

SANTA FE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL CANCELS ITS 2020 SEASON

The Festival will make partial payments to musicians

Ticket donations and exchanges are encouraged and appreciated

The Festival's national Radio Series is available for free streaming

(Santa Fe, NM, May 11, 2020)—The leadership and Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival have made the difficult decision to cancel the Festival's 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic. The season was scheduled to run July 19–August 24 and be preceded on July 17 by the launch of the Festival's first-ever Opening Weekend Celebration. The Festival plans to hold its next season July 18–August 23, 2021.

“As with arts organizations around the world that have decided to cancel summer events, many realities factored into our decision,” said Steven Ovitsky, the Festival's Executive Director. “First and foremost is helping to keep our patrons, artists, and staff safe and secure. In our view, the best way to do that is to follow social distancing guidelines, which, although they may be relaxed somewhat in the coming weeks and months, will likely discourage large gatherings and international travel.”

Marc Neikrug, the Festival's Artistic Director, said: “In most times of crisis and stress, concerts have been a powerful, consoling, and unifying experience, and they surely will be again. The excitement of great music performed with a live audience is both unique and irreplaceable. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2021, and we'll all rejoice, taking in memorable performances of great music.”

The Festival will make partial payments to all the musicians who were scheduled to perform this summer, as supporting them during this difficult time is a priority for the organization.

The Festival will also continue to offer its year-round music education programs, which are available in select public schools throughout northern New Mexico, although instruction is currently being offered remotely due to the pandemic. For more information about the Festival's education programs, visit SantaFeChamberMusic.com/education.

Ticket holders for the 2020 season can donate the cash value of their tickets to the Festival, which is a 100 percent tax-deductible contribution; exchange their tickets for a credit voucher that they or a guest can use for the Festival's 2021 or 2022 season; or have the value of their tickets split between a donation and a credit voucher or refund. If none of those options are preferable, the Festival will issue a full refund. All options are available via the Festival's website, SantaFeChamberMusic.com. Ticket holders can also contact the Ticket Office directly at info@sfcmf.org or 505-982-1890. The Ticket Office is open Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

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Contributions—which support the Festival’s concerts, musicians, and music education programs—are especially appreciated at this time. To make a contribution, contact the Festival’s Director of Development, Cece Derringer, at 505-983-2075, ext. 108, or cderringer@sfcmf.org. You can also contribute online at SantaFeChamberMusic.com/donate.

In the absence of the Festival’s live concerts, listeners can stream the Festival’s free Radio Series at SantaFeChamberMusic.com/radio-programs. Every year, the series, produced and distributed by Chicago’s WFMT, offers 13 hour-long broadcasts filled with performances and interviews. The series includes the 2020 programs (which feature performances from the Festival’s 2019 season) and goes all the way back to the 2007 broadcasts.

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

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