



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keaton, Chaplin, and Lloyd, Oh My!

Bay Chamber presents the "Music & Film: The Clown Princes" and "Curtis on Tour"

Bay Chamber Concerts continues its 49th Summer Music Festival this week with three popular performances. Rick Benjamin's Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will perform a free concert in the Camden Harbor Park Amphitheater on Tuesday, July 21 at noon. The following night, Wednesday, July 22 at 8:00 p.m., the Paragon Orchestra switches gears and venues to accompany three outstanding film silent shorts by "The Clown Princes" of the silent movie era: Keaton, Chaplin and Lloyd at the Strand Theatre in Rockland. Then, on Thursday, July 23 at 8:00 p.m., "Curtis on Tour" returns to the Rockport Opera House along with star faculty members Joseph Silverstein and Roberto Diaz.

Audience members are invited to bring blankets or low-backed chairs for first-come, first-served lawn seating for Tuesday's concert with the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra in the Camden Harbor Park Amphitheater. In the event of rain, the concert will be held at the Rockport Opera House. The concert is free and open to the public, no tickets are necessary. The concert is sponsored by Edes Gilbert in honor of the Bay Chamber Concerts staff, presented in partnership with the Camden Public Library.

For five summers now, Bay Chamber Concerts has presented classic silent films as they were originally shown in theaters across the country – with live musical accompaniment. This year Rick Benjamin's 13-piece Paragon Orchestra returns to the Strand Theatre on Wednesday night to perform alongside three silent film greats: Keaton, Chaplin and Lloyd.

On Thursday, students and teachers from the world renowned Curtis Institute of Music will return to Rockport (at the Opera House) to perform where they summered for decades almost a century ago. Roberto Diaz, violist and the director of Curtis Institute and violinist and faculty member Joseph Silverstein, will perform with a group of talented young musicians from the Institute.

Student performers include Brittany Sklar, violin; Rachel Kuipers, viola; Hiro Matsuo, cello; and Andrew Tyson, piano. They will be performing an impressive program of Boccherini, Dohnányi, and Brahms, including Boccherini's Two Viola Quintet in A major, Op. 60, No. 3; Dohnanyi's Quintet for Piano & Strings in C minor, Op. 1, No. 1; and Brahms' Two Viola Quintet in G major, Op. 111.

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The Strand concert on Wednesday gives Bay Chamber Concerts audiences an opportunity once again to experience great films and music. According to legend, Buster Keaton became involved in show business after one extraordinary day when he was around three years old. While his parents were performing in a vaudeville show, Buster, fascinated by the mechanisms of the household clothes wringer caught his right index finger in its rolls, losing a third of his finger. Later in the day, he gashed his head after attempting to acquire a peach from a nearby tree. At this point, his parents decided it would be wise to lock young Buster in the safety of his room. Then, moments after Buster's parents resumed their performance, the tornado sirens sounded. As his parents rushed to release their son from his room, Buster was being sucked out of his bedroom window by the passing cyclone. It carried him through the air, eventually depositing him, unhurt, in the middle of a street a few blocks away from the house. After a wringer, peach tree and tornado Buster's parents decided he would be safer on stage – a fortuitous decision for the film industry.

Charlie Chaplin is infamously known for his comedic character "The Tramp." The opening title of Chaplin's first feature length film "The Kid" best articulates the philosophy behind the Tramp's world: "A picture with a smile, and perhaps a tear." Much of the genius behind Chaplin's Tramp lies in the character's ability to simultaneously evoke empathy and laughter. With his iconic baggy clothes, mustache, cane, and derby hat, the bumbling, fumbling Tramp comically pursues the American dream – evoking happiness in all who observe him.

Harold Lloyd, like Buster Keaton, is well known for performing extraordinary, daredevil stunts in his films. Interestingly, Lloyd also lost his index finger (in addition to his thumb) on his right hand in 1919 from an accident with a prop bomb. The injury was disguised in films through the use of a prosthetic glove. Lloyd's comedic career is synonymous with his go-getting "Glasses Character," who optometrists from the 1920s credit with popularizing the use of glasses. Don't miss the opportunity to see these iconic comedians of the silent movie era!

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 to "Music & Film: The Clown Prince" and "Curtis on Tour" 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.

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Calendar Listings:

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.

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