



News Update

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DATE: October 10, 2023

For Immediate Release

Barry Shiffman continues as Artistic Director of Rockport Chamber Music Festival

Rockport Music is pleased to announce the re-appointment of Barry Shiffman as Artistic Director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival and Classical programming. This will continue his position as artistic director through 2028.

Jeannie McIntyre, Board of Trustees Chair, states, "The Board of Trustees is thrilled that Barry will continue in his role as the Artistic Director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival and classical music over the next five years. He brings to Rockport Music an extraordinary vision for the future, a strong belief in the transformative power of music, a wealth of connections in the classical music world, and a passion for our organization."

In response to the appointment, Barry Shiffman states:

I am delighted to be continuing as Artistic Director. It is a privilege to work with the talented staff and committed board of Rockport Music, bringing the best the world has to offer to our stunning stage, enriching the lives of our listeners, and delivering on the promise of possibility that the Shalin Liu Performance Center provides.

What has been built over many years at Rockport Music stands as a beautiful testament to the love of music and community.

Since 2018, under Barry Shiffman's leadership, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival has grown to include Classical Cabarets (casual concerts with café-style seating), the Fellows program highlighting stellar musicians at the start of their career, numerous performances in the community, films and lectures. He has also featured composers-in-residence Mark Applebaum and Osvaldo Golijov, as well as showcasing the tremendous talent of emerging artists and recent competition winners.

During his tenure as artistic director, he has brought such musical luminaries as pianists Jan Lisiecki, Yefim Bronfman and Stewart Goodyear, violinists Gidon Kremer, Ray Chen and Stefan Jackiw; the Dover, Parker and St. Lawrence quartets, the Zukerman Trio, harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani, clarinetist Anthony McGill, the Junction Trio, Venice Baroque Orchestra with mandolinist Avi Avital, David Finckel & Wu Han, and much more.

Hoping to bring a new definition to what is considered the classical concert experience, he has also brought both theatre elements and thematic programming to the concert stage with Golijov's *Ayre*, Alon Nashman's *Kafka and Son*, the American Modern Opera Company's *Were You There*, the Art of Time Ensemble's "Hosted by Glenn Gould" and "Take this Waltz", Reimagining Flamenco, and the ARC Ensemble concert featuring lost compositions due to the Third Reich.

Additional programmatic highlights of his tenure include:

- Competition winners like pianists Sae Yoon Chon and Yekwon Sunwoo, violinists Danny Koo and Boson Mo

- Works by contemporary composers including Jessie Montgomery, Caroline Shaw, Florence Price, Osvaldo Golijov, Mark Applebaum, Tan Dun, and Steve Reich
- The finest of Boston-based artists like A Far Cry, Handel & Haydn Society and pianist Marc-André Hamelin

ABOUT BARRY SHIFFMAN

Violinist and violist Barry Shiffman has a rich and varied career as a performer, recording artist, teacher, and administrator. Shiffman made his debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at the age of 15. In 1989, he co-founded the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ). During his 17 years with the quartet he appeared in over 2,000 concerts in venues around the globe (including Rockport Music), and recorded several critically acclaimed discs under an exclusive contract with EMI Classics.

In addition to performing and recording, Shiffman is a sought-after violin and viola teacher and chamber music coach. As part of his role in the St. Lawrence, Shiffman served as artist in-residence at Stanford University from 1998 to 2006 and as visiting artist at the University of Toronto from 1995 to 2006. Passionately committed to the composers of our time, he has been involved in the premieres of hundreds of new works, both in the St. Lawrence Quartet and beyond.

From 2006-2010, he served as Director of Music Programs at Banff Centre and from 2010-2016 was the Artistic Director of the Centre's Summer Music Programs and Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition. During his tenure at The Banff Centre he introduced new programming in classical music performance, composition, popular music and Jazz and oversaw the dramatic growth of The Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC), which he continues to direct.

Since the fall of 2010, he has been at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, as both Associate Dean and Director of Chamber Music at the Glenn Gould School and Dean of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists. A sought-after juror, he has served on the jury of the Tchaikovsky and Montreal Violin Competitions, as well as London's Wigmore Hall, Geneva, Banff, and Lyon String Quartet Competitions. In addition to his work at Banff Centre and The Royal Conservatory, Shiffman has served as Executive Artistic Director of Vancouver's Music in the Morning Concerts since 2009.

He is the recipient of the Nadia Boulanger Prize for Excellence in the Art of Teaching awarded by the Longy School of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary. His formal studies were at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, University of Toronto, Utrecht Conservatory, Hartt School of Music, Juilliard School and Yale University.

ABOUT ROCKPORT MUSIC

Founded in 1981 as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music presents exceptional concerts and cultural events in the "stunning acoustics and dramatic setting" (*Boston Globe*) of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Best known for its summer chamber music festival that will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2016, the Festival features some of the world's finest ensembles and soloists. Since opening the renowned Shalin Liu Performance Center in 2010, Rockport Music has expanded its offerings to include year-round presentations of jazz, folk, pop and global music. Throughout the year, Rockport Music also presents high-definition broadcasts including the Metropolitan Opera, National Theatre (London), and special film presentations. Rockport Music's Education and community outreach activities serve nearly 10,000 students and adults throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore annually.

Rockport Music is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.