KIRILL GERSTEIN, PIANO
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Thursday, July 7
THAT JOIE DE VIVRE is what Opening Night of the Festival is exactly meant to express—the celebratory joy of sharing music together again! From the beautiful arching melodies of Elgar’s Serenade for Strings to the dance-like rhythms of the closing movement of Schubert’s Death and the Maiden (arranged by Mahler), the opening night festivities bring a range of musical expression to the stage in orchestral splendor. Artistic Director Barry Shiffman sums up the emphasis of Opening Night quite nicely:

With a stage full of the finest chamber players from across the country, I cannot wait to hear the sound of this special ensemble on opening night. So many artists I spoke to are eagerly wanting to return to ensemble playing following the difficult period of the last two years. This program is designed to bring as many people together as possible for a celebratory opening of our festival.
Like Opening Night, several Festival concerts feature star-studded artists and ensembles to share a specific programmatic focus, such as the Beethoven and Schubert program led by celebrated British clarinetist Michael Collins in an evening that features Schubert’s *Shepherd on the Rock*. The Strauss and Brahms concert features Brahms’s expansive and lyrical Piano Trio No. 1 in B major performed by violinist Danbi Um, top prizewinner of the Naumburg International Violin Competition, along with pianist Stephen Prutsman and cellist Christopher Costanza.

In August, the Debussy and Mahler program highlights mezzo-soprano Rihab Chaieb and tenor Paul Groves with chamber orchestra, under the direction of BSO assistant conductor Earl Lee, in a performance of Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde*, which is considered a cross between a song cycle and a symphony. It is suggested that Mahler refrained from calling it a symphony to avoid the potential “curse” of the “Ninth Symphony” – which seemed to mark the passing of some other composers (Beethoven, Dvořák and Schubert).

Beyond the thematic concerts, some cherished Festival favorites will be coming back, including the return of the Dover and Brentano quartets, pianists Marc-André Hamelin and Kirill Gerstein, as well as Artistic Director Emeritus (and pianist) David Deveau in a recital with longtime collaborator (violinist) Andrés Cárdenes. Some new faces this summer include violinist superstar Ray Chen, the Castalian Quartet and the world’s leading pipa player Wu Man with acclaimed violist Hsin-Yun Huang. They will perform the world premiere of Silkroad composer Lei Liang’s *Mother’s Songs*, commissioned in part by Rockport Music with leadership support from Rob Amory. Composer Lei Liang shares, “These songs are of a traveler’s longing for home and a daughter’s desire to be reunited with her mother. At age 83, my teacher is the only one in Inner Mongolia who still remembers these ancient melodies, and he sang them with great emotion.” Bringing a new cultural breadth to the Festival, this compelling “String of Souls” program celebrates the Chinese heritage of the musicians and composer and features works inspired by Chinese folk singing and dancing.

With so many wonderful concerts for you to explore this season, don’t miss all the incredible music throughout the Rockport Chamber Music Festival!

**BREAKING NEWS!**

The Festival Cabarets are back! This year we bring back the ever-popular cabarets to the Festival with informal one-hour performances on the third floor with café-style seating.

**JUNE 23 :: 9:45 PM**

**FRENCH CABARET**

Soprano Mireille Asselin and pianist Max Levinson bring a bit of Paris and the Mediterranean with songs of Edith Piaf, Kurt Weill, Poulenc and more.

**JULY 8 :: 9:45 PM**

**CABARET: ROMANI MUSIC**

Violinist Danbi Um, pianist Stephen Prutsman and members of the Dover Quartet perform classical works inspired by Romani music.

**AUGUST 12 :: 9:45 PM**

**CABARET: BACH TO BAKER**

Violinist/vocalist Danny Koo shares music ranging from J.S. Bach to Chet Baker.
IN AUGUST I will conclude my three years as Chair of the Rockport Music Board of Trustees. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those who have so generously given of their expertise and support to me throughout my tenure. I will always be grateful for the privilege of working with these individuals whose talents, judgement and character I deeply respect and admire. Serving in this capacity has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

In the past three years, significant goals have been accomplished to secure Rockport Music’s financial stability and artistic mission. New innovative platforms were created for delivering on our mission. The debt on our loan to purchase 16 School Street was retired at The Institution for Savings and a healthy Board Reserve Fund has been established. We successfully celebrated both Rockport Music’s 40th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the building of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. We committed to an organization-wide Diversity Initiative and our newest Strategic Plan has been finalized. Our music education programs have expanded in several new school districts and our dynamic artistic programming has grown in exciting new directions.

I am grateful beyond measure to everyone whose creativity, vision and hard work made these accomplishments possible. Working with the Board of Trustees, Trustee Emeriti, Council and Volunteers, as well as the Executive and Artistic leadership and staff, has been a successful partnership and a distinct honor I shall always treasure.

Bravo and thank you all!

Nina Doggett
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR
CHANGE CAN BE DIFFICULT. It can be overwhelming and messy. But it also creates opportunities. It can energize. Just ask The Bad Plus. For 17 years, the boundary-defying Minnesota-based jazz trio [drummer David King, bassist Reid Anderson and pianist Ethan Iverson] were a model of stability, bewitching critics and fans alike with their unique spin on the piano trio tradition, blending avant-garde styles with rock and pop influences. Abruptly in 2017, pianist Ethan Iverson left the band, leaving many to wonder if the ensemble had played its final concert.

Without breaking stride, they invited pianist Orrin Evans to join, and the band’s next chapter was born. The new trio performed as if it had received a new lease on life, touring the country to rapt audiences and getting some of the best reviews of its existence, including a four-star DownBeat review for 2019’s Activate Infinity.

Then, just as suddenly as the previous departure, Orrin Evans decided to go solo, and the band was again without a pianist and a clear future. Instead of looking for another pianist, King and Anderson chose a different path. They asked guitarist Ben Monder and saxophonist Chris Speed to join, making The Bad Plus a [piano-less] quartet. Their choices weren’t random. King and Anderson had played with Speed previously in Broken Shadows, a twin saxophone, Ornette Coleman-focused side project, and had already been huge fans of Monder’s dynamic and heavy approach to avant-garde guitar. So there was a great deal of comfort in inviting these two brilliant artists to add to the ongoing legacy of The Bad Plus.

The newly minted foursome will look to release their hotly anticipated new record this year and will perform at the Rockport Jazz Festival on August 5. Don’t miss the incredible sounds from this new iteration of the band!
IN 2019, two of Rockport Music’s emeritus trustees and longtime supporters of the organization set out to help Rockport Music build its nascent legacy giving program in order to help ensure Rockport Music’s future. In the words of outgoing Co-Chair Susan Gray, “All of us who value Rockport Music and its mission want to envision it continuing and thriving for future audiences and new generations of students. The best way to ensure that future is a strong legacy giving program.” Garth Greimann adds “Rockport Music has provided us with so many happy moments that we support a strong Planned Giving program to ensure others in our community have the same privilege.”

In their three years as co-chairs of the Linden Tree Society, Susan and Garth helped us build a Planned Giving Committee and created greater awareness of the importance of legacy giving to Rockport Music’s future, as well as to the benefits to our donors. In their time as co-chairs, membership in the Linden Tree Society has grown by over 50%.

We are now so pleased to announce our new Linden Tree Society co-chairs, who are also emeritus trustees and longtime supporters – Mollie Byrnes and Susanne Guyer. These two women have stepped up to lead the program and will take the reigns from Susan and Garth in June 2022. “Legacy gifts are important investments in the future of Rockport Music. These gifts help ensure that future audiences, students and the community can experience all that Rockport Music is, and can be, for generations to come,” says Susanne Guyer.

All of us at Rockport Music extend sincere thanks to all four individuals: to Susan and Garth for the exemplary work they have done the last 3 years, and to Mollie and Susanne for continuing the leadership of the Linden Tree Society. We would also like to thank the entire Planned Giving Committee of dedicated volunteers including:

Stephen Lindo
Ruth Salinger
Peter Van Demark
Peter Wernau
Margaret Ziering

With your help, we are ensuring Rockport Music’s future.

New Co-Chair Mollie Byrnes adds “I love Rockport Music, as do many others, for the wonderful variety of concerts presented and the educational outreach it provides. If we all joined in giving a planned gift, that would ensure the longevity of Rockport Music.”

If you would like to consider joining the Linden Tree Society by including Rockport Music in your estate plans, please contact:

Lori Correale
Director of Development
978.546.7391 x103
lcorreale@rockportmusic.org
rockportmusic.org/plannedgiving
BENEFITS OF LINDEN TREE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- Being part of a warm community inspired by musical excellence and the beauty of Cape Ann.
- Invitations to special receptions, seminars and concerts throughout the year.
- Listing in select Rockport Music publications (or you may remain anonymous if you prefer).

THE SHALIN LIU PERFORMANCE CENTER BUILDING PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Rockport Music is able to maintain the stunning Shalin Liu Performance Center with maintenance repairs—like exterior painting, floor repairs, HVAC replacements and more—through the Building Fund and the Shalin Liu Performance Center Building Preservation Endowment Fund established by Shalin Liu. If you are interested in learning more or contributing to the Shalin Liu Performance Center Building Preservation Endowment Fund, please contact Lori Correale at 978.546.7391 x103.

BEHIND THE NOTES :: SPRING 2022 6
AFTER A THREE-YEAR HIATUS due to the pandemic, Rockport Music’s Jazz Workshop is back, ready to excite, motivate and develop young jazz musicians in Cape Ann. Charismatic Workshop Director Alexa Tarantino has grown this program from seven students in 2014 to almost 120 in 2019. With a move from Rockport High School to Gloucester High School this summer, they will have the space and facilities to teach and inspire even more students to meet the growing demand.

The disciplined freedom of jazz makes it the perfect genre for talented young musicians. Tarantino’s unique approach to teaching jazz emphasizes both the discipline and the freedom. “We focus on learning by ear as much as possible,” she explains. “We believe this is the foundation of developing independent and creative young musicians with a deep connection to their instrument. So, in our ensembles we work on learning the melodies by ear first, followed by understanding the theory and harmony of the piece for improvisation, and then we’ll move into creating arrangements for ensembles with or without sheet music as needed. This helps students to internalize the music in a stronger way.”

Students also experience jazz history classes, instrument-specific warmup and sectional classes, learn from guest artists and work together to create a fun, program-wide “flash mob” style performance. To put a cap on a fruitful week of jazz studies, the workshop closes with a final concert featuring each of the small ensembles.

Tarantino’s goals from the start have been ambitious. “We want to put Cape Ann on the map as a hub for jazz education and to provide Cape Ann students with the opportunity to experience the highest level of jazz performance and education that they may not have been able to experience otherwise,” says Tarantino. Considering the jump in enrollment from its humble beginnings and the sheer quality of instruction delivered, it would seem Tarantino is well on her way to achieving those lofty goals.

Every year the Jazz Workshop brings in about 10 faculty members and a guest artist. The faculty members are all nationally recognized artists and educators. Some are professors at universities and conservatories, and some are performing, composing and recording with the top artists and ensembles in jazz. Workshop guest artists are internationally recognized performers and educators. To put it mildly, these kids are in good hands.

This year the workshop will be adjusting the age range of students from ages 10-18 with at least two years of experience on their instrument to ages 13-18 with at least three years of experience. As Tarantino notes, this move “will allow our stellar instructors the opportunity to dig deeper with the students and guide them to a higher level.”

For example, a highlight for Tarantino was bringing Kenny Rampton (trumpet) and Paul Nedzela (baritone saxophone), two members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, to coach the students before the Orchestra’s performance at Rockport Music’s Gala a few years back. “It’s these types of experiences that inspired me to be a professional musician as a young girl, and it’s a thrill for me to bring similar opportunities to our Cape Ann students,” says Tarantino.

Despite the Workshop’s hiatus, Tarantino has not been sitting idle. During the pandemic, she provided multiple virtual classroom sessions, and then this past March, she spent a very rewarding week visiting almost 200 students in Rockport, Gloucester, Ipswich, Beverly and Manchester. She’s confident that all this outreach will also bear fruit for the Workshop. “It was a great way to connect with new communities and invite them to join us this summer,” says Tarantino. “I can’t wait to see how the Jazz Workshop evolves with a larger and diverse pool of students from around Cape Ann.”
Project STEP takes Center Stage

This spring, Rockport Music hosted a recital of talented young musicians from Project STEP, an organization that provides a high level of musical training to underrepresented and underserved students. The ensembles were led by their new Executive Director Josué González, who happens to also be our former Director of Education & Partnerships. We are thrilled for Josué’s new opportunity to make a difference in the future of these young musicians, and we look forward to having both return often to our stage!
This September Rockport Music will launch Global Journeys, a brand new four-part music series curated by acclaimed cellist/composer Mike Block that explores a broad array of music from around the world.

Block will be familiar to many for his work with Yo-Yo Ma’s Silkroad Ensemble as well as his collaborations with Hanneke Cassel and Balla Kouyaté. Like many of his music projects, Global Journeys digs deep into a particular musical style and celebrates the inspiring music created by cross-pollinating with other genres, artists and instruments. We spoke with Block this spring to talk about his exciting new collaboration with Rockport Music.

You use the term “global” rather than “world” when referencing this rather large genre. Is this a more accurate term for what you will be curating?

Both “global” and “world” can be applicable, but the history of the term “world music” does have roots tied to a purely American perspective and was originally used as an umbrella term for miscellaneous “other” music from places far away. Even the Grammy Awards recently renamed the Best World Music Album category to Best Global Music Album. Personally, I didn’t even know that much about American folk music traditions when I was growing up in America, so I enjoy the sense of inclusion that the word “global” carries for people who want to engage with new musical traditions that may have roots both near and far. “Global” sets the stage for all music to be explored on its own terms, regardless of where the audience is coming from.

You yourself are all over the musical map, performing classical, folk, bluegrass, Celtic, global, etc. More so than many musicians, you seem to be at ease going in and out of styles and crossing musical boundaries. Can you explain how this happened?

I’ve always appreciated the power that music has to connect me with people and ideas from around the world. When I was growing up playing cello and studying Western Classical music, it started to feel somewhat arbitrary that I found myself living in a suburb of Kansas City in the 1990s, dedicated to playing music from a different time (before I was born) and a different place (Europe). Ever since, I’ve dedicated most of my artistic life to learning new musical languages so that I can connect with more people and expand the type of experiences I can have with music. Being a multi-style musician allows me to feel connected to different places in the world and get to know artists with different perspectives. It allows me to serve different audiences as well. I feel very privileged and honored when I get the opportunity to do cross-cultural collaborations, and I’m really excited to be sharing these experiences with the Rockport community!

What has to be in place for a musical hybrid – like you playing with Indian tabla master Sandeep Das – to succeed? And how do you know if it is, indeed, working?

I like to joke that a good musical hybrid is when everyone is equally unhappy! By this, I mean that the final product should not reflect the individual values of any one artist involved, but requires everyone to go outside of their comfort zone in order to support each other. Sometimes this can happen magically as artists are spontaneously responding to each other, but it also takes effort to learn each other’s vocabulary and understand the way they hear music. For example, in my duo with Sandeep, we may both hear the same musical
Rockport Music Goes to Hollywood

Congratulations to the heartwarming film Coda for taking home three Oscars this year! We were thrilled to a part of this historic movie, playing the role of Berklee College of Music in the tear-jerking, climactic scene of Ruby’s audition. The film featured two elements beloved on Cape Ann: the fishing industry and music.

In addition to the beauty of the Shalin Liu Performance Center, the inclusion of the building in the movie was possible due to several recent technical investments which provided the film crew the necessary resources for filming. Thanks to our Operations team – Michelle Alekson, Scott Rodgers and Nate Weaver – for making this opportunity happen!

David Deveau Releases New Schubert Album

In March, Artistic Director Emeritus David Deveau released his recording of Schubert’s Sonatas D. 959 and D. 960, available worldwide on CD and through all download and streaming services. David returns this summer to perform for the first time since he retired as artistic director.

The recording held me spellbound, the classical outlines of the outer movements delivered with clean precision, joie-de-vivre, and a sense of architecture that truly epitomized Schubert’s love of classic forms, spacious structures, and long lines. - Stephen Martorella

STEPHEN MARTORELLA
BOSTON MUSICAL INTELLIGENCER

Volunteers Needed

Rockport Music is seeking volunteer ushers for concerts and docents to host summer open houses of our beautiful concert hall.

Please contact Michelle Alekson at 978.546.7391 x111.

GLOBAL JOURNEYS

SEPTEMBER 26
SANDEEP DAS, tabla & MIKE BLOCK, cello

NOVEMBER 6
JUSSI REIJONEN, guitar & oud

FEBRUARY 10
WU MAN, pipa & MIKE BLOCK, cello

What other kinds of artists and musical traditions are you going to explore in the Global Journeys Series?

I’m excited to bring a variety of global artists into this series, including some of my friends and colleagues in the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble, as well as other inspiring artists from across the world! I want to feature exciting traditions with roots from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, Australia and North America, as well as contemporary projects that bring different cultures and artists together in unique collaborations.

David Deveau releases new Schubert album

Rockport Music is seeking volunteer ushers for concerts and docents to host summer open houses of our beautiful concert hall.

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In May, CBS’s lifestyle program New England Living profiled Rockport Music and our Shalin Liu Performance Center. You can still watch the episode at boston.cbslocal.com.

IN THE NEWS!

The 2022 Rockport Celtic Festival highlights the crossover influences of Scandinavian music and traditional Celtic music. The Festival will bring the finest musicians from around the globe including:

Nordic Fiddler’s Bloc
Alasdair Fraser, fiddle & Natalie Haas, cello
.....and many more!

Don’t miss this year’s exciting Festival!
2022 SUMMER SCHEDULE
rockportmusic.org
978.546.7391

JUNE
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 8 PM
Jonathan Edwards & Jon Pousette-Dart
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 12:55 PM
Met Opera in HD: Hamlet
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 5 PM
Gerald Clayton Trio
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 7 PM
National Theatre in HD: Henry V
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival Opening Night
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Stella Chen, violin, & Henry Kramer, piano
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 7 PM
Great Art on Screen: Pompeii: Sin City
FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Zukerman Trio
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Castalian Quartet & Frederic Chiu, piano
SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Xavier Foley, double bass
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Beethoven & Schubert
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 9:45 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
French Cabaret
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Piers Lane, piano
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Marc-Andre Hamelin & Viano Quartet
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Ray Chen, violin
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Wu Man, pipa & Hsin-Yun Huang, viola
JULY
FRIDAY, JULY 1, 11 AM // FREE!
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Family Concert: Members of A Far Cry
FRIDAY, JULY 1, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
A Far Cry
SATURDAY, JULY 2, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Brentano String Quartet & Dawn Upshaw, soprano
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Kirill Gerstein, piano
FRIDAY, JULY 8, 11 AM // FREE!
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Morningside Music Bridge Students at NEC
FRIDAY, JULY 8, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Strauss & Brahms
FRIDAY, JULY 8, 9:45 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Cabaret: Romani Music
SATURDAY, JULY 9, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Dover Quartet with Barry Shiffman
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 6 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Gershwin & Friends
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 8 PM
Kat Edmonson
FRIDAY, JULY 15, 8 PM
Eileen Jewell
SATURDAY, JULY 16, 7 PM
David Coffin & The Johnson Girls: An Evening of Sea Chanteys
SUNDAY, JULY 17, 3 PM & 7 PM
Bela Fleck: My Bluegrass Heart
MONDAY, JULY 18, 7 PM
Met Opera in HD: The Merry Widow
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 8 PM
We Banjo 3
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 8 PM
FRIDAY, JULY 22, 8 PM
Tom Rush with Matt Nakoa
SATURDAY, JULY 23, 8 PM
Jordan Rudess
SUNDAY, JULY 24, 7 PM
Paula Cole
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 7 PM
Great Art on Screen: Botticelli
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 7 PM
National Theatre in HD: Prima Facie
FRIDAY, JULY 29, 8 PM
JD Souther
SATURDAY, JULY 30, 8 PM
Sierra Hull
SUNDAY, JULY 31, 5 PM
Ronan Tynan
AUGUST
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 7 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
Alexa Tarantino Quartet
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 8 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
Fred Hersch, piano
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 8 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
The Bad Plus
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
Tia Fuller
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 8 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
Regina Carter, violin
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 5 PM
Rockport Jazz Festival
Dee Dee Bridgewater & Bill Charlap
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 7 PM
Met Opera in HD: Madama Butterfly
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 8 PM
Naturally 7
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 7:30 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival Annex
Debussy & Mahler
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 9:45 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival Annex
Cabaret: Bach to Baker
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival Annex
Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 5 PM
Rockport Chamber Music Festival Annex
David Deveau, piano & Andrés Cárdenes, violin
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 7 PM
Met Opera in HD: La Bohème
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:30 PM
Rockport Celtic Festival
Opening Night: Nordic Nights
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 11 PM
Rockport Celtic Festival
Salon Session
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 7:30 PM
Rockport Celtic Festival
A Global Celebration of Strings
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 12 PM
Rockport Celtic Festival
Words and Music: The Celtic Spirit
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 5 PM
Rockport Celtic Festival
A Symphony of the Sea
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 7 PM
Met Opera in HD: La Fille du Régiment
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 8 PM
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 8 PM
Martin Sexton
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 3 PM & 7 PM
Grace Kelly
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 5 PM
Tuba Skinny