Chesapeake Music presents
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 5–17, 2018

Experience the Extraordinary

by Marcy Rosen, Artistic Director of Chesapeake Chamber Music

During two music-filled weeks, our Festival artists will perform nine concerts featuring works from the 17th to the 21st centuries. We will hear Bach, Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Mahler and less well-known composers such as Villa-Lobos, Finzi and Franck.

The opening concert at Christ Church in Easton will be performed by: Catherine Cho, Robert McDonald and Artistic Director, Marcy Rosen. That program will include music of Beethoven and Brahms, with a pre-concert commentary by Jonathan Palevsky of WBJC. Well-known to our audiences is the celebrated flutist Tara Helen O’Connor. She will be featured in a program that includes Prokofiev’s Flute Sonata in D Major and “Light Screens” for Flute, Violin, Viola and Cello by the American composer Andrew Norman. This year we also welcome back the amazing soprano Kendra Colton who never fails to electrify our audiences. Kendra and our favorite oboist Peggy Pearson will perform at the Oxford Community Center in a fabulous program of music from Handel and Bach. Our program at the Tred Avon Yacht Club puts Winds in the Spotlight! And the closing concert, “Stradgrass”, will showcase Avery Fisher Award winning violinist Tessa Lark in a program of crossover and bluegrass music. She will be joined by bassist Michael Thurber and her father, Bob Frederick on the banjo. There is much more than I have mentioned here and I hope that you will be enticed by each program that is designed to take you, the listener, on a moving and memorable journey.

Exciting performances will also occur in the more intimate spaces of the Academy Art Museum, as well as Easton’s Christ Church and Trinity Cathedral. The Avalon Theatre will be the venue for A Youthful Celebration and will feature the 2018 Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition winners as well as Schubert’s “Trout” Quintet, written when the composer was only 22.

For a complete list of programming, please visit ChesapeakeMusic.org.

Design your own Festival Pass at chesapeakemusic.org and save 10% when purchasing tickets to 3 or more concerts in one transaction. Use the discount code Festival2018 when purchasing online. (Discount only applied to purchase of 3 or more concerts.).

Festival Pass is subject to one $4.25 processing fee per pass. Individual tickets are subject to one $4.25 processing fee per ticket. $50 tax deductible.

Receptions to Compliment the Concerts

by Carolyn Rugg Thanks to the efforts of the Festival 2018 Hospitality Committee several receptions will compliment the magic of our artists’ music where you can enjoy being with friends following the concert.

After the opening concert at Christ Church, stroll down the street to mix and mingle with friends at the cocktail reception at Mason’s Redux. We hope you will then join us for a prix fixe dinner to enjoy a sumptuous meal that only Mason’s can provide! The dinner will feature a seasonal menu with your choice of appetizer, main course and dessert for $55 per person (plus tax and gratuity). Whether you would like an intimate table for two or a table for eight - this is sure to be a popular event.

Following the music of Winds in the Spotlight at the Tred Avon Yacht Club, linger as the wind rustles in the trees, to watch the setting sun across the Tred Avon River with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

Conclude your Festival experience with the Angels Concert, held for the first time in the comfort of the Prager Family Auditorium followed by a garden reception catered by Gourmet by the Bay amongst the stunning splendor of the Talbot County Historical Society Garden - truly an afternoon not to be missed.

For dinner reservations call Mason’s at 410-822-3204. For concert tickets visit chesapeakemusic.org.
Remarks by the President

Welcome to the 2018 Chamber Music Festival June 5-17! Once again extraordinary musicians will present concerts and open rehearsals for our enjoyment. Our Artistic Directors Marcy Rosen and Lawrie Bloom have assembled gifted performers, each of whom has achieved notable recognition by their peers. Among their many prestigious awards one exceptional honor is the Avery Fisher Career Grant given to outstanding instrumentalists as major recognition on which to build their careers. The grants are awarded to musicians who represent the highest level of excellence and whose vision and leadership have taken classical music to a new level. Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell were early recipients. The grants are awarded by the Lincoln Center Avery Fisher Artist Program. Annually some 3-5 grants are awarded.

This year three Avery Fisher Career Grant winners and understand that their recognition is one example of the exceptional quality of the performances and artists you will hear throughout Festival 2018.

We are truly grateful for the many volunteers, supporters and donors without whom the Festival could not happen. Come, listen and enjoy.

Courtney Kane

Meet Festival Artists

by Susan Koh

Once again Marcy Rosen and Lawrie Bloom have arranged for 15 outstanding artists to join them for the 2018 two-week Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival. Most of the artist’s need no introduction since they return year after year to make music together at our outstanding concerts. We take this opportunity to introduce less familiar artists to our audience.

During the second week of the Festival, bassist Michael Thurber, who enjoys a reputation as one of the most versatile young musical talents, will participate in several concerts. Whether playing bass on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, composing music for the Royal Shakespeare Company, co-founding the smash U-tube channel CDZA, or hosting his “Thurber Theater” variety show at Joe’s Pub in New York City, Thurber’s musical voice defies genre and category.

Banjo player Bob Frederick will appear with Michael Thurber and Tessa Lark at the Stradgrass! concert on June 16th. Bob began playing a 5-string banjo at the age of 12 and has been performing bluegrass and old-time banjo music for 40 years. Bob’s day job was at Eastern Kentucky University, where he was a professor of wildlife ecology for 34 years and department chair of biological sciences from 2007 until his retirement in 2016.

Violinist Merideth Buxton, known locally as a musician and teacher, will perform at the Handel and Bach concert on June 14th. Since 1982, Merideth has taught violin to thousands of children and adults, and has collaborated with musicians in Maryland and Delaware. She is a retired professor of music at Washington College. Currently, she is on the staff at the new “Allegro Academy” at Trinity Cathedral in Easton.

Violist Steven Tenenbom has a distinguished career as a chamber musician, soloist and teacher. A recipient of the prestigious Coleman Chamber Music award, he is a member of the renowned Tashi Quartet and the Opus One Piano Quartet, and is the violist and a founding member of the acclaimed Orion String Quartet. Mr. Tenenbom is on the faculties of the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, the Bard College Conservatory of Music, Mannes College of Music, and this year he is visiting professor at the Yale School of Music.

Particularly sought-after for Baroque and Classical repertoire, soprano Kendra Colton has been a soloist with major orchestras, ensembles and festivals. She sings nearly all the Bach cantatas, Passions and Masses, Handel oratorios, and Mozart concert arias and masses. Ms. Colton returns to the Chesapeake Music Festival this year to be the soloist at the June 13th and June 14th concerts, featuring the music of Mozart, Strauss, Mahler, and Handel and Bach.

Bassist Jeffrey Weisner is an orchestral performer, soloist, chamber musician and teacher. He is a member of the National Symphony Orchestra and is a bassist for the Phillips Camerata in Washington, D.C. Mr. Weisner has performed at the Kennedy Center and at chamber concerts across the United States through the National Symphony Orchestra’s American Residencies program.

Wei-Ping Chou is only horn player in Juilliard School history to be awarded the Artists Diploma. She currently holds the second horn position with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra/Washington National Opera orchestra, and regularly performs with the National Symphony Orchestra. This fall she joined the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute Conservatory faculty.

We are fortunate to have these world-class musicians participate in our Festival.
Michael Thurber and Tessa have become a violin-bass duo as well as a romantic pair: he composed a violin concerto for her called ‘Love Letter,’ which premiered in February. They met at one of the board meetings of From The Top, a national platform that showcases talented young classical musicians. Tessa describes Michael as a “performing-arts Renaissance man – composer, classical AND jazz bassist, producer, actor and more.”

Bob Frederick – who was a professor of wildlife ecology for 34 years – will be playing his banjo at Stradgrass! at the insistence of his daughter. “I am beginning to notice and appreciate the humble yet assured, warm and natural way with which my dad plays music” Tessa said. “I really took it for granted, but then I expected and looked for that quality in my collaborations and slowly discovered that those qualities are rare in a performer.”

To learn more about Tessa’s stellar violin career, Michael’s diverse creative accomplishments, and Bob Frederick’s academic and musical achievements, look over the performer biographies in the Chesapeake Chamber Festival program.

Tessa grew up in Kentucky. “My Dad, Bob Frederick, plays banjo and both my parents are great cloggers,” Tessa said, “so bluegrass was a part of my family’s lifestyle.” She has always played folk music; her first instrument was the mandolin.

Expressions of Appreciation and Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Don Buxton, executive director of Chesapeake Music, I want to recognize and thank Don Berlin, Diane Rohman, Kathy Wise and Hanna Woicke for their successful terms of service on the Board. Don and Diane served as Board members since 2012, and Kathy and Hanna since 2008. They have left ample evidence of their contributions. We appreciate their leadership and look forward to their continuing connection to Chesapeake Music.

During this year the Board of Directors welcomed Barry Koh, Anne Moran, and most recently Elizabeth Koprowski as new members. All three bring talent, experience, and commitment to the Board.

Courtney Kane
President
Merz Trio and Trio St. Bernard Tie to Win the Gold at 2018 Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition

by Amy Blades Steward. For the first time in the 17-year history of the biennial Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition, two of the five finalists split both the Lerman Gold Prize of $10,000 and the Silver Prize of $5,000 at the Avalon Theatre in Easton. The Merz Trio of New York, NY, and Trio St. Bernard of Taos, NM, tied as this year’s winners. The Merz Trio also received the Competition’s Audience Choice Award. The other finalists were District5 of Washington, DC; Sapphirus Quartet of Ann Arbor, MI; and Ajax Quartet of Boulder, CO.

A preliminary judges’ panel of eight notable musicians headed by J. Lawrie Bloom, artistic director of Chesapeake Music, pared the field of applicants to five finalists in a blind review of applicant electronic submissions. The finalists were judged by Marcy Rosen, founding member of the world-renowned Mendelssohn String Quartet and artistic director of Chesapeake Music; Tara Helen O’Connor, founding member of the Naumburg Award-winning New Millennium Ensemble and head of the wind department at Purchase College Conservatory of Music; and Thomas Sauer, pianist and founder and director of the Mannes Beethoven Institute at Mannes College and a faculty member of both Vassar College and Mannes College. Rosen, speaking to the finalists before the winners were announced, commented, “It’s not winning that’s important, but making music for the rest of your life.”

The judges met with the finalists following the Competition to share feedback on their performances. The pianist of the Merz Trio, Lee Dionne, added, “The judges listened so well with refined sensibilities. Their feedback was most welcome.” Pianist Sam Hong of Trio St. Bernard reflected on his ensemble’s performance in the Competition, “We can feel when the audience is in contact with us. Last night was profound during the slow movement of Beethoven when there was complete silence in the Avalon. The Avalon’s venue is small enough for us to reach the audience like that.” Julia Yang, cellist for the Merz Trio, added, “We looked for a competition that offered recital opportunities. The concerts in the community after the competition offered this. We really felt the good vibes from the audience when we were playing.”

The musicians were housed in homes throughout Talbot County by families connected to Chesapeake Music. Anne Moran, assistant chair of this year’s Competition, stated, “It’s the enthusiasm and kindness of the community that makes this Competition possible every other year.” Brigid Coleridge, violinist with the Merz Trio, spoke about her experience staying with her host family, David and Chloe Pitard, “Winning aside, this has been a great experience – everyone has been so warm and welcoming. I feel like we came into a community interested in what we are doing and in our journey as musicians.”

Bob Burger, Competition chair and Chesapeake Music Board treasurer, concluded, “It can be said with great sincerity that each of the ensembles brought distinction to itself by qualifying to be a Competition finalist. We were honored to have these five finalists participate in the 2018 Competition. In our eyes, each of them was a winner.”

The Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition is underwritten by the Talbot County Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and private benefactors.
A Tribute to Arnie and Zena Lerman

by Bob Burger

Nearly two decades ago, Arnold Lerman, who served for nine years as a director of Chesapeake Music’s Board (1996-2004), collaborated with Anna Larkin and Don Buxton to submit a proposal to the Board to plan, organize, and present a biennial competition that would feature the best young chamber music artists in the world and allow them to perform full-length concerts before a live audience. As Arnie described it then, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful, I thought to hold a competition for young professional ensembles to help them launch their careers. With an average ensemble age of 30 or 31, we could attract both student groups and others who had already started on their careers. We would provide a window for an audience and for concert promoters to hear the groups.” The Board approved the plan, and in March 2004 the inaugural Chesapeake Chamber Music International Competition was staged at the Avalon Theatre. And what a success it has been!

The dedication of Arnie and his late wife Zena, to the Competition reflects their love of music. Arnie began to play the violin at the age of nine, and throughout his career as a Washington attorney, he continued to enjoy playing classical music. Zena, a dedicated social worker, found a perfect niche as a music therapist at the Hebrew Home for the Aged in Rockville, MD. Even in the last year of her life, Zena spent time with the ill and failing, singing to them, reading poetry, and offering her hand when their most meaningful experience called for a simple human touch.

The joy of music in the Lermans’ lives motivated them to make sure the reputation of the Competition grew and that it continued to be a positive force in the lives of many young artists. This year, Arnie and his family have ensured that this commitment will continue for the foreseeable future by funding the Competition’s highest award for 2020 and beyond, to be known as the Lerman Gold Prize. Chesapeake Chamber Music and the community thank the Lerman family for their vision, support and generosity - it is greatly appreciated.

Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Honors Donald C. Buxton

by Amy Blades Steward

As part of its 20th Anniversary Concert Season, “Reaching Ever Higher,” the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra (MSO) recently honored its founding conductor, Donald C. Buxton. The MSO performed its first concert, under the direction of Music Director Donald C. Buxton, at the Ocean City (Maryland) Convention Center on November 21, 1997. Three concerts would be held at the Convention Center during the 1997-1998 season.

According to MSO President Jeffrey Parker, Maestro Buxton conducted the orchestra until June 2005. Under his tutelage the MSO established itself as the archetypal provider of quality music throughout the multi-state peninsula. The guest conductor for the season finale in April 2005 was Julien Benichou, who later assumed the role of music director of the MSO.

Benichou comments, “It is a great joy being able to honor Donald Buxton for all of his amazing work for the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. Don has done so much for the musical life of the area and we are lucky to have him as our founding music director.”

Don’s reach into the musical community has extended far beyond his current role as Executive Director of Chesapeake Music, an organization he founded as The Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival in 1985 with colleagues Marcy Rosen and Lawrie Bloom, who now serve as Chesapeake Music’s artistic directors. Don was the associate conductor of the Talbot Chamber Orchestra in the mid-1980s; became music director of the Dover Symphony in 1989 (which he still maintains); was faculty at Washington College in Chestertown; and has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Talbot County Arts Council and Maryland State Arts Council. In addition, he was an early influencer on the Avalon Theatre Foundation Board. He also serves on Vestry and sings regularly in the choir of Christ Episcopal Church in St. Michaels.

Buxton comments on his most recent honor, “It has been a privilege through my various roles in the community to be able to enrich the musical life of the Chesapeake region by delighting today’s audiences and developing tomorrow’s. My start with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony and now my role as executive director with Chesapeake Music continues to challenge me as we find new avenues to introduce residents and visitors alike to all types of musical experiences. The arts are alive and well on the Eastern Shore.”

Lissa Einhorn, Legislative Aide to Senator Addie Eckardt, presents a certificate of recognition from the Maryland Senate to Donald C. Buxton at a recent Mid-Atlantic Symphony concert at which Buxton was honored.

For tickets or info about Chesapeake Music, please call 410-819-0380 or visit our website, www.chesapeake music.org.
Courtney Kane, president of Chesapeake Music, coordinated the housing of the musicians with the help of Donald Buxton, executive director of Chesapeake Music and Hanna Woicke, chair of Chesapeake Music’s YouthReach Committee. Courtney comments, “There was instant electricity when the Potomac Winds met student musicians. Potomac Winds artists were talented, skilled in their approach to the group…and young. The band classes responded with unmistakable enthusiasm. Each session included demonstration, some theory, small group and individual coaching. Kudos to all, including generous local hosts who welcomed the visitors into their homes.”

Given the apparent success of this year’s program, it is hoped funding will be found to continue the initiative at Easton Middle School and expand the project to other schools. The program is made possible by a grant from the Artistic Insights Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, with funds from an Arts-in-Education grant from the Talbot County Arts Council, using revenues provided by the Maryland State Arts Council. Carpe Diem Arts also supported the program.

Chesapeake Music Funds Presto! Program

by Merideth Buxton. Since 2006 Chesapeake Music’s YouthReach program has brought live music to children on the Eastern Shore. With the help of the Talbot County Arts Council, thousands of children have held and played real violins through First Strings. This year CM fully funded the next phase - its after-school program Presto! Grant monies were used to purchase violins and finance the classes. Unlike the violins used in First Strings, these instruments are taken home and the students practice on them.

Twelve St. Michaels Elementary School third and fourth graders enrolled, and our classes started in early December. Weather did not cooperate in early January, but we were able to make progress learning new songs and skills. A special thank you to Principal Dr. Indra Bullock and the staff at St. Michaels Elementary School for hosting us. I should mention that Dr. Bullock is a former violin student of mine as a youth. Her knowledge and appreciation of the arts is making a real impact on her students.

Shortly after beginning Presto!, I was contacted by Ms. Vicki Wilson, retired teacher and committee member of the Frederick Douglass Society, about the children performing a short program honoring the 200th anniversary of Frederick Douglass. He taught himself to play fiddle and passed that love onto his children and grandchildren. On February 10th a handful of Presto! students performed at the Frederick Douglass Memorial Breakfast. After eating, the students stood and played a few rousing variations
Monty Alexander Jazz Festival Preview ~ Labor Day Weekend 2018

by Al Sikes

I can no longer use the phrase “best ever.” It has been worn thin by successive best...
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