



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 26, 2009

#### **Carnival and The End of Time**

*Bay Chamber presents Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals" and Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time"*

Bay Chamber Concerts will present "Carnival!" on Wednesday, July 8, at 8:00 p.m. at the Strand Theatre in Rockland, featuring Saint-Saëns' family favorite "Carnival of the Animals." At the Rockport Opera House on Thursday, July 9, at 8:00 p.m., "The End of Time" will feature Messiaen's unforgettable "Quartet for the End of Time," in honor of the composer's centennial.

In Camille 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, musical universe for young and old alike. The concert will also include Sarasate's "Carmen Fantasy," Op. 25 and Doppler's "Andante and Rondo," Op. 25.

The performance will be narrated by Glenn Jenks, with 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; and Jeffrey Fischer, percussion.

Audience members may recognize "The Finale" of Saint-Saëns' musical suite from Disney's "Fantasia 2000." The piece was introduced by James Earl Jones (best known as the voice of Darth Vader from "Star Wars") and the animation responded to that age-old question "what would happen if you gave a yo-yo to a flock of flamingos?"

In contrast to Wednesday's fun-filled musical suite, on Thursday audiences will hear Olivier Messiaen's haunting "Quartet for the End of Time." The piece was written and premiered by Messiaen while he was a prisoner in the German POW camp, chillingly named Stalag VIIIA during World War II. The quartet was inspired by the "Book of Revelation" and describes, as Messiaen writes in its preface, the "banishing [of] the temporal."

The concert will be performed by audience favorites James Campbell, clarinet; Irina Muresanu, violin; Marc Johnson, cell; and Paul Stewart, piano. In addition to the Messiaen piece, they will perform Bartok's

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[www.BayChamberConcerts.org](http://www.BayChamberConcerts.org)

“Contrasts” and Beethoven’s “Sonata for Cello & Piano,” Op.5, No.2. The concert is sponsored by Hugh Chatfield Photographs.

Bay Chamber Concerts will present a concert every Wednesday and Thursday throughout July and August. Wednesday night events will be at the Strand Theatre in Rockland and 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.

Tickets and subscriptions to all of the events of the Summer Music Festival are available now. Subscribers receive a discount on their tickets, as well as other benefits including complimentary ticket exchange privileges and advance notice of coming events. As a special bonus, subscribers to the season will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to Down East, The Magazine of Maine.

Tickets to “Carnival!” and “The End of Time” are \$25 to \$35 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 18 and under. Discounts are available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more. 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](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org).

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#### **Calendar Listings:**

**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.

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