



CHESAPEAKE MUSIC INTERLUDE

Chesapeake Music's 2018 International Chamber Music Competition

by Bob Burger The Olympics, recently viewed by millions worldwide, showed the exceptional dedication and skill exhibited by participants in the winter games. Though I think of these young people as international-level athletes, I also appreciate the artistry of their performances. After watching biographical pieces on certain Olympians, I realized that the personal histories of these individuals and the process they experienced has much in common with the remarkable musicians we will see at Chesapeake Music's Eighth International Chamber Music Competition.

Before this idea is dismissed as a "bit-of-a-stretch", consider that the Competition's participants began their study of music and performance as children. Like Olympic athletes, their training was focused and demanding to a degree not experienced by most of us. Once recognized as having unusual talent, parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors invested in the preparation of these promising young individuals. However, it is the musicians or athletes who, through their dedication, perseverance, and personal effort, are honored as outstanding members in their chosen field or activity.

On January 15, five ensembles were selected from all applicants as Finalists for the 2018 Competition. Like their counterparts in Olympic venues, the Competition's Finalists decided to test their skills against their most talented peers. These musicians allowed their skills to be judged through two rounds of preliminary evaluations by renowned artists who themselves are distinguished at the highest levels of musical performance. This year's preliminary judges were J. Lawrie Bloom, Maria Lambros, Diane Walsh, Wei-Ping Chou, Tom Rosenberg, and Stephen Balderston.

Based on the assessments of the preliminary judges, five Finalist ensembles and two alternate ensembles were chosen to participate in the live competition in Easton on April 7. Here they will have an opportunity to demonstrate

their skills in full, concert-length performances at the Avalon Theatre and will benefit from comments offered by a panel of three highly esteemed musicians: Marcy Rosen, Tara Helen O'Connor, and Thomas Sauer.



At the conclusion of the Competition, competitors will join the audience to hear the judges' evaluations. One group will receive the Competition's highest award, the Gold Medal (\$10,000). A second ensemble will distinguish themselves as winners of the Competition's Silver Medal (\$5,000). In addition, the audience will choose the Audience Choice Award (\$500). On April 8, each ensemble will perform at separate concerts in Easton, Cambridge, and Oxford.

Just as those who participate in the Olympic games are recognized as Olympians, the Finalists at the Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition are honored within the chamber music community in the United States and abroad. As evidenced by the success of previous Competition Finalists, the recognition received here continues to be a significant factor in their careers.

Join us to welcome the 2018 Finalist ensembles to our community in celebration of the Eighth Biennial Competition and Sunday Concert Series.

Jazz on the Chesapeake Fundraiser

The 2018 Jazz on the Chesapeake fundraiser, to be held on Saturday evening, April 28, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Tred Avon Yacht Club, will feature Darin Brown on piano and vocal performing new "modern standards" composed with songwriter Doug McCormick. With a nod to crooners such as Bobby Darin and Frank Sinatra, the team of Brown and McCormick offers songs with a story, meaning, and rhythm that recall a time when lyrics mattered. Their songs remain true to the tradition of the Great American Songbook, but add a fresh twist. As co-writers McCormick and Brown offer the yin and yang of great collaborators, Darin leans to the music and Doug leans to the lyrics, with neither being afraid to step into each other's territory. Darin Brown has toured with acts ranging from Willy DeVille to Enrique Iglesias and has performed at well-known jazz festivals and arenas worldwide. Doug McCormick has had his compositions recorded by Gladys Knight, Dusty Springfield, and Roberto Carlos, and is a co-writer with Paul Anka. Join the fun with jazz, wine and hors d'oeuvres! For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lois Campbell at 410-819-0380.



To learn more about Chesapeake Music, please call 410-819-0380
or visit our website, www.chesapeakemusic.org.

2018 International Chamber Music Competition Finalists

Merz Trio is a bold, new, fiercely creative ensemble. Formed in January 2017 as a collaboration between pianist Lee Dionne, violinist Brigid Coleridge, and cellist Julia Yang, Merz Trio was the recipient of a Judges' Special Recognition Award at the 2017 Plowman Competition and a finalist for a 2017 Tarisio Young Artists Grant for their Macbeth project. In July 2018, Merz Trio will head to Melbourne, Australia to perform two recitals presented by Musica Viva and compete as one of eight piano trios invited to the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition. Currently based in New York City, the trio takes inspiration from the 'Merz' found-object collages of the German artist Kurt Schwitters. In keeping with Schwitters' wide-ranging artistic vision, Merz Trio's projects promote dialogue between seemingly disparate musics, texts, and artifacts, weaving and juxtaposing the trio's repertoire within differing artistic worlds of visual art, dance, theater, and culinary arts.



District5 is a daring, Washington DC-based wind quintet that specializes in new music and new transcriptions. They are recipients of a 2016 CMA Classical Commissioning Grant with composer Elvis Sammoutis and will present this exciting new work starting in February 2018. District5 has recently performed at the U.S. Department of State, Library of Congress, Barns at Wolf Trap, DC Kosciuszko Foundation, and Washington Arts Club. They gave the U.S. Premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's ROTARY Woodwind Quintet in 2014 and frequently collaborate with composers and other ensembles. Upcoming projects include the release of their first album, the complete Chopin preludes transcribed by David Plylar; a residency at Ithaca College; and the launch of a new chamber music series in 2018/19. The quintet includes Laura Kaufman Mowry, flute, Alison Lowell, oboe, Zachary Gauvain, clarinet, Eddie Rumzisz, bassoon, and Laura Crook Brisson, horn.

Salute to Our Competition Volunteers

On Saturday afternoon and evening, April 7, concert-goers will meet young talented chamber music ensembles competing in live performances for awards, recognition and opportunities at the Chesapeake Chamber Music International Competition. There is no other event in the area like this one!

Give a shout out to all the volunteers who have rolled up their sleeves and worked hard for two years to bring this amazing event to the Avalon Theatre. Volunteers including our Artistic Directors Marcy Rosen and Laurie Bloom maintain extensive contacts with international and domestic universities, festivals and conservatories to encourage candidates to apply. Their work gives us our particularly distinguished gallery of young musicians.

Bill Geohegan developed methods and multiple software tools for our new online application system. Envision for a moment complex applications involving multiple applicants and judges distributing multiple musical recordings over a network. Liz Koprowski arranges housing for young musicians at the homes of volunteer hosts who provide not only accommodations but rehearsal space as well. Printed materials, programs and posters

are organized by Deb Crouch. Janet Pfeffer manages the volunteers ushering folks into a packed house. Dave and Susan Moore arrange the lovely reception following the performances as folks eagerly await the announcement of the winners. Frances Forster serves as den mother organizing the good souls who provide snacks and company for the young artists in the Green Room for the full eight hours of the Competition. The following day, the competitors are introduced to potential future performance producers at a brunch Hanna Woicke arranges.

Bob Burger, Chair, and Anne Moran, Assistant Chair, are responsible for leadership in envisioning, recruiting, managing, problem solving, and cheering every facet of the Competition for two years up to the Big Event. They too are volunteers.

Chesapeake Chamber Music counts on our volunteers and salutes them all, but we recognize that this could never happen without our supporters, sponsors, and contributors.

Thank you one and all!
Courtney Kane, President of Chesapeake Music

Chesapeake Music's mission is to enrich the musical life of the Chesapeake region by delighting today's audiences and developing tomorrow's



Trio Jinx has been hailed as “turning the classical concert into a jam session” by KTEP radio broadcaster Dennis Woo. The trio is classical at its core, but brings double bass, viola, and flute into a distinctive sound world that is orchestral in scope and draws from elements of folk, jazz, and improvisation. Trio Jinx has held residencies in El Paso, Texas with El Paso Pro Musica, Mesa, Arizona with the Mesa Arts Center, and Milford, Iowa with the Iowa Great Lakes Music Festival. They attended the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival in New York City. They look forward to being guest artists in the Sitka Summer Music Festival in the summer of 2018. All three members, Louna Dekker-Vargas, flutes, Ledah Finck, violin/viola, and Yoshiaki Horiguchi, double bass, are graduates of Peabody Institute and are proud to call Baltimore, Maryland their musical and artistic home.



Trio St. Bernard, founded in 2015 at the Taos School of Music, quickly gained acclaim for their creative and energized performances of the piano trio repertoire, as well as for their visionary programming of original arrangements. They have received guidance from members of the Borromeo, Shanghai, and Brentano Quartets as well as from Leon Fleisher, Ida Kavafian, Robert McDonald, and Michael Tree. The Trio’s members, Brandon Garbot, violin, Zachary Mowitz, cello and Sahun “Sam” Hong, piano, have performed at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, Eglise de Verbier, the Vienna Musikverein, the Kennedy Center, and at festivals including Chamber Music Encounters at CMSLC, Ravinia’s Steans Institute, Taos, and Krzyzowa. Trio St. Bernard was ensemble-in-residence at the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival and also completed residencies at Music from Angel Fire and St. Andrew’s School in Delaware. In its 2018 project, “Crossing Voices,” the Trio offers interactive community workshops where participants actively collaborate in the creative process.

Formed in 2016 at the University of Michigan School of Music, the **Sapphirus Quartet** has become an increasing presence in the Chamber Music world. Prizewinners at the 2017 Dale and Nancy Briggs Chamber Music Competition, the Sapphirus Quartet pushes the boundaries of what it means to be a classical saxophone quartet through new music performances and premieres, working directly with prominent contemporary composers such as Viet Cuong and David Biedenbender, while still remaining true to the saxophone’s 20th century French and European roots. Members of the quartet have met individual acclaim performing in Europe and the United States and at venues such as Carnegie Hall’s Perelman Stage, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the New World Center, the Kennedy Center, and Verizon Hall. The Sapphirus Quartet includes Charles Lilley, soprano saxophone, Emmett Rapaport, alto saxophone, Connor O’Toole, tenor saxophone, and Liam Dilenschneider, baritone saxophone.



Friends, Do you know what magic lies behind your contribution to Chesapeake Music?

Chesapeake Music has always kept our ticket prices reasonable, making our programs affordable, so everyone can attend. We bring the very best of today’s artists, winners of national acclaim and numerous awards, to our concerts. Our artists inspire audiences and entertain at the very highest levels. Artists of this caliber performing throughout the year and at our two summer Festivals come at a cost. These costs go beyond that of the artist: They include all the things “behind the curtain” that most people don’t see or, in some cases, don’t know happen. Location rental, music rental, ASCAP and BMI fees, artist costs, instrument rental, sound production and recording - the list goes on. The cost of seeing these artists elsewhere would be twice as much.

How does Chesapeake Music manage to keep our tickets affordable? It is your generous donations and concert sponsorships that enable us to keep the price of tickets down. The national trend on ticket revenue is that only 37% covers the actual cost of the performance. We continue to buck the trends as we stand at 38% of our ticket revenue covering the costs of performances, while still keeping tickets prices at reasonable levels.

We can’t do this without your generous support. Your contribution is what drives our ability to offer all of our performances, in both Jazz and Chamber Music genres, at reasonable prices to our audiences. Won’t you help keep this a part of our mission? **Your contribution makes the magic happen at Chesapeake Music!**

Don Buxton Executive Director of Chesapeake Music

We would like to keep you informed of the latest events in our growing series of year round programs. To help us reach you, please sign up on the website at www.ChesapeakeMusic.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jazz on the Chesapeake Fundraiser

Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00pm
Tred Avon Yacht Club

Jazz on the Chesapeake Concert

Chuck Redd and the New York City ALL-STARs
Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 8:00pm Academy Art Museum

Annual Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival

Tuesday, June 5 through Sunday, June 17, 2018

Monty Alexander Jazz Festival

Labor Day weekend Friday, August 31 through Sunday,
September 2, 2018 The Avalon Theatre



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Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at the Avalon Theatre

Tickets \$12, **FREE** for students

1:00 p.m. – Introduction

1:15 p.m. – **District5**

2:30 p.m. – **Trio Jinx**

3:45 p.m. – **Sapphirus Quartet**

4:45 to 6:45 p.m. – Intermission

6:45 p.m. – **Merz Trio**

8:00 p.m. – **Trio St. Bernard**

9:00 to 10:00 p.m. – Reception and
announcement of winners

Sunday, April 8, 2018 Concerts

1 PM - **Trio Jinx**

Temple B'nai Israel

101 West Earle Avenue

Easton, MD

FREE Admission

3 PM – **District5**

St. Mark's United

Methodist Church

100 Peachblossom Road

Easton, MD

FREE Admission

2 PM – **Sapphirus Quartet**

Church of the Holy Trinity

502 S. Morris Street

Oxford, MD

FREE Admission

4 PM – **Merz Trio**

Christ Episcopal Church

601 Church Street

Cambridge, MD

Admission \$10

Students **FREE**

PRIVATE CONCERT - **Trio St. Bernard**

The *Eighth* International Chamber Music Competition

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