



News Update

BARRY SHIFFMAN, *artistic director*

CONTACT: Julian Mendoza, Creative Content Strategist

jmendoza@rockportmusic.org

Phone: 978-546-7391, Ext. 115

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Rockport Chamber Music Festival Marks 45 Years with Its Biggest and Most Ambitious Season Yet

ROCKPORT, MA — The **45th Annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival** promises to be bigger, bolder and more exhilarating than ever before.

This milestone season brings an extraordinary constellation of artists to the Shalin Liu Performance Center stage while extending the musical celebration well beyond the Festival itself, with an expanded lineup of summer concerts featuring many of the world's most compelling performers.

Curated by Artistic Director **Barry Shiffman**, the Festival continues its long-standing tradition of pairing the most exciting voices of the next generation with internationally renowned artists at the height of their careers. Running from **June 12 through July 12, 2026**, the Festival is followed by a robust slate of classical concerts later in the summer, doubling the musical offerings and ensuring that the artistry remains at the highest level throughout the season.

"For 45 years, Rockport has been a place where great artists feel free to take risks and audiences feel deeply connected to the music," said Barry Shiffman, the Festival's Artistic Director. "This season reflects everything the Festival has grown to represent—artistic excellence, bold collaboration and a spirit of discovery, creating a summer of music that is richer, more vibrant, and more inspiring than ever."

The Festival opens in grand style on **June 12** with an evening devoted to **Brahms**, featuring acclaimed artists including pianist **Jon Kimura Parker**, violinist **Chee-Yun Kim** and distinguished collaborators, setting the tone for a month of exceptional music-making.

This year's Festival welcomes many of today's most celebrated artists, including a Gala appearance by pianist **Yuja Wang**, the incomparable violinist **Augustin Hadelich**, and the return of beloved Festival

favorites **Joshua Bell**, **Steven Isserlis** and **Jeremy Denk** in a program devoted to **Robert Schumann**. Audiences will also hear **David Finckel** and **Wu Han** in collaboration with violinist **Benjamin Beilman**. Alongside these luminaries, the Festival shines a spotlight on the next generation of chamber music stars. Highlights include the **Poiesis Quartet**, winners of the **2025 Banff International String Quartet Competition**; an encore appearance by the **Galvin Cello Quartet** following their standout 2024 performance; a collaborative concert featuring the **Balourdet Quartet** and **Terra String Quartet**; a **Music in the Morning** recital by cellist **Mira Kardan**; and violinist **Yura Lee**, who appears in the Festival's dramatic Closing program.

Returning Festival favorites include trumpeter **Jens Lindemann**, **A Far Cry**, clarinetist **Anthony McGill**, pianist **Stewart Goodyear**, pianist **Piers Lane** and many more. Additional highlights include the Festival debut of the thrilling, period-inspired chamber orchestra **Delirium Musicum**, and "The Voice and the Violin," a genre-spanning program presented by husband-and-wife duo **Joshua Bell** and **Larisa Martínez**.

On **July 9**, the Festival presents the **U.S. premiere of a new work by Osvaldo Golijov**, performed by the **Balourdet Quartet** with violist—and Artistic Director—**Barry Shiffman**.

The Festival concludes with a spectacular **Closing Weekend**. The **Gala** on July 10 features pianist **Yuja Wang**, one of the most celebrated and electrifying artists of her generation. The Festival then culminates with *A Beethoven Finale* on Closing Night, featuring a powerful piano-and-chorus arrangement of **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony**, performed by **Stewart Goodyear** with the **Rockport Festival Chorus**.

And the music does not end there. The summer continues with an expanded slate of concerts in **August**, featuring pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, violinist **Ray Chen**, a duo-piano powerhouse performance by **Marc-André Hamelin** and **Charles Richard-Hamelin**, and an all-star ensemble including **Shai Wosner**, **Stella Chen**, **Matthew Lipman** and **Brannon Cho** in a program of **Beethoven and Golijov**.

The Festival will also include a rich array of community activities, including **free concerts**, **masterclasses** and **artist talks**, to be announced in the coming months.

Festival tickets will be available by subscription on March 19 and for single concerts on April 1. See links for a full concert listing with program details or visit our website at rockportmusic.org for more information. The full Festival details will be online on February 24.

45TH ANNUAL ROCKPORT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Barry Shiffman, *artistic director*

June 12, 2026-July 12, 2026

Friday, June 12 :: 7:30 PM

Opening Night: A BRAHMS CELEBRATION

Jon Kimura Parker, *piano* | Chee-Yun Kim, *violin* | Barry Shiffman, *viola*

Colin Carr, *cello* | Mira Kardan, *cello*

The Festival's Opening Night features the music of Brahms, brought to life by a distinguished ensemble of celebrated soloists whose collective artistry promises an evening of richness, intimacy, and expressive power.

PROGRAM

BRAHMS: 3 Intermezzi, Op. 117

ARENSKY: Quartet No. 2 in A minor

Intermission

BRAHMS: Piano Quartet in C minor

Saturday, June 13 :: 11 AM

Music in the Morning:

Mira Kardan, *cello* | Micah Yui, *piano*

This concert showcases cellist Mira Kardan in a one-hour program featuring works by Beethoven, Schumann, Dvořák, and Rossini, highlighting the cello's lyrical voice across four distinctive musical worlds.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Cello Sonata No. 3

SCHUMANN: Fantasy Pieces

DVORAK: Silent Woods

ROSSINI: Barber of Seville (arr. by Tedesco)

Saturday, June 13 :: 5 PM

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN, *piano*

Simone Dinnerstein, renowned for her distinctive musical voice and celebrated Bach interpretations, performs works by Bach, Rameau, and others in a program combining clarity, imagination, and expressive depth.

PROGRAM : REFLECTIONS

RAMEAU : Gavotte et six doubles

PHILIP LASER: Twelve Variations on Chorale by J.S. Bach

Intermission

J.S. BACH: 15 Sinfonias, BWV 787-801

KEITH JARRET: Encore from "Tokyo"

Sunday, June 14 :: 5 PM

DAVID FINCKEL, *cello*

WU HAN, *piano*

BENJAMIN BEILMAN, *violin*

Cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han—two of the most influential figures in chamber music—join violinist Benjamin Beilman for an evening devoted to Schubert, performing the Piano Trios in B-flat and E-flat, works of expansive lyricism, depth, and emotional breadth.

PROGRAM

SCHUBERT: Piano Trio in B-flat major, D.898

Intermission

SCHUBERT: Piano Trio in E-flat major, D.929

Thursday, June 18 :: 7:30 PM

BRENTANO QUARTET &

JONATHAN BISS, piano

The Brentano Quartet—celebrated for its “luxuriously warm sound” and imaginative interpretations—joins pianist Jonathan Biss for a program of Haydn, Beethoven, and Dvořák, uniting one of today’s leading chamber ensembles with a pianist admired for intellectual depth and expressive clarity.

PROGRAM

HAYDN: String Quartet, Op. 20 No. 4

BEETHOVEN: String Quartet, Op. 18 No. 1

Intermission

DVORÁK: Piano Quintet, Op. 81, No. 2

Friday, June 19 :: 7:30 PM

A FAR CRY & ANTHONY MCGILL, clarinet

A Far Cry joins Anthony McGill, Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic, for a performance of Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto, pairing McGill’s trademark brilliance with the ensemble’s adventurous, collaborative spirit in a program of elegance, vitality, and shared musical purpose.

Saturday, June 20 :: 11 AM

Music in the Morning:

MARK STEINBERG, violin &

JONATHAN BISS, piano

Violinist Mark Steinberg of the Brentano Quartet joins pianist Jonathan Biss for a one-hour program devoted to Mozart’s violin sonatas, showcasing elegance, intimacy, and expressive dialogue from two artists celebrated for their insight and refinement.

Saturday, June 20 :: 5 PM

HUMOR & HARMONY

An Evening of Music, Film, and Comedy with the Canellakis-Brown Duo

Part concert, part film, part comedy, Humor & Harmony reinvents the recital experience as cellist-filmmaker Nicholas Canellakis and pianist-composer Michael Stephen Brown blend gorgeous classics, virtuosic originals and arrangements, and wildly popular comedy films into one unforgettable, genre-defying evening.

Sunday, June 21 :: 5 PM

PIERS LANE & FRIENDS

Piers Lane, *piano* | Michael Brown, *piano* | Danbi Um, *violin* | Aaron Boyd, *violin* | Barry Shiffman, *viola* | Nick Canellakis, *cello* | Adrienne Pieczonka, *soprano*

Internationally acclaimed pianist Piers Lane—renowned for his versatility as a soloist and chamber musician—leads an ensemble in a program featuring Schubert’s Fantasie for Piano, Four Hands, alongside works by Holst and Elgar.

PROGRAM

SCHUBERT: Fantasie for Piano, 4 hands

HOLST: Four Songs for Violin and Voice

ELGAR: Piano Quintet

More to be announced.

Thursday, June 25 :: 7:30 PM

GALVIN CELLO QUARTET

Following their spectacular 2024 Festival appearance, the Galvin Cello Quartet returns for an encore performance, bringing vibrant international energy and bold artistry to the stage. Prizewinners at the Fischoff and Victor Elmaleh Competitions, the ensemble is praised for its glorious sound and for redefining the cello quartet as a dynamic force in chamber music.

Saturday, June 27 :: 11 AM

Music in the Morning: NIGHTINGALE

Anna Stube, *violin* | Jeanie Chung, *piano* | Thomas Wolf, *author, narrator*

The Nightingale's Sonata tells the moving, uplifting story of one of the first internationally renowned female violinists, combining live music, projected historical photographs, and narration by the author. Music by César Franck weaves through this powerful multimedia portrait of artistry and resilience.

Saturday, June 27 :: 7:30 PM

POIESIS QUARTET

The Poiesis Quartet, First Prize winners of the 2025 Banff International String Quartet Competition, perform works by Haydn, Prokofiev, and others. Known for their bold energy and commitment to new music, this acclaimed ensemble brings fresh perspective and vivid expression to the quartet tradition.

"Magnetic. These musicians have palpable chemistry and a remarkable warmth." -*San Francisco Classical Voice*

PROGRAM

HAYDN: Quartet in D Major, Op. 71, No. 2

KEVIN LAU: String Quartet No. 7

Intermission

JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAAHA' TATE: Pisachi (Reveal) for String Quartet

PROKOFIEV: Quartet No. 2 in F major, Op. 92

Sunday, June 28 :: 5 PM

AUGUSTIN HADELICH & FRIENDS

Augustin Hadelich, *violin* | Jennifer Frautschi, *violin* | Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola* | Barry Shiffman, *viola* | James Baik, *cello* | Adrian Fung, *cello*

Grammy Award-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich takes center stage in a program that opens with a solo recital highlighting his extraordinary virtuosity and expressive range, followed by an ensemble performance of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. A prizewinner at major international competitions, Hadelich is widely admired for his commanding technique, stylistic insight, and musical intelligence.

Wednesday, July 1 :: 7:30 PM

DELIRIUM MUSICUM

Delirium Musicum is a thrilling chamber orchestra acclaimed for its bold programming, period-inspired performance, and electrifying, genre-crossing spirit. With members from nine countries, the ensemble swept all

five categories in the 2025 San Francisco Classical Voice Audience Choice Awards, earning recognition as one of today's most exciting and innovative ensembles.

Thursday, July 2 :: 7:30 PM

JOSHUA BELL, violin

LARISA MARTINEZ, soprano

Husband-and-wife duo Joshua Bell and Larisa Martínez present **The Voice and the Violin**, a genre-spanning program exploring art song, opera, musical theater, and works by Puerto Rican and Spanish composers—an acclaimed collaboration presented at major festivals and concert halls nationwide.

Sunday, July 5 :: 5 PM

BELL-ISSERLIS-DENK TRIO

Joshua Bell, violin | Steven Isserlis, cello | Jeremy Denk, piano

Three of today's most celebrated soloists—violinist Joshua Bell, cellist Steven Isserlis, and pianist Jeremy Denk—come together for a special performance of works by Robert Schumann. Grammy Award-winning Bell, one of the most influential artists of his era, joins the profoundly expressive Isserlis and MacArthur Fellow Denk in an evening of poetic intensity and chamber-music brilliance.

PROGRAM

SCHUMANN: *Fantasiestücke*, Op 73

SCHUMANN: Piano Trio No 3, Op 110

Intermission

SCHUMANN: Romances, Op 94

SCHUMANN: Quintet, Op 44

Wednesday, July 8 :: 7:30 PM

JENS LINDEMANN & FRIENDS

Trumpeter Jens Lindemann leads an ensemble in a program that opens with a classical trumpet concerto and concludes with a lively tribute to the instrument's greats, from Louis Armstrong and Chet Baker to Doc Severinsen and others. A recipient of the Order of Canada, Lindemann brings virtuosic command and genre-spanning artistry to this celebratory evening.

Thursday, July 9 :: 7:30 PM

BALOURDET & TERRA QUARTETS

With Barry Shiffman, viola

The Balourdet Quartet and Terra String Quartet join forces with Artistic Director Barry Shiffman on viola for an expansive program featuring works by Prokofiev and Ravel, Shostakovich's Octet, and the U.S. premiere of a work by Osvaldo Golijov. This collaboration brings together prizewinning ensembles for an evening of intensity, imagination, and bold collective artistry.

PROGRAM

PROKOFIEV: String Quartet No 2, Op. 92

GOLIJOV: *Tintype (US Premiere)*

Intermission

RAVEL: Quartet in F major, M.35

SHOSTAKOVICH: Two Pieces for String Octet, Op. 11

Friday, July 10

A Midsummer Celebration-A Rockport Music Gala

YUJA WANG, piano

Reception & Dinner: 5 PM | Concert: 8 PM

Pianist Yuja Wang brings her electrifying artistry to the Festival Gala in a rare appearance that promises virtuosity, spontaneity, and breathtaking musical intensity. A Grammy Award-winning artist celebrated for her emotional honesty and fearless individuality, Wang is one of the defining musicians of her generation, captivating audiences worldwide with performances that are as dazzling, imaginative, and deeply personal as they are technically astonishing.

“Yuja Wang was the brilliant pianist, projecting the solo part to a nicety and getting every note to glitter.” -*Financial Times*

Sunday, July 12 :: 5 PM

A BEETHOVEN FINALE

Stewart Goodyear, piano | Yura Lee, violin | Rockport Festival Chorus

The Festival closes with a dramatic program devoted to Beethoven, culminating in a powerful piano arrangement of the Ninth Symphony performed by Stewart Goodyear with the Rockport Festival Chorus. The evening also features violinist Yura Lee in Beethoven’s Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor, uniting intimacy and grandeur in a stirring Festival finale.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Violin Sonata, No. 7 in C minor

Intermission

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 9 (arr. piano & chorus)

POST-FESTIVAL CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Sunday, July 26 :: 2 PM

MORNINGSIDE MUSIC BRIDGE

An elite international summer program nurturing exceptional young musicians through intensive study, collaboration, and performance. *Free, reservations encouraged.*

Saturday, August 8 :: 5 PM

JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET, piano

Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet brings his celebrated elegance and interpretive insight to an all-French program featuring the music of Debussy and others. Renowned for his refined artistry and wide-ranging creative vision, Thibaudet offers performances of luminous color, nuance, and unmistakable style.

Sunday, August 9 :: 5 PM

RAY CHEN, violin

Violinist Ray Chen redefines the classical artist for the 21st century, combining extraordinary musicianship with global digital reach. A major international soloist and prizewinner, Chen connects millions worldwide through performances marked by virtuosity, warmth, and a deep commitment to engaging new audiences.

Sunday, August 16 :: 5 PM

MARC-ANDRE HAMELIN, *piano* &

CHARLES RICHARD HAMELIN, *piano*

Pianists Marc-André Hamelin and Charles Richard-Hamelin come together for a duo piano performance featuring works by Mozart, Chopin, Gershwin, and others. Uniting near-superhuman virtuosity with poetic insight, this collaboration brings brilliance, breadth, and extraordinary musical dialogue to the concert stage.

PROGRAM

MOZART: Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major, K. 448

CHOPIN: Rondo in C Major for Two Pianos, Op. 73

Intermission

CHAMINADE: Pas des Cymbales, Op. 36, No. 2

NIKOLAY MEDTNER: Two Pieces for Two Pianos Op. 58

G. GERSHWIN/P. GRAINGER: Fantasy on *Porgy and Bess*

Sunday, August 30 :: 5 PM

BEETHOVEN & CORREIA

Shai Wosner, *piano* | Stella Chen, *violin* | Matthew Lipman, *viola* | Brannon Cho, *cello*

These renowned artists come together for a powerful collaborative program featuring chamber arrangements of Beethoven's Leonore Overture and the "Eroica" Symphony alongside a new work by Osvaldo Golijov. This performance reimagines symphonic grandeur through collective artistry and contemporary perspective.

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN: Leonore Overture (piano quartet arr.)

CORREIA: *Cantares* (2025)

Intermission

BEETHOVEN: Eroica Symphony (piano quartet arr.)