A New Mexico Premiere, a Solo Piano Recital, the Launch of the Music at Noon Wednesday Series, and the Return of the Miami String Quartet Highlight Week 1 of the 2019 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival

• The Festival’s season-opening program includes masterworks by Schubert and Mendelssohn—The Shepherd on the Rock and the Octet for Strings, respectively—and the New Mexico premiere of Pulitzer Prize–winning composer John Harbison’s IF, a monodrama for soprano and ensemble co-commissioned by the Festival.

• Pianist Kirill Gerstein gives a solo recital featuring works by Beethoven, Liszt, and Janáček.

• The Festival launches its Music at Noon Wednesday Series with Schubert’s Sonatina No. 1 for Violin & Piano, Debussy’s Violin Sonata, and George Crumb’s Vox balaenae (Voice of the Whale) for Three Masked Players.

• A Festival-audience favorite, the Miami String Quartet, performs works by Haydn and Bruch on their own concert as well as Mendelssohn’s Octet for Strings on the season-opening program and Bach’s Violin Concerto in E Major, BWV 1042, on the first Bach Plus concert of the season.

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SANTA FE, NM—On Sunday, July 14, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival launches its 2019 season—its 47th—which runs through Monday, August 19, and includes 45 concerts held in the Festival’s two longtime Santa Fe venues: the New Mexico Museum of Art and The Lensic Performing Arts Center.

Over the course of six weeks, the Festival presents beloved staples of the repertoire, four Festival-commissioned works (three world premieres and one New Mexico premiere), a brand-new series, its first-ever performance of all 10 of Beethoven’s Sonatas for Violin & Piano, and much more.

FEATURED ARTISTS AND MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Three returning Festival artists—clarinetist Todd Levy, cellist Clive Greensmith, and pianist Elizabeth Joy Roe—kick off the 2019 season on July 14 at 6 p.m. in the New Mexico Museum of Art with an early work by Beethoven, the Trio in B-flat Major, which the composer wrote when he was in his mid-20s. The program also includes two works featuring soprano Sarah Shafer: Schubert’s mini-cantata The Shepherd on the Rock and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer John Harbison’s monodrama IF, which the Festival co-commissioned with Boston Musica Viva (in honor of the latter’s 50th anniversary) and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The Philadelphia Inquirer has praised Ms. Shafer for her “crystalline sound, perfectly true intonation, glowing warmth, and total presence.”
To close the program, which is repeated the following day, July 15, at the same time and in the same venue, the Festival presents one of the greatest chamber music works ever written: Mendelssohn’s Octet for Strings, featuring violinist Paul Huang—winner of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists—in his Festival debut.

On July 17, at the New Mexico Museum of Art, the Festival launches its five-concert Music at Noon Wednesday Series—an expansion of the popular Music at Noon Series, which, previously, had offered five concerts each on only Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first Wednesday Noon concert features Schubert’s Sonatina No. 1, Debussy’s Violin Sonata (his last major work), and George Crumb’s *Vox balaenae (Voice of the Whale)* for Three Masked Players. In a program note for his 1971 work, Mr. Crumb wrote that, “by effacing a sense of human projection,” the black half-masks he asks the musicians to wear “symbolize the powerful impersonal forces of nature (nature dehumanized).”

The following day, on July 18, pianist Kirill Gerstein—who’s been hailed as “one of the most respected pianists of his generation” by *The New York Times* and praised for his “full and gorgeous sound” by *The Wall Street Journal* and his “enormous skill” by *Gramophone* magazine—gives a solo recital at noon in the New Mexico Museum of Art. His program includes Beethoven’s delightful Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 7, and two powerful politically inspired pieces: Liszt’s *Funérailles*, which serves as an elegy for the failed Hungarian Revolution of 1848, and Janáček’s piano sonata known as *From the Street*, which pays homage to a Czech laborer who was killed by Austro-Hungarian troops during a demonstration.

Mr. Gerstein was born in Russia in 1979. He moved to the United States at age 14 to study jazz piano and subsequently became the youngest student 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. Highlights of Mr. Gerstein’s 2018–19 season include giving the world premiere of Thomas Adès’s Piano Concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the European premiere with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra (both times led by Mr. Adès as conductor); recitals in London, Stuttgart, Lisbon, Singapore, Melbourne, and Copenhagen; and chamber music performances in Lucerne. Mr. Gerstein’s honors include first prize at the Arthur Rubinstein Competition, a Gilmore Young Artist Award, a Gilmore Artist Award, and an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Another highlight of Week 1 is the return of the Miami String Quartet (Benny Kim, violin; Cathy Meng Robinson, violin; Scott Lee, viola; and Keith Robinson, cello) for performances on three programs. For the season-opening program on July 14 & 15, the quartet joins violinists Paul Huang and Jennifer Frautschi, violist L. P. How, and cellist Clive Greensmith for Mendelssohn’s Octet for Strings, and for the July 16 concert held at noon in the New Mexico Museum of Art, they perform Haydn’s “Fifths” Quartet and Bruch’s String Quartet in C Minor—one of only two chamber music works Bruch published in his lifetime. The Miami String Quartet also performs Bach’s Violin Concerto in E Major, BWV 1042, featuring violinist Jennifer Frautschi, on July 20, 5 p.m., in the New Mexico Museum of Art, during the Festival’s first Bach Plus concert of the season.
Throughout the season, the Festival presents four free, 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 first 2019 Youth Concert is on Monday, July 15, 10 a.m., at the New Mexico Museum of Art, and features the **Miami String Quartet**.

For a complete list of concerts, repertoire, and artists featured during Week 1, see the At a Glance section below or go to SantaFeChamberMusic.com.

**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); 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 at 107 West Palace Avenue 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 1 AT A GLANCE**

**SUNDAY, JULY 14, 6 P.M.**

**MONDAY, JULY 15, 6 P.M.**

**MENDELSSOHN OCTET**

St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

BEETHOVEN Trio in B-flat Major for Clarinet, Cello & Piano, Op. 11

Todd Levy, clarinet
Clive Greensmith, cello
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano

**JOHN HARBISON **IF, Monodrama for Soprano & Ensemble (2019 Festival co-commission, New Mexico premiere)

Sarah Shafer, soprano
John Harbison, conductor
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano
L. P. How, violin
Theresa Rudolph, viola*
Joseph Johnson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Todd Levy, clarinet
Gregory Zuber, marimba

**SCHUBERT Der Hirt auf dem Felsen (The Shepherd on the Rock) for Soprano, Clarinet & Piano, D. 965**

Sarah Shafer, soprano
Todd Levy, clarinet
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano

-more-
MENDELSSOHN Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20
Paul Huang, violin*
Jennifer Frautschi, violin
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
L. P. How, viola
Scott Lee, viola
Clive Greensmith, cello
Keith Robinson, cello

MONDAY, JULY 15, 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, JULY 16, NOON
MIAMI STRING QUARTET
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

Miami String Quartet
  Benny Kim, violin
  Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
  Scott Lee, viola
  Keith Robinson, cello

BRUCH String Quartet in C Minor, Op. 9
Miami String Quartet
  Benny Kim, violin
  Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
  Scott Lee, viola
  Keith Robinson, cello

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, NOON
VOICE OF THE WHALE
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

SCHUBERT Sonatina No. 1 in D Major for Violin & Piano, D. 384
Jennifer Frautschi, violin
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano

DEBUSSY Sonata for Violin & Piano
Jennifer Frautschi, violin
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano

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GEORGE CRUMB *Vox balaenae (Voice of the Whale)* for Three Masked Players
Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Joseph Johnson, cello
Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 6 P.M.**
**BEETHOVEN & ARENSKY**
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

BEETHOVEN Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 16
Inon Barnatan, piano
Benny Kim, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello

HANS ABRAHAMSEN *Walden* for Wind Quintet
Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Robert Ingliss, oboe
Todd Levy, clarinet
Julia Harguindey, bassoon
Gregory Flint, horn*

ARENSKY Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 32
Kirill Gerstein, piano
Paul Huang, violin*
Clive Greensmith, cello

**THURSDAY, JULY 18, NOON**
**KIRILL GERSTEIN PIANO RECITAL**
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

BEETHOVEN Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 7
LISZT *Funérailles* from *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses*
JANÁČEK Piano Sonata, *Zulice, 1.X.1905 (From the Street, 1 October 1905)*
Kirill Gerstein, piano

**SATURDAY, JULY 20, 5 P.M.**
**BACH & VIVALDI**
St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art

J. S. BACH Trio Sonata in C Major, BWV 1037
Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Paul Huang, violin*
Keith Robinson, cello
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

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VIVALDI Cello Sonata in E Minor, RV 40
Keith Robinson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

VIVALDI Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 4, No. 2, from La stravaganza, RV 279
Benny Kim, violin
Paul Huang, violin*
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

J. S. BACH Violin Concerto in E Major, BWV 1042
Jennifer Frautschi, violin
Benny Kim, violin
Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Scott Lee, viola
Keith Robinson, cello
Mark Tatum, bass
Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

*Festival debut

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 magical feeling is the Festival’s unique setting amid the timeless splendors of Santa Fe and 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 both distinguished seasoned musicians and acclaimed emerging artists to perform during its six-week season every summer. Patrons return year after year to enjoy the Festival’s many chamber music concerts, solo recitals, and open rehearsals. Throughout the year, the Festival reaches out to local students in pre-K and grades K–6 with its innovative and inspiring music education programs.

For more information about the Festival, visit SantaFeChamberMusic.com.

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