During Week 4 of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival —
Sunday, August 6–Saturday, August 12 — pianists Kirill Gerstein and Jonathan Biss perform solo recitals, Gerstein gives the world premiere of a new work by Marc Neikrug, and the Festival welcomes the return of other longtime Festival favorites, including the Miami String Quartet and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott.

• The Festival presents solo recitals by two acclaimed pianists: Kirill Gerstein, performing works by Brahms and Debussy, and Jonathan Biss, performing three Beethoven sonatas.
• In a separate chamber music concert, Gerstein gives the world premiere of *Prisms*, four pieces for solo piano by Festival Artistic Director Marc Neikrug.
• Other musicians returning to the Festival during Week 4 include the Miami String Quartet, which performs works by Schulhoff, Mozart, and Mendelssohn, and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, who solos in a chamber music arrangement of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415.

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SANTA FE, N.M – Audience favorites are a big part of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival’s Week 4 lineup, which includes longtime Festival favorites, such as pianists Kirill Gerstein, Jonathan Biss, and Anne-Marie McDermott and the Miami String Quartet. Gerstein and Biss perform solo piano recitals, and Gerstein also presents the world premiere of a new work for solo piano by Festival Artistic Director Marc Neikrug. McDermott, who will appear as part of the acclaimed OPUS ONE piano quartet during Week 5 of the Festival, performs Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415, accompanied by a string quintet.

All Week 4 performances will be held at either St. Francis Auditorium in the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe or Simms Auditorium at the Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque.

The Festival, which celebrates its 45th season in 2017, runs through August 21.

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TWO RECITALS AND A WORLD PREMIERE

On Tuesday, August 8, at noon in St. Francis Auditorium, pianist Kirill Gerstein gives a solo recital that features Brahms’s dramatic and virtuosic Piano Sonata No. 2 in F-sharp Minor, Op. 2 (which Brahms dedicated to Clara Schumann), and Debussy’s Préludes, Book I, whose 12 short pieces include familiar works such as *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair* and *The Sunken Cathedral*.

Gerstein will also give the world premiere of *Prisms*, four pieces for solo piano by Marc Neikrug, on Wednesday August 9, 6 p.m., at St. Francis Auditorium and again on Thursday August 10, 7:30 p.m., at Simms Auditorium in Albuquerque. Best-selling novelist and part-time Santa Fe resident Jonathan Kellerman commissioned *Prisms* for the Festival in honor of the 65th birthday of his wife, author Faye Kellerman.

Gerstein was born in Russia in 1979 and has been hailed as “one of the most respected pianists of his generation” by *The New York Times*. He moved to the United States at the age of 14 to study jazz piano and became the youngest student ever to attend Boston’s Berklee College of Music. He later moved to New York, where he studied classical piano at the Manhattan School of Music with Solomon Mikowsky and earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree by the age of 20. He also studied in Madrid with Dmitri Bashkirov and in Budapest with Ferenc Rados. Gerstein won First Prize at the 2001 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition as well as the 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award, 2010 Gilmore Artist Award, and 2010 Avery Fisher Career Grant. He has appeared with many of the world’s leading orchestras, including the Berlin, London, Los Angeles, and New York philharmonics; the Atlanta, BBC, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Montreal, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Toronto symphony orchestras; and others.

Pianist Jonathan Biss performs an all-Beethoven recital on Thursday, August 10, at noon in St. Francis Auditorium. His program includes three piano sonatas from each of Beethoven’s distinctive composing periods: the early yet innovative Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2, which a youthful Beethoven dedicated to one of his former teachers, Franz Joseph Haydn; the Piano Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90, written in 1814 during the composer’s late “middle” period; and the Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110, Beethoven’s penultimate piano sonata, which he wrote in 1821, six years before his death in 1827 at the age of 56.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1980, Biss began playing piano at the age of six. He studied at Indiana University with Evelyne Brancart and at the Curtis Institute of Music with Leon Fleisher and has been called “a young virtuoso and poetic pianist of the first order” by the *Chicago Sun-Times*. In 2011 he joined the faculty of Curtis, where he holds the Neubauer Family Chair in Piano Studies. Biss has performed with the world’s leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic; the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Philharmonia, and Royal Concertgebouw orchestras; and the Boston, Chicago, London, and NHK symphony orchestras. He’s given recitals in major venues around the world, such as Carnegie Hall in New York City, Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, and the Philharmonie in Berlin. His numerous honors include the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival’s Leonard Bernstein Award, the Andrew Wolf Memorial Chamber Music Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. In 2013 Biss launched an open, online course in partnership with Curtis and Coursera called “Exploring Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas,” which has reached more than 100,000 students in more than 160 countries.

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ADDITIONAL WEEK 4 HIGHLIGHTS
The Miami String Quartet, which was founded in 1988 and has been praised by The New York Times as having “everything one wants in a quartet,” returns to the Festival to perform in both Santa Fe and Albuquerque, beginning with concerts on Sunday, August 6, and Monday, August 7, 6 p.m., in St. Francis Auditorium, that include Schulhoff’s Five Pieces for String Quartet and Mozart’s String Quartet No. 14 in G Major, K. 387. The Quartet also performs Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 44, No. 3, on Wednesday, August 9, 6 p.m., at St. Francis Auditorium, and Thursday, August 10, 7:30 p.m., in Simms Auditorium.

Pianist Anne-Marie McDermott — whose award-winning, decades-long career has made her one of the most acclaimed and in-demand musicians of her generation — performs a chamber music arrangement of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415, with violinists L.P. How and Kathleen Brauer, violist Kimberly Fredenburgh, cellist Joseph Johnson, and bassist Mark Tatum on Saturday, August 12, at 5 p.m. in St. Francis Auditorium.

During Week 4, the Festival also presents the last of its four fun, free, and family-friendly Youth Concerts, which feature Festival artists engaging in musical storytelling and performing excerpts of repertoire drawn directly from the Festival’s regular programming. The Week 4 Youth Concert is at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 7, at St. Francis Auditorium and features the Miami String Quartet.

TICKET INFORMATION
Festival tickets 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 Festival Ticket Office in the lobby of the New Mexico Museum of Art, West Palace & Lincoln Avenues in Santa Fe. The Ticket Office is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

WEEK 4 AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 at 6 p.m.
MONDAY, AUGUST 7 at 6 p.m.
MOZART & BRAHMS
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

SCHULHOFF Five Pieces for String Quartet
Miami String Quartet:
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

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MOZART String Quartet No. 14 in G Major, K. 387
Miami String Quartet:
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

BRAHMS Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 26
Kirill Gerstein, piano
Benny Kim, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

MONDAY, AUGUST 7 at 10 a.m.
YOUTH CONCERT
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art
Miami String Quartet:
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 at noon
KIRILL GERSTEIN PIANO RECITAL
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

BRAHMS Piano Sonata No. 2 in F-sharp Minor, Op. 2
DEBUSSY Préludes, Book I
Kirill Gerstein, piano

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 at 6 p.m.
BACH & MENDELSSOHN
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

J.S. BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-flat Major, BWV 1051
Scott Lee, viola
Guillermo Figueroa, viola
Keith Robinson, cello
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Brandfonbrener, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

MARC NEIKRUG Prisms, four pieces for solo piano (world premiere)
Kirill Gerstein, piano

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MENDELSSOHN String Quartet No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op.44, No. 3
Miami String Quartet:
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 at noon**
JONATHAN BISS PIANO RECITAL
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110
Jonathan Biss, piano

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 at 7:30 p.m.**
BACH & MENDELSSOHN
Simms Auditorium, Albuquerque Academy

J.S. BACH Sonata No. 4 in C Minor for Violin & Harpsichord, BWV 1017
Benny Kim, violin
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

MARC NEIKRUG *Prisms*, four pieces for solo piano
Kirill Gerstein, piano

MENDELSSOHN String Quartet No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op.44, No. 3
Miami String Quartet:
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 at 5 p.m.**
VIVALDI & MOZART
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

VIVALDI Piccolo Concerto in C Major, RV 443
Tara Helen O’Connor, piccolo
L.P. How, violin
Kathleen Brauer, violin
Kimberly Fredenburgh, viola
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

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TELEMANN Suite in F Major for Two Horns, TVW 55:F12
Jennifer Montone, horn
Julie Landsman, horn
L.P. How, violin
Kathleen Brauer, violin
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

ALBINONI Trumpet Concerto in D Minor, Op. 9, No. 2 (originally for oboe)
Caleb Hudson, trumpet
L.P. How, violin
Kathleen Brauer, violin
Kimberly Fredenburgh, viola
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415
Anne-Marie McDermott, piano
L.P. How, violin
Kathleen Brauer, violin
Kimberly Fredenburgh, viola
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass

ABOUT THE SANTA FE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Founded in 1972, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival has become one of the world’s preeminent 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/composer/pianist 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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