



News Update

BARRY SHIFFMAN, *artistic director*

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The Rockport Chamber Music Festival brings Festival favorites and exciting new artists

The 43rd Annual **Rockport Chamber Music Festival** opens on June 7, 2024 and this year Artistic Director Barry Shiffman has assembled an intriguing blend of some of the most exciting artists of this new generation along with established, world-renowned chamber musicians at the peak of their careers.

Anchored by 21 concerts in the concert hall, the Festival will be held from **June 7-July 7, 2024**, and then continues with three stand-alone performances later in the summer by the **Canadian Brass**, pianist **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and the pianist (and Artistic Director Emeritus) **David Deveau** in collaboration with the **Borromeo Quartet** and current Artistic Director **Barry Shiffman**. The Festival opens on a powerful note with pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** performing Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin. It's a spectacular start for an unforgettable Festival. From Artistic Director Barry Shiffman about the Festival:

What a joy to be able to share the details of our beloved Rockport Chamber Music Festival. The artists span generations—from the brilliant concert artists of the new generation to legendary soloists including pianist Garrick Ohlson and cellist Steven Isserlis and The Kings Singers.

I want listeners to have experiences that are transformative. Music should be visceral, immediate and real. It tugs at your emotions—it provokes, it comforts and it transforms. Join us.

The Festival brings an unprecedented number of established world-class artists such as pianists **Garrick Ohlsson**, **Inon Barnaton**, **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and **David Deveau**; cellist **Steven Isserlis**; the **Canadian Brass**; **King's Singers**; violinists **Blake Pouliot**, **Nikki** and **Timothy Chooi**; the **Dover** and **Borromeo quartets**; harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**; French hornist **Radovan Vlatković**; **A Far Cry** with **Kinan Azmeh** and **Third Coast Percussion**.

In addition, the Festival features many of today's most exciting competition winners and stars of this new generation, including the **Terra** and **Viano quartets**, pianist **Eric Guo**, violinists **Stella Chen** and **Sirena Huang** and the piano duo **Christina and Michelle Naughton**. Within our collaborative ensemble performances, the Festival has several stand-out newcomers including flutist **DeMarre McGill**, clarinetists **Graeme Steele Johnson** and **Chris Elchico**, violinist **Luri Lee**, violist **Juan-Miguel Hernandez**, as well as cellists **Brannon Cho** and **Arlen Hlusko**.

Additionally, this year's Festival includes two new works to the classical music canon with:

- The East Coast premiere of a new work by **Gavin Bryars** for **harpsichord and string quartet**, co-commissioned by Rockport Music, performed by Mahan Esfahani and the Viano Quartet
- The performance of **Dinuk Wijeratne's Clarinet Concerto** (co-commissioned by Rockport Music), performed by A Far Cry and Kinan Azmeh.

Also, this year Rockport Music's **Summer Gala** will feature **violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Jeremy Denk** performing works by Mozart and Beethoven on **Sunday, July 28**. Ticket details are at <https://rockportmusic.org/2024-summer-gala/>. Tickets for the full gala event are currently on sale and concert only tickets are scheduled to go on sale in May.

Join in the Festival with all its spectacular musical offerings. Festival tickets are available April 2 for subscriptions and April 16 for single tickets purchases. Visit our website at **rockportmusic.org** for more details. A full concert listing with program details follow.

43rd

ROCKPORT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 7-July 7, 2024

Annex: July 16 | August 11 | August 25

Barry Shiffman, *artistic director*

Friday, June 7 :: 7:30 PM

Opening Night

GARRICK OHLSSON, *piano*

Winner of the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, pianist Garrick Ohlsson is world-renowned for his magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. Although long regarded as one of the world's leading exponents of the music of Frédéric Chopin, Mr. Ohlsson's enormous repertoire ranges over the entire piano literature.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Sonata Op. 81a Les Adieux

SCHUBERT: Wanderer Fantasy

Intermission

CHOPIN: Variations Brilliantes, Op. 12

Barcarolle, Op. 60

Impromptu, Op. 29

Scherzo, Op. 31

Tickets: \$86, \$79, \$59

Saturday, June 8 :: 5 PM

NIKKI & TIMOTHY CHOOI, *violins*

Clayton Stephenson, *piano*

Internationally acclaimed violinists Nikki and Timothy Chooi bring a thrilling program of works by Corigliano, Shostakovich and Sarasate. Both artists bring dynamic stage personas and established careers--Nikki is concertmaster of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Timothy is the First Prize winner of the Joachim International Violin Competition.

PROGRAM

MOSZKOWSKI: Suite for Two Violins and Piano in G Minor, Op. 71

CHA KA NIN: Soulmate

CORIGLIANO: Red Violin Caprices for Solo Violin

Intermission

PROKOFIEV: Sonata for Two Violins in C major, Op.56

SHOSTAKOVICH: Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano (arr. Atovmyan)

SARASATE: "Navarra" for Two Violins and Piano

Tickets: \$59, \$55, \$45

Sunday, June 9 :: 5 PM

DOVER QUARTET

Joel Link, *violin* | Bryan Lee, *violin* | Julianne Lee, *viola* | Camden Shaw, *cello*

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine*, the two-time GRAMMY-nominated Dover Quartet's successes include a stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, grand and first prizes at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

"Few young American ensembles are as exciting and accomplished as the Dover Quartet" -*The New Yorker*

PROGRAM

MOZART: String Quartet No. 16 in E-flat major, K. 428

JANÁČEK: String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters "

Intermission

SHOSTAKOVICH: String Quartet No. 9, Op. 117

Tickets: \$69, \$62, \$49

Thursday, June 13 :: 7:30 PM

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

& BLAKE POULIOT, *violin*

Grammy® Award-winning quartet Third Coast Percussion has been praised for "commandingly elegant" (*New York Times*) performances and the "rare power" (*Washington Post*) of their recordings. They join classical phenom Blake Pouliot, who has established himself as "one of those special talents that comes along once in a lifetime" (*Toronto Star*).

Third Coast: "Impressively combining creative fearlessness with reverent precision" *BBC Music Magazine*

PROGRAM

TIGRAN HAMASYAN (arr. by Peter Martin): Etude No. 1

PHILIP GLASS (arr. by Third Coast Percussion): Aguas da Amazonia

Purus River

Negro River

Madeira River

FLUTRONIX/TCP: Rubix

Play

Go

JESSIE MONTGOMERY: Study No. 1

HARRISON: Violin Concerto

Tickets: \$49, \$42, \$35

Friday, June 14 :: 7:30 PM

CHRISTINA AND MICHELLE NAUGHTON, *piano duo*

Back by popular demand, the incredibly talented Naughton sisters (the first piano duo to win the coveted Avery Fisher Grant) bring a spectacular program of pieces by Mozart, Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and more.

"paired to perfection" -*Philadelphia Inquirer*

PROGRAM

MOZART: Sonata in D Major KV 381 for four hands

RAVEL: "Mother Goose Suite" for four hands

ALBENIZ: "Triana" for Two pianos arr. Granados

Intermission

DEBUSSY: "En Blanc et Noir" for Two Pianos

RACHMANINOFF: Suite #2 for Two Pianos

Tickets: \$49, \$42, \$35

Saturday, June 15 :: 5 PM

BACH TO PIAZZOLLA

BLAKE POULIOT, *violin*

Ensemble: Terra Quartet | Juan-Miguel Hernandez, *viola* | Barry Shiffman, *viola* | Mihail Jojatu, *cello* | Arlen Hlusko, *cello* | Jeremy McCoy, *double bass*

As “one of those special talents that comes along once in a lifetime” (*Toronto Star*), violinist Blake Pouliot has anchored himself among the ranks of classical phenoms. The tenacious young artist plays with a passion that enraptures his audience in every performance.

Pouliot “surged onstage in rock star pants, presenting Brahms as a composer of great passion...compellingly—indeed, irresistibly—done.”

Dallas Morning News

PROGRAM

BACH: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-flat major, BWV 1051

GOLIJOV: Last Round (nonet)

Intermission

PIAZZOLLA: The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires (soloist: Blake Pouliot)

Tickets: \$69, \$62, \$49

Sunday, June 16 :: 5 PM

WESTERLIES

The Westerlies, “an arty quartet...mixing ideas from jazz, new classical, and Appalachian folk” (*New York Times*), navigate jazz, classical and folk with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family sing-along.

“Chamber music with bracing melodies and, crucially, an undeniable sense of fun.” *LA Times*

Tickets: \$42, \$36

Thursday, June 20 :: 7:30 PM

INON BARNATON, *piano*

A renowned pianist who was the first Artist-in-Association with the New York Philharmonic and is now the Music Director of the La Jolla Summerfest. He regularly performs with BBC Symphony and the LA Philharmonic when he is not performing with his regular musical partner Renee Fleming.

PROGRAM

RAMEAU: Suite in G major, CTR 6

RAVEL: *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*

STRAVINSKY/AGOSTI: Three Movements from *The Firebird*

RACHMANINOFF/Barnatan: Symphonic Dances

Tickets: \$72, \$66, \$50

Friday, June 21 :: 7:30 PM

SIRENA HUANG, *violin*

Drew Petersen, *piano*

Sirena Huang, Gold Medalist of the 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, has been praised by *The Baltimore Sun* for her “impeccable technique...deeply expressive phrasing...and poetic weight.” She is joined by pianist Drew Petersen, recipient of the 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant and winner of the 2017 American Pianists Awards.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Violin Sonata No. 1 in D major, Op. 12, No. 1

DEBUSSY: Sonata in G minor, L.140

CHEN GANG: Sunshine on Tashkurgan

Intermission

W. GRANT STILL: Suite for violin and piano

YSAÏE: Sonata No. 4

PAGANINI: Moses Variations

Tickets: \$42, \$36

Saturday, June 22 :: 5 PM

ALL-CHOPIN CONCERT

Eric Guo, piano | Colin Carr, cello | Terra Quartet

An evening of Chopin chamber music brought by acclaimed cellist Colin Carr, pianist Eric Guo (Winner of 2023 Chopin Competition on Period Instruments), and the Terra Quartet (Silver Medalist in the 2023 Melbourne Chamber Competition), among others. The concert culminates with Chopin's spectacularly grand Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 11 arranged for piano and string quartet.

ALL-CHOPIN PROGRAM

Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat major, Op. 61

Cello sonata in G minor, Op. 65

Intermission

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 (arr. for piano and string quartet)

Tickets: \$49, \$42, \$35

Sunday, June 23 :: 5 PM

TERRA QUARTET & GUESTS

Terra Quartet | Colin Carr, cello | Barry Shiffman, viola | Sydney Baedke, soprano

A chamber concert of 19th and early 20th century composers that ranges from Mendelssohn's melancholy String Quartet Op. 80 to Zemlinsky's *Maiblumen Blühten überall* for voice and ensemble. The all-star ensemble is led by the Terra Quartet, Silver medalist of the Melbourne Chamber Competition and prizewinner at the 2022 Banff Competition.

PROGRAM

STRAUSS: Capriccio, Op. 85

WEBERN: *Langsamer Satz*

ZEMLINSKY: *Maiblumen Blühten überall*

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet, No. 6, Op. 80

Tickets: \$42, \$36

Thursday, June 27 :: 7:30 PM

BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp

& VIANO QUARTET

DeMarre McGill, *flute* | Chris Elchico, *clarinet* | Jeremy McCoy, *double bass*

Internationally acclaimed harpist Bridget Kibbey dives deep into baroque music, French Belle Époque, Nuevo Latino traditions and beyond. She is joined by the Viano Quartet, which won First Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

"The Yo-Yo Ma of the harp" -*Vogue* magazine

PROGRAM

DEBUSSY: String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10

RAVEL: Introduction et Allegro

Intermission

DEBUSSY: *Danse sacrée et danse profane*

Tickets: \$49, \$42, \$35

Friday, June 28 :: 7:30 PM

STEVEN ISSERLIS, *cello*

Connie Shih, *piano*

World renowned British cellist Steven Isserlis enjoys a distinguished career as soloist, chamber musician, educator, author and broadcaster. He is joined by pianist and 1993 Sylva Gelber Awardee Connie Shih, to perform works by Beethoven, Fauré, Boulanger and Adès.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 5, No. 1

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102, No. 2

Intermission

NADIA BOULANGER: Trois pièces

FAURÉ: Sonata No. 2, Op. 117

ADÈS: Lieux retrouvés

Tickets: \$72, \$66, \$50

Saturday, June 29 :: 5 PM

MAHAN ESFAHANI, *harpsichord*

& VIANO QUARTET

Demarre McGill, *flute* | Barry Shiffman, *violin/viola* | Jeremy McCoy, *double bass*

Harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani was the first and only harpsichordist to be a BBC New Generation Artist (2008-2010), a Borletti-Buitoni prize winner (2009), and a nominee for Gramophone's Artist of the Year (2014, 2015, 2017). He is joined by the Viano Quartet, which won First Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

PROGRAM

CPE BACH: Sanguineus/Melancholicus

GULLIVER: Suite of Telemann for Two Violins

GAVIN BRYARS: Quintet for harpsichord and string quartet (*co-commissioned by Rockport Music, East Coast premiere*)

Intermission

CPE BACH: Sonata in G Major, "Hamburger" Wq: 133 (with harpsichord & cello)

J.S. BACH: Brandenburg concerto No. 5, BWV 1050

Tickets: \$65, \$59, \$47

Sunday, June 30 :: 5 PM

MOZART & FAURÉ

Stella Chen, *violin* | Matthew Lipman, *viola* | Brannon Cho, *cello* | Evren Ozel, *piano*

Violinist Stella Chen, winner of Gramophone's 2023 Young Artist of the Year and First Prize of 2019 Queen Elizabeth Violin Competition, returns to the Festival with a star-studded quartet of artists to perform Mozart's Divertimento and Faure's Piano Quartet, Op. 45.

PROGRAM

MOZART: Divertimento in E-flat major, K563

Intermission

FAURÉ: Piano Quartet No. 2 in G minor, Op. 45

Tickets: \$42, \$36

Friday, July 5 :: 7:30 PM

A FAR CRY

with Kinan Azmeh, *clarinet* & Dinuk Wijeratne, *piano*

GRAMMY-nominated “world-wide phenomenon” (WBUR) A Far Cry, named Boston’s best classical ensemble by *The Improper Bostonian*, will be joined by clarinetist and composer Kinan Azmeh, hailed by *The Times* for his “brilliant liquidity and meltingly beautiful tone.”

Kinan: “Intensely soulful... Virtuoso” *The New York Times*

PROGRAM

KAREEM ROUSTOM: Dabke

KINAN AZMEH: Ibn Arabi Postlude

DINUK WIJERATNE: Clarinet Concerto (*co-commission by Rockport Music*)

Part I - ‘Prologue: Foretelling

Part II - ‘The Dance of Ancestral Ties’

Part III - ‘Flux’

Part IV - ‘Exile: The salt and bread of rhythm’

Part V - ‘Cadenza: Solitary Traveler’

Part VI - ‘Epilogue: Home in Motion’

Intermission

JANÁČEK: Idyll

Tickets: \$72, \$66, \$50

Saturday, July 6 :: 7:30 PM

KING’S SINGERS

Patrick Dunachie, *countertenor* | Edward Button, *countertenor* | Julian Gregory, *tenor* | Christopher Bruerton, *baritone* | Nick Ashby, *baritone* | Jonathan Howard, *bass*

A *cappella* group The King’s Singers’ extensive discography has led to numerous awards, including two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award and a place in *Gramophone* magazine’s inaugural Hall of Fame.

“Astonishing, exhilarating musicianship” --*Gramophone*

Tickets: \$86, \$79, \$59

Sunday, July 7 :: 5 PM

FESTIVAL CLOSING NIGHT

Radovan Vlatković, *French horn* | Mackenzie Melemed, *piano* | Ryan Roberts, *oboe* | Yoobin Son, *flute* | Graeme Steele Johnson, *clarinet* | Bee Ungar, *bassoon* | Luri Lee, *violin* | Barry Shiffman, *viola* | Nicholas Canellakis, *cello*

The Festival closes with a bit of drama and poetry, featuring French hornist Radovan Vlatković, who served as principal horn of the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester. This concert highlights Poulenc’s dramatic, yet with a jovial flair, Sextet for piano and winds, Schubert’s “Notturmo” Trio and Dohnányi’s Sextet, Op. 37, which is described as having the whimsy of Gershwin with the grandness of Brahms and Mahler.

PROGRAM

SCHUBERT: “Notturmo” Trio

POULENC: Sextet for piano and winds, Op. 100

DOHNÁNYI: Sextet, Op. 37

Tickets: \$79, \$72, \$55

FESTIVAL ANNEX

Tuesday, July 16 :: 7:30 PM

CANADIAN BRASS

Chuck Daellenbach (*tuba, founding member*), Joe Burgstaller & Ashley Hall-Tighe (*trumpets*) | Achilles Liarmakopoulos (*trombone*) | Jeff Nelsen (*French horn*)

With an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, Canadian Brass has truly earned the distinction of “the world’s most famous brass group.”

Tickets: \$86, \$79, \$59

Sunday, August 11 :: 5 PM

CHARLES RICHARD-HAMELIN, *piano*

Internationally-acclaimed pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin, brings a program of works highlighting the dramatic range of their “waltzes” (valse) from Granados to Chopin. Since his 2014 Silver Medal win in the Chopin International Competition, he has performed through North America and Europe in recital and soloed with major orchestras.

PROGRAM

GRANADOS: Allegro de Concierto, Op. 46

GRANADOS: Valses Poéticos, Op. 43

ALBENIZ: La Vega

Intermission

CHOPIN: Allegro de concert, Op. 46

CHOPIN: Valses (selections)

Valse in E minor, Op. posth., KKIVa/15

Valse in A minor, Op. 34, No. 2

Valse in F major, Op. 34, No. 3

Valse in F minor, Op. 70, No. 2

Valse in D-flat major, Op. 64, No.1

Valse in C sharp minor, Op. 64, No.2

Valse in A flat major, Op. 64, No.3

Grande Valse in A-flat major, Op.42

Tickets: \$69, \$62, \$49

Sunday, August 25 :: 5 PM

DAVID DEVEAU, *piano* &

BORROMEO QUARTET

BARRY SHIFFMAN, *viola*

David Deveau, former artistic director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, has earned consistent accolades from major publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Gramophone* magazine and Beijing’s *China Daily*. He is joined by Artistic Director Barry Shiffman on viola and the Borromeo Quartet, dubbed “simply the best” by the *Boston Globe*.

Borromeo: "A musical experience of luminous beauty" – *The San Diego Reader*

PROGRAM

MOZART: String Quintet in G minor, K.516

Intermission

BRAHMS: Piano Quartet No. 2 in A major, Op. 26

Tickets: \$72, \$66, \$50

TICKETING DETAILS

Subscriptions are available for purchase **April 2** and subscribers receive a 10% discount with purchase of 4-6 concerts and 15% with purchase of 7 or more concerts. All subscribers are eligible for exchange privileges and purchasing

additional concerts without additional handling fees. **Single concert tickets** go on sale **April 16**. Please visit our website rockportmusic.org for more details on upcoming concerts.

Website: rockportmusic.org

Box Office: 978.546.7391

Ticket Sales Dates

Subscriptions: April 2, 2024

Single Tickets: April 16, 2024

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



ABOUT ROCKPORT MUSIC

Founded in 1981 as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music presents exceptional concerts and cultural events in the “stunning acoustics and dramatic setting” (*Boston Globe*) of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Best known for its summer chamber music festival featuring some of the world’s finest ensembles and soloists, Rockport Music has expanded its offerings to include year-round presentations of jazz, folk, pop, and world music, high-definition broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera and National Theatre (London), and special film presentations. Education and community outreach activities serve thousands of students and adults throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore annually.