s broad-shouldered, symphonic-scale performance was marked by supple phrasing and sensitive phrasing...it was the very heat, that driving sense of urgency, that made the performance so compelling...also a new work by David Alpher, a setting of Lewis Carroll’s poem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*...just the sort of music that summer festivals are crying out for—light and engaging but with a brain to match its funny bone...” @ 500 words

6.19.89 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk

Headline: Manhattan String sizzles at Rockport

"...While success has expanded the season from two weeks to four, the character is largely unchanged...Deis...and Alpher...have guided it since its founding; even with larger audiences, the converted barn at RAA continues to prove hospitable both visually and acoustically; the admirable policy of mixing old and new music, and established and obscure remains in effect...Shostakovich...Here the playing was everything one might reasonably ask: tactile and scrappy, sprawling and intense, accurate but never refined..." @ 450 words

1990 – 2 items (odd to have no *Gloucester Daily Times* clips)

Concert dates: May 31- June 3, June 7-10, June 14-17, and June 21-24

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and Muir String Quartet

Week 2 – Amadeus Trio and Scarborough Chamber Players

Week 3 – New Jersey Chamber Music Society and Giangiulio & Riedo

Week 4 – Directors & Friends (Deis, Alpher, Wiersma, Amory, Jolles, Kannen, Anderson, Rosenbaum)

6.12.90 The Boston Globe Review by Anthony Tommasini

Headline; Chamber music festival is light and lively

This is basically a pan of the whole festival from program titles to venue to repertoire to performance. @ 500 words

6.14.90 North Shore magazine Review by George W. Harper

Headline: Deis confident, impressive

"...RCMF toasted Rockport's 150th anniversary...with an equally caloric menu of exotic instrumentations...Generating the greatest impact was Simon Sargon's *Shema*, a gut-wrenching suite for soprano, flute, clarinet, cello and piano to text by Italian author Primo Levi...Levi's poems gazed unflinchingly on his own experience as a survivor of the Holocaust...Deis...negotiated the music's fever-pitch mood-swings with absolute confidence, summoning impressive power for the histrionics of *Shema*...Alpher's *Returns* for harp and piano received its world premiere...there is wit and charm to this music...with elaborations so energetic they sometimes threatened to send piano wire and harp strings flying. Price-Glynn (harpist) was spellbinding in the dreamy cadenza..." @ 300 words (KFL notes: Simon Sargon, composer, pianist, teacher, has been a Dallas-based musical colleague of Lila's since the 1960s. He wrote *Shema* with Lila's voice in mind. They have presented several joint recitals in Dallas over the years. As recently as July 2011, Simon is collaborating with clarinetist Jonathon Cohler, a relationship that started at RCMF.)

1991 - 2 items (odd to have no *Gloucester Daily Times* clips)

Concert dates: June 6-9, June 13-16, June 20-23, and June 27-30

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and New Jersey Chamber Music Society

Week 2 – Fidelio Trio and Directors & Friends (Deis, Alpher, Cohler, Jolles, Cooper)

Week 3 – Voices of Change and Figaro Trio

Week 4 – Peabody Trio and Cavani String Quarter

6.27.91 North Shore magazine Review by George W. Harper

Headline: Soprano Lila Deis displays sensitivity, stirring voice

“...Prokofiev’s *Five Poems by Anna Akhmatova*...there’s plenty of feeling as well for those with the wit to find it. Quick-witted indeed was Deis...Most moving was her restrained treatment of the finale, *The Gray-Eyed King*. In addition to a dark, lustrous voice, Deis showed a keen ear for the music’s odd harmonic sideslips and quicksilver shifts of mood. Jo Boatright and a gorgeous Bechstein piano provided a sensitive accompaniment...Concluding...a white-hot account of Tchaikovsky’s *Sextet in D Minor*, Opus 70 (*Souvenir de Florence*)...” @ 350 words.

7.2.91 The Boston Globe Review by Richard Buell

Headline: Surf’n subtlety Rockport style

“...Ravel, Chausson, and Faure...all the music wore an affable and pretty surface...Below those surfaces there was a great deal else. You could disappear into a reverie if so disposed, or you could admire how some of it, the Faure especially, was as finely constructed as a steel trap. In Chausson, Deis declined to insist on the music’s languor and sensuousness, which needed no such insistence...equally evident in Ravel...Annie Fullard and Bonnie Thron had the true measure of the piece...The wispy harmonics and the moments of calculated vibratolessness—so strip-tease-like in effect—were nicely managed, the cumulative effect beguiling...The emotional center of the program...Faure’s *La Bonne Chanson* performed in a rarely heard version for piano and string quartet...The excellences of Deis’ singing here were akin to those of her Chausson, only heightened and intensified. As vocalism it was marvelously controlled and sustained in (a) way that never called attention to itself but was impressive to behold when you did notice it—a clear, straight column of sound that yielded nothing to the surrounding instruments with respect to pointed rhythms and intonational purity...” @ 500 words

1992 – 7 items including WGBH (odd to have no *Gloucester Daily Times* clips)
 Concert dates: June 4-7, June 11-14, June 18-21, and June 25-28
 Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and New Jersey Chamber Music Society
 Week 2 – Voices of Change and Directors & Friends (Deis, Opalach,
 Anderson, Taylor)
 Week 3 – Amadeus Trio and Giangiulio & Riedo
 Week 4 – Lark Quartet and Figaro Trio

6.5.92 WGBH's *Off the Record* Hosted by Richard Knisely
 Musicians from the Festival appeared live from WGBH's studios. 1 hour weekly on Fridays.

6.6.92 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk
 Headline: Chamber fest off to fine start
 Subhead: Rockport series offers balanced mix in comfortable setting
 "...RCMF...a series of accomplished chamber ensembles tackling a carefully balanced mix of old and new, heavy and light...the performers were top notch: the pianist Bernice Silk wonderfully solid yet never leaden, the cellist Julia Lichten and the flutists Peggy Schecter fluent, eloquent and lively..." @ 350 words

6.9.92 The Boston Globe Review by Anthony Tommasini
 Headline: Spanish wine and a frothy program
 At best, a mixed review critical of venue, programming, performance, and lack of new music. Lila and Bernice received the only positive criticism. @ 500 words

6.12.92 WGBH's *Off the Record* Hosted by Richard Knisely
 Musicians from the Festival appeared live from WGBH's studios. 1 hour

6.12.92 The Providence Journal Feature by Channing Gray
 Headline: Chamber music rocks port
 Subhead: Music, art and an ocean breeze
 A travel, "lifebeat" feature with numerous mentions the festival and a one paragraph review on one concert. @ 800 words and 3 photos including John Dexter in rehearsal

6.19.92 WGBH's *Off the Record* Hosted by Richard Knisely
 Musicians from the Festival appeared live from WGBH's studios. 1 hour

6.26.92 WGBH's *Off the Record* Hosted by Richard Knisely
 Musicians from the Festival appeared live from WGBH's studios. 1 hour

1993 – 2 items (odd to have no *Gloucester Daily Times* clips and few others)

Concert dates: June 3-6, June 10-13, June 17-20, and June 24-27

Groups: Week 1 – New Jersey Chamber Music Society and Lark Quartet

Week 2 – Manhattan String Quartet and Fidelio Trio

Week 3 – Voices of Change and Amadeus Trio

Week 4 – Boston Chamber Music Society and Figaro Trio

6.10.93 North Shore magazine Review by George W. Harper

Headline: Lyric soprano Lila Deis sings with polish

The first half of this review is, quite frankly, a hymn to Lila. "...operatic arias featuring Deis...the high point...Deis...works tirelessly behind the scenes as the festival's artistic director...an uncommon treat was *Fire's Aria* from Ravel's seldom-heard opera...a real show-stopper with more than enough coloratura to strike fear into the heart of the typical soprano. There's nothing typical about Deis though...such polish and parlando that almost—almost!—made it sound easy. Bernice Silk's accompaniment was terrific... Filling out the program...This is the sort of music that's rarely heard anymore, let alone in such fine performances. More, please." @ 750 words

7.21.93 NPR's *Performance Today* Letter to Lila from Steve Zakar

In his letter Steve praises RCMF, Lila, and Bruce Humphrey, the recording engineer, for providing NPR with such high quality programming. Steve states: "...how appreciative *Performance Today* is to have the fine '93 Rockport concerts available for programming on the show. They have become something of a staple for PT in the summer – I'm not sure what we'd do without them. To date we've been able to program six pieces from this summer's RCMF...As always, we have been impressed with the level of musicianship at Rockport...Rockport can be depended upon to deliver performances of higher quality than most festivals....What we particularly admire about Rockport, what makes this festival stand out among most of the others is the attention to crafting interesting programming....This calls for directorship that knows music, musicians, and the audiences that are served with that music making. No matter how conservative the audience there are many works that are both new and old that can be programmed to intrigue, challenge, amuse and entertain. You, Lila, have gone a long way to see that music as well as the Rockport and radio listeners are being served with such programming...Keep up the good work. Stay in touch, *Performance Today* would very much like to continue the collaboration that sees fine concerts from Rockport broadcast to a national audience."

1994 - 12 items

Concert dates: June 2-5, June 9-12, June 16-19, and June 23-26

Groups: Week 1 – Manhattan String Quartet and New Jersey Chamber Music Society

Week 2 – Lark Quartet and Neidich & Shames

Week 3 – Saturday Brass Quintet and Macomber-Lichten-Rothenberg

Week 4 – Boston Chamber Music Society and Figaro Trio

May 94 Midwest Express magazine Preview

Headline: Chamber made in New England

This is a listing of the season. @ 200 words

5.24.94 The Wall Street Journal Season listing in *Time Off* column

This is a listing of the season. @ 60 words

6.2.94 North Shore magazine Preview by George W. Harper

Headline: Rockport Chamber Festival begins tonight

This essay on how Lila puts the program together each season is filled with quotes from Lila, the author's observations of several years of festival programs, and a description of the upcoming season. Vintage Harper, the piece is thoughtful, positive, and very Lila. Since potential pull quotes abound, one is advised to read the piece. However, among them: "...but then Lila Deis is no ordinary impresario...'need some spice every now and then' ...Neidich 'the world's greatest clarinetist' ...the musicians can't help but sense that commitment...'That's why they want to be here' ...Deis and her board demonstrate their dedication,' and Deis and her musicians respond in kind. The result is beautiful music, music that bares the heart and speaks to the soul. That's what special about this festival...As Deis puts it, 'Music is about communication without pretense.' " @ 600 words with a Jeanne Deis photo of New Jersey Music Society on Ron and Paul's boat moored in Rockport Harbor

6.7.94 The Patriot Ledger Review by Joel Altman

Headline: An Appealing chamber music collaboration in Rockport

"...well on its way to establishing itself as the region's premier early summer chamber music attraction...*Quintet for Piano and Strings in G* by Shostakovich...The Manhattan, with sympathetic and passionate assistance from Silk at the keyboard, ...produced a dramatically persuasive listening experience, ranging from somber, probing melancholy characteristic of the long slow movements to the icy-bright performance of the scherzo and the finale...The rising and falling chromatic string figures were effective in the finale, and Silk's brightly percussive octaves were punctilious and handsome...Violinist Alexander Simionescu and cellist Rafael Figueroa...summoned up musical fire for a distinctive performance of *Kodaly's Duo*, Op7...Passion and excitement were on display for the listener's ear...Beethoven's

C Major String Quintet...the overall effect of the Beethoven—as of the entire concert—was vibrant and viscerally exciting...” @ 750 words with photo of the Manhattan

6.9.94 North Shore magazine Review by George W. Harper

Headline: Beethoven done to perfection in Rockport

“...members of the New Jersey Chamber Music Society play the stuffing out of Beethoven’s “*Kakadu*” *Variations for Violin, Cello, and Piano*, Opus 121a. It was the sort of performance I’ve come to expect of the RCMF...the serene intensity of the opening andante. There are cellists who can match Rafael Figueroa’s intensity, and there are cellists who can equal his purity of intonation, but I know of very few who can offer the same blend of passion and precision...Bernice Silk took the lead in the bubbling finale....Manhattan...Shostakovich’s *String Quartet No. 1*, Opus 68...They know this music as well as anyone on the planet and they really threw themselves into the reading...they summoned an eerie, religious intensity that plumbed the music’s emotional depths...” @ 500 words

6.11.94 The Boston Globe Review by Anthony Tommasini

Headline: Rockport Chamber Music Fest serves up double treat

“One of the innovations of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival is its double-bill concerts...The Lark Quartet...Beethoven’s witty *Quartet in G Major*, Op 18, No. 2 that was completely satisfying. The tempos were bracing: the inventive rhythmic ideas were emphatic and clear. Yet the playing was always relaxed and cozy...Neidich and Shames gave a thoroughly enjoyable and stylish performance of Poulenc’s enchanting *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*...” @ 450 words.

6.11.94 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk

Headline: Lark Quartet lets music speak for itself

“The Lark...Beethoven Op.18 No. 2...lively, alert and without a trace of nonsense. With a big, gracious sound and firm faith in the music’s ability to speak for itself, the Lark needs no tricks or polemics to carry things along...What dominated was the Lark’s admirable precision of ensemble and the overall radiance that flowed from every moment of this reading...Shulamit Ran’s *String Quartet No.2, ‘Vistas’*...stunning and complex integration of old and new ideas...tailor-made for the Lark, which played it with magnificent grasp and impact...Neidich and Shames...Poulenc’s *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*...an astute and urgent performance...Neidich...three of Pablo de Sarasate’s violin showpieces on the clarinet...the effect was dazzling and hilarious...” @ 250 words

- 6.16.94 The Salem Evening News Review by Jackie Wattenberg
 Headline: Talent draws crowds to Rockport
 "...Last Saturday evening was a stunner...Deis is that rare musical bird these days, the vocal recitalist...Deis' voice...flexible, adaptable to the coloratura...warmth and legato for his (Mozart's) serious lines and those of the great lieder composer Franz Schubert...In *An die Musik*, she achieved exquisite pianissimo legato and in one section, high notes that absolutely shimmered. Shames was at all times a responsive accompanist...Brahms *Quintet for Clarinet and Strings*, Op. 115...Neidich and the Lark...The tone and approach in each movement was of such sensitivity and integrity as to enthrall; a memorable performance..." @ 450 words
- 6.18.94 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk
 Headline: Music fest makes most of contrasts
 "...the differences between the brass instruments and all others...This week, RCMF is exploring the same contrast...the caliber of their musicianship was always clear. They played as if there were nothing else they'd rather be doing...The Saturday Quintet is first-rate..." @ 450 words
- 6.21.94 Gloucester Daily Times Feature by Reid Ackley
 Headline: Chamber Music Festival to wrap up with a flourish
 Subheads: Chamber trio has jazz feel; Ensembles collaborate in final week
 Interview with Figaro Trio (Calvin Wiersma, Michael Kannen, and Victor Rosenbaum) and their enthusiasm for and relationship to RCMF: trio's first paying gig was RCMF; trio commissioned and premiered a piece at RCMF; at RCMF, the audience, "It's infectious, and that sort of charges us." A second article sets forth the final week's program. @ 1200 words plus photo of Figaro Trio in rehearsal at RAA
- 6.25.94 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk
 Headline: Rockport Chamber fest heats up
 "Vigorous playing was the hallmark of the opening concert in the final week at RCMF. Two Boston-based groups...brought spirited and rewarding performances of three chamber works. The hot, muggy evening air only seemed to add to their ardor...the third of the Beethoven Op.1 trios...in the close setting of RAA galleries, any problems with...tuning present themselves quite clearly. Figaro passed this test with flying colors...Copland's *Vitebsk*...Figaro did well by this piece...The centerpiece of the evening was a no-holds-barred *Quartet in G Minor for Piano and Strings* by Brahms. (Chang, Amory, Costanza, Lee)...This was a magnificent reading in all regards full of technical wizardry yet always entirely alert, intelligent, tasteful and inspired... @ 400 words
- 6.30.94 North Shore magazine Review by George W. Harper
 Headline: Dynamic conclusion to Chamber Festival
 "When you're young, you really believe that anything is possible. RCMF opened our eyes to new possibilities last Thursday night with music from the 25-year-old Ludwig van Beethoven, the 27-year-old Aaron Copland, and the 28-year-old

Johannes Brahms. Brahms...Lee gave a powerful, propulsive reading...Chang's blend of passion and purity of intonation made plain why he is so highly regarded in this repertoire...This was the sort of performance guaranteed to bring an audience to its feet...Figaro in Beethoven...Rosenbaum made it all sound easy...Wiersma was especially impressive in the introspective minuet...Figaro with Copland...offered a first-rate reading....a percussive reading like this helps the listener understand why the musical establishment saw the young Copland as such a threat. Ah, to be young again!" @ 450 words

1995 – 9 items

Concert dates: June 1-4, June 8-11, June 15-18, and June 22-25

Groups: Week 1 – Lark Quartet and Meisenbach-Golden Duo, Judith Gordon

Week 2 – Boston Arts Ensemble and Apple Hill Chamber Players

Week 3 – Voices of Change and Boston Chamber Music Society

Week 4 – Figaro Trio and Ying Quartet

June Pleiades, a magazine of arts Feature by Barbara Rizza Mellin

Headline: Making Waves, Rockport Chamber Music Festival

This feature includes a description of history, format, position in the community, upcoming season, past success, and national presence. Quotes from Lila are numerous. @ 800 words with 4 pictures: Danny Rothmuller in concert; The Lark Quartet, with instruments on Main Street; The New Jersey Chamber Music Society, with instruments (less piano) on Ron and Paul's boat in the harbor; Robert Davidovici and Barbara Hustis in concert.

@6.3.95 North Shore magazine Preview by Julie Cleveland

Headline: RCMF includes lectures, new performers to the festival

"There is so much great music being played in Rockport right now that it staggers the imagination...the month-long event includes standard repertoire as well as a healthy amount of modern music played by top-notch musicians in programs of remarkable depth and variety." What follows are quotes from an interview with Lila about the season's program, ending with, "I've made sure that each program is fun as well as serious...Each piece fulfills a different function. We go to live music concerts because there are live people there, communicating directly to us. Each program has something to move our hearts as well as our minds, because I think that's what we need as human beings." @ 600 words

6.3.95 The Boston Globe Review by Michael Manning

Headline: An uneven opening for Rockport fest

In short, this review pans the entire opening concert, both programming and all the performers. @ 400 words

6.3.95 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk

Headline: Rockport concert showcases works of intriguing composer

In short, a tepid review of the season's second concert.

6.8.95 North Shore magazine Review by Julie Cleveland
Headline: Music Festival spans 3 centuries on opening night
“RCMF’s...opening night concert was delightful and genuinely absorbing. Meisenbach...lush tones of the flute...set the mood...accompanied by the crisp, defined-yet-delicate piano playing of Gordon. Meisenbach and Golden, harp...Meditative and magical...Deis sang several songs from *Melodies populaires grecques* by Ravel. Deis’ voice has an expansive, floating quality, capable of dramatic shifts from deep longing to giddy enthusiasm. At all times, this performer has a visceral connection with the audience...her performance of *La-bas, vers l’église* concluded with a breathtaking finish. The audience was rapt...The Lark finished with *String Quartet No. 2 in D* by Borodin...their performance was energetic and technically sound...*Notturmo* was gorgeously haunting...” @ 400 words

6.10.95 The Boston Herald Review by Josiah Fisk
Headline: Artists Ensemble guides listeners across classical Bridge
“Why don’t we hear more Frank Bridge?...Opening the second week of RCMF, violinist Kazuko Matsusaka and pianist Randall Hodgkinson gave clear and attractive readings of two small Bridge rarities, the *Allegro appassionata* of 1908 and the *Pensiero*...Mozart’s K.563 divertimento...the real thing, glowing, gracious, private, unaffected—a first-rate effort...” @ 300 words

6.14.95 The Patriot Ledger Review by Joel Altman
Headline: Faure commemorated stylishly in Rockport
In a review of the Faure concert on Sunday, June 10, Altman described RCMF’s history and the format. His review: Deis’ Faure songs – “all reflectively sung”; Ravel’s 1914 *Piano Trio in A Minor* “...the final movement was given a direct, no nonsense reading in which the piano sparkled and the strings provided the accompanying glitter. Hodgkinson is a pianist of remarkable virtuosity, refinement, and power”; “...Faure *C Minor Piano Quartet*, Op. 15 given a glorious and exhilarating reading by ...Apple Hill...intimate, persuasive artistry...performed as one voice...players often erupted into frissons of laser-like power, shimmering with elegance and an immaculate sense of style. The deeply expressive *Adagio* movement was given such a profoundly introspective and opulent reading that it seemed to beckon the listener onto the stage to share in the players’ musical deliberations....” @ 700 words with photo of Lila

6.22.95 The Salem Evening News Review by Priscilla C. Deck
Headline: Rockport audience brave the heat
“...Tom Hill, clarinetist for the BSO...joined violist Barbara Hustis and Pianist Jo Boatright...with the beloved *Kegelstatt Trio* by Mozart...notable for Hill’s sensitive and nuanced playing...overflow crowd... Bayla Keyes played Prokofiev *D Major violin sonata* with Jo Boatright...elegant and energetic style...Her precise intonation and

sweeping sense of musicality more than did justice...festival...search out and perform pieces not often heard...one leaves with a new favorite. Such was the case...with Dohnayni's *Sextet for Clarinet, Horn, Piano, and String Trio*. The combination of timbres and textures, supported and inspired by Lee's thrilling piano playing made this performance particularly memorable." The review concludes with a recommendation to visit Rockport and attend a concert, kind words about Lila and her musical direction, a mention of the festival's mixed group format, and the upcoming week's offerings. @ 400 words

6.29.95 North Shore magazine Review by Julie Cleveland

Headline: Ying Quartet opens final week of chamber festival

"...The Ying Quartet thoroughly captured the spirit of Mozart, *String Quartet in B-flat Major*, the 'Hunt' ...Their phrasing, intonation, and most of all, their timing was impeccable...their talent even more evident in rarely performed *String Quartet No. 6* by Bela Bartok...Ying explained (from the stage)...a nice touch for many not familiar with this composer's work...powerful and driving...the Yings played as though they give the music fully, not only to us, but to each other...most tender moments of music...the *Andante* of Brahms' *Quartet in C Minor for Piano and Strings*...the most romantic of all Romantics, the Figaro understood this about Brahms; their performance of this impassioned piece about love conveyed complete knowledge and feeling for his work." @ 450 words.

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