



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bay Chamber Concerts' 49th Summer Music Festival

Season to feature twenty-two concerts in Rockland, Rockport, Northport and Camden

Tickets and subscriptions are available for Bay Chamber Concerts' 49th Summer Music Festival. During the months of July and August of 2009 Bay Chamber Concerts will present weekly concerts at the Strand Theatre, in Rockland, and at the Rockport Opera House, in Rockport. In these spectacular venues on the coast of Maine, Bay Chamber Concerts offers intimate concerts with world-class musicians. There will be a total of twenty-two classical and jazz concerts in Rockport, Rockland, Northport and Camden.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its founding. Bay Chamber's Quartet-in-Residence will become a sextet as old and new members of the St. Lawrence come together to perform in honor of their 20th year. Their performances will include a New England premiere of "A New String Quartet" by John Adams (commissioned by the Quartet in honor of their 20th year), an evening highlighting the brilliance of Beethoven, and two concerts with past Quartet members: Barry Shiffman, violin and Marina Hoover, cello.

Opening the 2009 season is the Butch Thompson Trio. Thompson is well-known for his many performances on Garrison Keillor's NPR sensation, "A Prairie Home Companion." The Paragon Orchestra will be returning to perform the original scores of three classic silent film-shorts with the three Clown Princes of the silent era – Keaton, Chaplin, and Lloyd. Also appearing in two programs is the Empire Brass Quintet, known internationally as North America's finest brass quintet.

Other classical concerts highlights include an offering, in honor of the Messiaen centennial, of the composer's unforgettable "Quartet for the End of Time," featuring audience favorites: James Campbell, clarinet; Irina Muresanu, violin; Marc Johnson, cello; and Paul Stewart, piano. Bay Chamber will also be presenting Camille Saint-Saëns' family friendly "Carnival of the Animals," in which each animal appears as a different instrument and sound, creating a magical universe for young and old alike.

Bay Chamber Concerts also welcomes back some of its most popular events including Curtis on Tour, Andrew Wolf Award Winner, Baroque, and First Chair All Stars concerts. "Curtis on Tour" features outstanding young artists from America's greatest music conservatory, the Curtis Institute of Music.

- more -

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These talented youth will be performing alongside their director, Roberto Diaz, and world-renowned violinist and faculty member, Joseph Silverstein.

Pianist Inon Barnatan, the 2008 Andrew Wolf Award Winner, will return to perform two concerts with members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet and friends. The Baroque concerts will feature several works by Bach, including two of his beloved Brandenburg Concerti, and a piece re-rendered almost a century after his death by admirer Robert Schumann. First Chair All Stars, which brings principal players from the nation's top orchestras, will close out the season with several woodwind masterworks, including the unforgettable Dvořák Wind Serenade.

This summer Bay Chamber is offering three free concerts as part its season – including an outdoor concert at the Camden Harbor Park Bok Amphitheatre. Surrounded by the beauty of the Camden Amphitheatre and harbor, the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will perform Tin Pan Alley tunes, classic rags, symphonic parodies, and novelty numbers. Guests to the concert are invited to bring picnics and blankets or low-backed chairs. No tickets are required.

In addition, the annual Young Stars of Maine and Next Generation Youth Chamber Music Program concerts are free and open to the public. The Young Stars of Maine Program encourages and rewards the best young musical talent from around the state and the concert features this year's prize winners. The Next Generation Youth Chamber Music Program showcases this summer's participants and is the culmination of all their hard work in the week-long music training program.

Bay Chamber will present a concert every Wednesday and Thursday throughout July and August. Wednesday night events will be at the Strand Theatre in Rockland and all Thursday night events will be held at the Rockport Opera House. Before all Thursday night concerts there will be a pre-concert talk with Thomas Wolf, co-founder and artistic director of Bay Chamber, and visiting musicians. After all concerts there will be a free post-concert reception with the artists and complimentary refreshments.

For the best value, Bay Chamber Concerts urges patrons to subscribe to the season. A variety of subscriptions are available, with anywhere from five to nine concert package options. Subscribers receive a discount on their tickets, as well as other benefits including complimentary ticket exchange privileges and advance notice of coming events. Packages include Wednesday Nights, Thursday Nights and the flexible Explore Pass where you can choose your own season. As a special bonus, subscribers to the season will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to Down East, The Magazine of Maine.

Tickets to most of the events in the Summer Music Festival are \$25 to \$35 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 18 and under. Discounts are available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more. Several events are free and open to the public. Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

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Calendar Listings:

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Butch Thompson Trio

Sponsors: Co-sponsor: McCormick & Associates;

Performers: Butch Thompson Trio – Butch Thompson, piano; Eli Newberger, tuba; and Jimmy Mazzy, banjo and vocals.

Program: A night of jazz and ragtime.

Description: You know Butch Thompson from Garrison Keillor’s NPR sensation, “A Prairie Home Companion.” By popular demand, Bay Chamber Concerts has invited back this respected jazz and ragtime trio to open its 49th season.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, July 2, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Opera House Opening Night

Sponsors: Honorary Sponsor: Rush & Liz Kidder in honor of Anne R. & Richard W. Davidson.

Performers: Shmuel Ashkenasi, violin; Joseph Silverstein, violin and viola; Marc Johnson, cello; and Anastasia Antonacos, piano.

Program: LeClair: Sonata for Two Violins in E minor, Op. 3, No. 5; Berio: Duo for Two Violins; Moszkowski: Suite for Two Violins & Piano, Op. 71; and Beethoven: String Trio in E flat major, Op.3.

Description: Two of the world’s great violinists come together for their first Rockport concert together. Shmuel Ashkenais and Joseph Silverstein will be joined by two old friends: Marc Johnson and Anastasia Antonacos.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Carnival!

Performers: Paul Stewart and Gloria Chien, pianos; Mimi Stillman, flute; James Campbell, clarinet; Irina Muresanu, and Gilda Joffe, violins; Jesse Holstein, viola; Marc Johnson, cello; Thomas Van Dyck, bass; Glenn Jenks, narrator; and others.

Program: Doppler: Andante and Rondo, Op.25; Sarasate: Carmen Fantasy, Op.25; and Saint-Saëns: Carnival of the Animals.

Description: A fun evening for the whole family! The concert will feature Saint-Saëns’ “Carnival of the Animals” – two unsuspecting children are met by a charming assortment of animals when they wander into the forest. Each animal is represented by a different instrument and sound, creating a magical universe for young and old alike.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, July 9, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: The End of Time

Sponsors: Sponsor: Hugh Chatfield – fine portrait photos.

Performers: James Campbell, clarinet; Irina Muresanu, violin; Marc Johnson, cello; and Paul Stewart, piano.

Program: Beethoven: Sonata for Cello & Piano, Op.5, No.2; Bartok: Contrasts; and Messiaen: Quartet for the End of Time.

Description: To celebrate the Messiaen centennial Bay Chamber Concerts is offering his unforgettable “Quartet for the End of Time.” After many sold out concerts through out the years audience favorite James Campbell will be returning to perform with Bay Chamber Concerts, along with Marc Johnson, formerly of the Vermeer Quartet, Paul Stewart, and Irina Muresanu.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Friday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Young Stars of Maine

Performers: The winners of the Young Stars of Maine Prize Program.

Description: The annual Young Stars of Maine concert features performances by the winners of Bay Chamber Concerts' annual prize program, representing the best and brightest young musicians from around the state.

Price: FREE and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Brass from Baroque to Broadway

Performers: The Empire Brass Quintet – Rolf Smedvig and Marc Reese, trumpets; Gregory Miller, French horn; Alexei Dookhovskoy, trombone, and Kenneth Amis, tuba.

Program: A night of Broadway tunes and classical numbers.

Description: One of the world's best brass quintets offers a range of audience-friendly works from Prokofiev and Dvořák to the show-stopping tunes of Gerswin and Ellington. Hear them all in one jam-packed concert!

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, July 16, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Classical Brass

Sponsors: Sponsor: Rockport Marine.

Performers: Empire Brass Quintet – Rolf Smedvig and Marc Reese, trumpets; Gregory Miller, French horn; Alexi Dookhovskoy, trombone; and Kenneth Amis, tuba with Deborah DeWolf Emery, piano.

Program: An evening of brief classical pieces for brass instruments.

Description: Come hear this fascinating and unusual program of small classical pieces for brass instruments in singles, pairs and up to six players. You'll hear Stravinsky, Berio, Vivaldi, Strauss and more, surrounded by the dynamic acoustics of the Rockport Opera House.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Camden Harbor Park Bok Amphitheatre; rain location is the Rockport Opera House.

Title: Paragon Ragtime Orchestra

Sponsors: Honorary Sponsor: Edes Gilbert in honor of the Bay Chamber Concerts staff.

Performers: The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra.

Description: Classic rags, symphonic parodies, novelty numbers and Tin Pan Alley tunes are all stitched together with Rick Benjamin's historical & witty introductions, making for a unique and varied event surrounded by the beauty of the Camden Amphitheatre and harbor. Be on the lookout for a Maine ragtime composer!

Price: Free and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Music & Film: Clown Princes

Performers: The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra.

Description: Back once again, by popular demand! Come hear the 12 member Paragon Ragtime Orchestra perform the original scores to three classic silent films. Watch the films the way silent movies were meant to be seen! This year the Paragon will perform shorts by the three Clown Princes of the silent era – Keaton, Chaplin and Lloyd.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, July 23, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Curtis on Tour

Sponsors: Mary Curtis Bok Zimbalist Concert

Performers: Joseph Silverstein and Brittany Sklar, violins; Roberto Diaz and Rachel Kuipers, violas; Hiro Matsuo, cello; and Andrew Tyson, piano.

Program: Boccherini: Two Viola Quintet in G major, Op.60, No. 3; Dohnanyi: Quintet for Piano & Strings in C minor, Op.1, No.1; and Brahms: Two Viola Quintet in G major, Op.111.

Description: Young stars of the Curtis Institute of Music join director Roberto Diaz and star faculty member Joseph Silverstein to play an outstanding concert.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Anniversaries & Premiere

Sponsors: Sponsor: Planet Toys

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet – Geoff Nuttal and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello.

Program: excerpts from Bach: The Art of the Fugue; John Adams: A new String Quartet (NE Premiere); and Mendelssohn: String Quartet in F minor, Op.80, No.6.

Description: Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Bay Chamber Concerts' Quartet-in-Residence. The St. Lawrence returns to Bay Chamber Concerts with the New England Premiere of "A New String Quartet" by John Adams, a new piece commissioned by the St. Lawrence for their anniversary season.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, July 30, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Beethoven the Master

Sponsors: Co-Sponsor: Elizabeth Biddle, Esq.

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet – Geoff Nuttal and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello.

Program: Beethoven: String Quartet in B flat major, Op.18, No.6 and Beethoven: String Quartet in A minor, Op.132, No.15.

Description: An evening highlighting the brilliance of Beethoven performed by Bay Chamber Concerts' Quartet-in-Residence: the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: 20th Anniversary: Reunion

Sponsors: Sponsor: Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors.

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet– Geoff Nuttal and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello with Barry Shiffman, violin; and Marina Hoover, cello.

Program: Strauss: Capriccio for String Sextet; Haydn: String Quartet in F major, Op.77, No.2; Raum: Table at the Bushwacker (commissioned by the St. Lawrence); and Dvořák: String Sextet in A major, Op.48.

Description: It's a reunion twenty years in the making: the St. Lawrence String Quartet is joined by two of its founding members: Barry Shiffman and Marina Hoover. Join them as they come together to perform some of their favorite pieces!

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, August 6, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: 20th Anniversary: Celebration

Sponsors: Sponsors: Camden Harbour Inn.

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet– Geoff Nuttal and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello with Barry Shiffman, violin; and Marina Hoover, cello.

Program: Haydn: String Quartet in E major, Op.2, No.2; Schoenberg: Verklarte Nacht, Op.4; and Schubert: String Quintet in C major, D.956, Op.163.

Description: The reunion celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the St. Lawrence Quartet continues with all six members (the four original members, plus the two newest members) performing together on the Rockport Opera House stage.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Andrew Wolf Award Winner Concert: Soaring Melodies

Performers: Geoff Nuttall, violin; Christopher Costanza, cello; and Inon Barnatan, piano.

Program: Haydn: Piano Trio in C major, Hob. XV:27; Mendelssohn: Cello Sonata No.2 in D major, Op.58; and Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No.1 in D minor, Op.49.

Description: The extraordinary winner of the 2008 Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, Inon Barnatan, returns for his second season with Bay Chamber Concerts. He will be joined by two members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, August 13, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Andrew Wolf Award Winner Concert: Crossing Borders

Sponsors: Co-Sponsor: Allen Agency/Allen Financial

Performers: Geoff Nuttal and Livia Sohn violins; Christopher Costanza cello; and Inon Barnatan, piano.

Program: Beethoven: Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart's Magic Flute in E flat, WoO 46; Enesco: Sonata for Violin & Piano No.3 I A minor, Op.25; and Schumann: Piano Trio No.1 in D minor, Op.63.

Description: Musicians from four countries play music from two others! Do not miss this rare opportunity to hear husband and wife, Livia Sohn and Geoff Nuttall, on the same concert stage and to experience the fireworks of Enesco's famous third violin sonata.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Saturday, August 15, 3:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Next Generation Concert

Sponsors: Co-Sponsor: Harmon, Jones and Sanford.

Performers: Participants in the Next Generation Youth Chamber Music Program.

Description: Each year Bay Chamber Concerts hosts scores of exceptionally talented young chamber musicians from across Maine at the Next Generation Youth Chamber Music Program. This concert showcases their efforts as the culmination of the week of instruction.

Price: Free and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

Date: Sunday, August 16, 5:00 p.m.

Title: Da Capo: Bay Chamber Concerts' Annual Gala Benefit

Location: The Summit: Point Lookout, Northport.

Description: Be among 100 guests partaking in a unique musical evening at the Summit, the pinnacle of Point Lookout in Northport. In this magnificent setting overlooking Penobscot Bay, guests will enjoy excellent cuisine, the performance of Bay Chamber's own young musicians, and the company of other members of the Bay Chamber family. All funds raised directly support Bay Chamber Concerts' many education programs!

Price: \$500 per person - \$420 tax deductible gift to benefit education programs.

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Baroque Romanticism: Virtuosity

Sponsors: The Picker Family Concerts

Performers: Demarre McGill, flute; Gilda Joffe, Harumi Rhodes, Peter Zazofsky, violins; James Dunham, viola; Marc Johnson, cello; Deborah Dunham, bass; Michael Bahmann, harpsichord; Robert Merfeld, piano.

Program: Bach: Suite for Flute & Strings No. 2 in B minor, BWV 1067; Bach: Sonata in C major, Adagio & Fugue, BWV 1005 (arr. Schumann); Bach: Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042; and Bach: Brandenburg Concerto, No. 5, BWV 1050.

Description: Bay Chamber's annual Baroque concerts return! This concert will feature works by Bach, including a Bach piece re-rendered almost a century after his death by admirer Robert Schumann.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, August 20, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Baroque Romanticism: Elegance

Sponsors: The Picker Family Concerts.

Performers: Demarre McGill and Thomas Wolf, flutes; Gilda Joffe, Harumi Rhodes, Peter Zazofsky, violins; James Dunham, viola; Marc Johnson, cello; Deborah Dunham, bass; Michael Bahmann, harpsichord; and Robert Merfeld, piano.

Program: Bach: Prelude from Partita No.3 in E major, BWV 1006 (arr. Kreisler); Bach: Chaconne in D minor (arr. Schumann); Telemann: Concerto for Two Flutes & Strings in E minor, TWV 52; and Bach: Brandenburg Concerto, No. 4, BWV 1049.

Description: A second night of romantic re-interpretations of the 18th century Baroque music by composers of the 19th and 20th centuries, together with some authentic Baroque favorites..

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: First Chair All Stars: Treasures

Sponsors: Co-sponsor: Bartlett Woods.

Performers: Demarre McGill, flute; Katherine Needleman and Liang Wang, oboes; Loren Kitt, Joshua Ranz, Greg Raden and Michael Rusinek, clarinets; Judith LeClair and Daniel Matsukawa, bassoons; William Cabellero, Richard King, Jennifer Montone, and James Sommerville, French horns; and Edwin Barker, bass. .

Program: Mozart: Serenade for 13 winds, K.361; Hummel: Octet Partita in E flat; and Gounod: Petite Symphonie.

Description: Great principal players from America's finest orchestras, including the symphonies of Boston, Cleveland, New York and Philadelphia come together to provide a one-of-a kind performance. Only in Midcoast Maine at Bay Chamber Concerts can one hear these great performers on the same stage!

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, August 27, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: First Chair All Stars: Masterworks

Sponsors: Sponsor: Windsor Chairmakers.

Performers: Katherine Needleman and Liang Wang, oboes; Loren Kitt and Greg Raden, clarinets; Michael Rusinek and Joshua Ranz, clarinets and basset horns; Judith LeClair and Daniel Matsukawa, bassoons; William Cabellero, Richard King, Jennifer Montone, and James Sommerville, French horns; and Edwin Barker, bass..

Program: Dvořák: Wind Serenade Op.44; Mozart: "Abduction from the Seraglio," K.384; and Beethoven: Wind Octet, Op.103.

Description: Bay Chamber Concerts' 49th season ends with fanfare as 13 principal players from the great American orchestras perform the unforgettable Dvořák Wind Serenade, plus a delightful arrangement of one of Mozart's operas, and a piece by Beethoven.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

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