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World-Renowned Artists Provide Incomparable Classical Music Moments at the 2018 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival July 15 – August 20

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival presents another spectacular lineup in its 46th season, which runs from July 15–Aug. 20. The Festival’s 40 concerts feature nearly 100 works — including five premieres — performed by the world’s finest classical musicians in beautiful and intimate venues in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Conductor and violinist Alan Gilbert returns to the Festival to serve as Artist-in-Residence for an unprecedented third time.

Spanning the 18th through the 21st centuries, the Festival’s 2018 repertoire includes masterworks by the likes of Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák and Stravinsky; classics of the Baroque era as part of its Bach Plus series; lesser-known gems by Janáček, Lutosławski and Dohnányi; and newly commissioned works by Alexander Goehr, Magnus Lindberg and Max Grafe, who hail from England, Finland and the United States, respectively.

With its wide range of performances, mix of longtime and debuting artists, plus the stunning Southwestern setting, the Festival offers a one-of-a-kind musical experience that, every year, draws dedicated — and delighted — New Mexico, US and international audiences alike.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alan Gilbert — the visionary former music director of the New York Philharmonic and chief conductor designate of Hamburg’s NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra — serves as the Festival’s Artist-in-Residence for the third time, showcasing his remarkable musicianship and passionate interpretations of masterworks from the classical music repertoire. During his residency, Gilbert appears on three programs. As a violinist, he performs Fauré’s Piano Quartet No. 1 on Aug. 5 and Aug. 6 and J. S. Bach’s Concerto for Violin and Oboe on Aug. 11. As a conductor, he leads Schoenberg’s chamber orchestra arrangement of Mahler’s symphonic vocal work *Das Lied von der Erde* on Aug. 13. The performance features Grammy Award–winning mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, whom *The New York Times* called “a luminous standout,” and tenor Paul Groves, described as “a lusty and evocative force” by *The Plain Dealer* and praised for his “appealing stage presence” by *New York* magazine.

Swiss-born American pianist Gilles Vonsattel makes his Festival debut with two programs. On July 24, Vonsattel, whom *The New York Times* called “immensely talented” and “a polished and wide-ranging player,” gives a solo recital in Santa Fe that includes Schumann’s *Fantasie in C Major*, Webern’s *Variations for Piano* and George Benjamin’s *Shadowlines*. On July 25, in Santa Fe, and July 26, in Albuquerque, he performs Dvořák’s “Dumky” Piano Trio with violinist William Preucil and cellist Mark Kosower.

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Three acclaimed ensembles make their first-ever appearance at the Festival this summer. On Aug. 7, the Danish String Quartet — hailed as “one of the best quartets before the public today” by *The Washington Post* — performs Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen’s Ten Preludes for String Quartet and Beethoven’s String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 132, in Santa Fe. On Aug. 8, in Santa Fe, and Aug. 9, in Albuquerque, they join forces with violinist Soovin Kim and pianist Gloria Chien (in her Festival debut) for Chausson’s Concerto in D Major for Violin, Piano & String Quartet.

The boundary-pushing Zebra Trio gives the world premiere of Magnus Lindberg’s Festival-commissioned String Trio on July 15 and July 16. On July 18, they perform Mozart’s Flute Quartet in C Major, with flutist Tara Helen O’Connor, and Klein’s String Trio. Their third program, on July 19, features Virko Baley’s *Orpheus Singing* for Oboe & String Quartet, which they perform with oboist Robert Ingliss and violinist L. P. How. In its Festival debut, the New York Philharmonic String Quartet, which formed in January 2017, performs Mendelssohn’s String Quartet in F Minor on Aug. 14, and Beethoven’s String Quartet in C Minor and Borodin’s String Quartet No. 2 on Aug. 15.

Another highlight of the season is the Festival’s first-ever presentation of two standout works. On July 21, audience favorites the Orion String Quartet performs Haydn’s string quartet version of *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross*, which Haydn originally wrote as an orchestral piece and later adapted into an oratorio. On Aug. 5 and Aug. 6, Lawrence Foster conducts Walton’s music-and-poetry piece *Façade: An Entertainment*, featuring text by Edith Sitwell recited by Tony Award–winning actor John Rubinstein and soprano Lucy Shelton, the only artist to win the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Award twice.

As part of its longstanding tradition of championing new music, the Festival premieres commissioned works by world-renowned composers Alexander Goehr and Magnus Lindberg; emerging composer Max Grafe; and Binna Kim and Michael Seltenreich, participants in this year’s Young Composers String Quartet Project, which is overseen by the Festival’s Artistic Director, composer/pianist Marc Neikrug. Grafe participated in the project in 2015.

Musicians making their Festival debuts in 2018 include (in addition to the ones previously mentioned) Ashley Vandiver, violin; Margaret Dyer Harris, viola; Laura Ardan and Amy Zoloto, clarinet; Richard Deane, horn; Christopher Bassett, trombone; Eric Lau, saxophone; Simon Crawford-Phillips, piano and Paolo Bordignon, harpsichord.

Among the many longtime musicians returning to the Festival are Ida Kavafian, violin/viola; Soovin Kim, violin; Tara Helen O’Connor, flute; Liang Wang, oboe; Anthony McGill, clarinet; Ran Dank, Shai Wosner and Haochen Zhang, piano; Daniel Druckman and Gregory Zuber, percussion; June Han, harp; the Dover Quartet; and the FLUX Quartet.

PRE-CONCERT TALKS

Director of Artistic Administration and Operations Valerie Guy hosts pre-concert talks with four of the five composers whose works the Festival commissioned and will be premiering this season: Magnus Lindberg (July 15 & 16), Young Composers String Quartet Project participants Binna Kim and Michael Seltenreich (Aug. 3) and Max Grafe (Aug. 15).

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YOUTH CONCERTS

Every summer, the Festival, as part of its education program, offers four free Youth Concerts, which make classical music fun and accessible to children of all ages.

The concerts are held at St. Francis Auditorium and feature excerpts from the current season's repertoire, performed in highly engaging ways by Festival musicians. In 2018, the concerts will take place on July 16 (Flute, Harp & Strings), July 23 (Piano & Winds), July 30 (Bach — Father & Son) and August 6 (Mozart Piano Trio).

THE FESTIVAL'S 2018 GALA

The 2018 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival Gala: In the Key of Summer will be held on July 17 at the Eldorado Hotel & Spa in Santa Fe.

This much-anticipated social event will attract more than 200 culture-minded individuals from across the United States for a gourmet multi-course dinner, wine pairings, a paddle raise and a silent and live auction with exquisite, one-of-a-kind items and priceless experiences. An exclusive concert — featuring Festival artists Ran Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee performing works for piano four-hands by Mozart, Brahms, Barber and Mendelssohn — will be held at St. Francis Auditorium.

Proceeds from this exclusive event benefit the Festival's six-week summer season as well as its critically acclaimed, year-round music education programs, which serve nearly 6,000 local Santa Fe students.

This year the Festival is thrilled to introduce Daniel Reid and Richard Tang in their inaugural year as Gala Co-Chairs. As avid supporters of the Festival, members of the Santa Fe community and artists themselves, Daniel and Richard have the gusto and passion to fulfill the Festival's fundraising goals.

Under the leadership of the Gala Co-Chairs and with the inclusion of famed charity benefit auctioneer David Goodman, this year's Gala will be a magical and memorable experience. With the support of the generous Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival family, the Festival will continue to fulfill its mission. The Festival depends on the charitable donations and the generosity of many individuals.

Please join us in making the 2018 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival Gala: In the Key of Summer the most successful yet!

CONCERT HALLS

Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival concerts are held in St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 West Palace Avenue in Santa Fe; The Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street in Santa Fe; and Simms Auditorium at the Albuquerque Academy, 6400 Wyoming Boulevard NE in Albuquerque.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Festival concert subscriptions are available in a variety of options and may be purchased with any major credit card by calling 505-982-1890 (or toll free at 888-221-9836, ext. 102); faxing orders to 505-986-0251 (credit card orders only); visiting SantaFeChamberMusic.com, where seat selection is available; emailing tickets@sfcmf.org; or stopping by the Ticket Office at 208 Griffin Street in Santa Fe. Tickets to individual concerts go on sale Feb. 20.

Tickets are nonrefundable. However, if you're unable to use your tickets, you can donate them to the Festival prior to the performance in person, via phone (see above for numbers) or via email at info@sfcmf.org. Ticket exchanges are subject to fees and restrictions.

Please visit the Festival's website at SantaFeChamberMusic.com for updates.

ABOUT THE SANTA FE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since it was founded in 1972, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival has become one of the world's pre-eminent music festivals, guided by a visionary spirit and dedicated to artistic excellence and innovation. Contributing to its magic is the Festival's special Santa Fe setting amid the timeless splendors of New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For information on Santa Fe, visit santafe.org.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Steven Ovitsky and Artistic Director Marc Neikrug, the Festival invites scores of distinguished musicians, along with emerging young artists, to perform during its six-week season every summer. Patrons return year after year to enjoy the Festival's many concerts, recitals, youth concerts and open rehearsals as well as its Albuquerque Series of concerts, which was launched in 2008. In its off-season, the Festival reaches out to students in Santa Fe's public elementary schools through innovative and inspiring musical programs. For more information on the Festival, visit SantaFeChamberMusic.com.

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