



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 25, 2010

### **Bay Chamber Concerts Opens 50th Anniversary Season!**

*Join in the celebration...*

A golden anniversary deserves to be special and Bay Chamber Concerts' 50th Anniversary Summer Music Festival promises to be just that. Bay Chamber's season opens this Thursday, July 1, at 8:00 pm at the Rockport Opera House with musical icons Shmuel Ashkenasi, violin and Peter Serkin, piano. There will be a pre-concert talk featuring these remarkable musicians at 7:00 pm also in the Rockport Opera House. Following the talk there will be a complimentary champagne toast to the season at 7:45 pm (for "50th Anniversary Opening Night" ticket holders only). Serkin and Ashkenasi will be performing works by Dallapiccola, Busoni, and Beethoven (his Kreutzer Sonata)!

"Shmuel and Peter have been part of the Bay Chamber family since the beginning," says Bay Chamber's Artistic Director and co-founder, Thomas Wolf. "Shmuel performed in our very first season, fifty years ago, and Peter in our second. I am thrilled that they agreed to open our golden anniversary celebration. It's going to be a very special concert."

Peter Serkin has collaborated with such esteemed musicians as Yo-Yo Ma, the Budapest, Guarneri, Vermeer and Orion string quartets and TASHI, of which he was a founding member. In 1958, at age eleven, Serkin entered the Curtis Institute of Music, and in 1959, made his New York debut followed by appearances with the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras.

A founding member of the Vermeer Quartet, Shmuel Ashkenasi has performed in more than 35 seasons of Bay Chamber Concerts. An alumnus and faculty member of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Ashkenasi has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras in the United States, Europe, the Soviet Union and Japan. "50th Season Opening Night" is sponsored in memory of Anne R. & Richard W. Davidson.

A post concert reception will be held following the concert at the Center for Maine Contemporary Arts and will feature refreshments compliments of Farmers Fare in Rockport. In addition, on Thursday nights throughout July and August Farmers Fare will be offering Bay Chamber patrons a light pre-concert meal and free round-trip shuttle service in time for the pre-concert talk at 7 pm or for the concert 8 pm. Avoid

Bay Chamber Concerts  
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[www.BayChamberConcerts.org](http://www.BayChamberConcerts.org)

Rockport Village parking and enjoy a delicious meal at Farmers Fare located at 3 Cross Street, Route 90 in Rockport! Local foods will be featured including: light fare, cheese, wine and charcuterie.

As part of the Festival of Independence weekend, Bay Chamber will be presenting a free outdoor concert in Camden Harbor Park on Saturday, July 3 at 8:30 pm. Emil Stuccio and the Classics return to Camden to perform with The Chiclettes in Bay Chamber's "July 3rd Doo-Wop Bash" concert, which will include the evening fireworks! Join Bay Chamber; the Camden, Rockport, Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce; the Camden Rotary; and downtown Camden businesses in celebrating America's Independence! The rain location for "July 3rd Doo-Wop Bash" is the Rockport Opera House. The concert is sponsored by Camden Harbour Inn and Natalie's.

Coming up next week: Bay Chamber opens its Wednesday Night series at the Strand Theatre in Rockland with "Flute Feste" on July 7 at 8:00 pm. A concert of rarely heard, flashy and virtuosic music for four flutes with accompanying instruments! Also, new this year, Wednesday nights will feature pre-concert Music and Art talks with Tom Wolf, Artistic Director, Michael Komanecky, Chief Curator and guests in the galleries of the Farnsworth Art Museum. Bay Chamber will also present Classical Treasures on Thursday, July 8 at 8:00 pm in the Rockport Opera House. The concert will feature works by Haydn, Brahms and Spohr.

Tickets to "50th Season Opening Night" are \$50. Most events in the Summer Music Festival are \$30/\$40 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 18 and under. Discounts are available up to 30% off tickets for subscribers and groups of 8 or more. Several events are free and open to the public. The Season Underwriter is Down East Magazine, Associate Underwriter is Samoset Resort, and Media Sponsor is Village Soup. 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).

**Founded in 1961 by brothers Andrew Wolf and Thomas Wolf, Bay Chamber is dedicated to sustaining classical music as an art form – for that is its legacy.** In concerts and in the classroom Bay Chamber feels a responsibility to pass along this rich musical heritage to people of all ages and abilities while at the same time acknowledging the importance, and encouraging the exploration of all musical languages.

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, for 50 years, Bay Chamber has awarded annual prizes to young Maine Musicians. Bay Chamber Community Music School offers private instruction, orchestral opportunities, and other music education to local musicians and community members of all ages and abilities.

Bay Chamber Concerts presents music year-round through two performance series: the Summer Music Festival during the months of July and August, features classical, jazz and film events in the historic Rockport Opera House and Strand Theatre in Rockland; and the Performing Arts Series from October through May, showcases a variety of classical, jazz, and world music, as well as dance events in venues throughout Midcoast Maine.

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### **Calendar Listings:**

**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2010

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport ME.

**Title:** Bay Chamber Concerts' 50<sup>th</sup> Season Opening Night

**Season Underwriter:** Down East Magazine

**Associate Underwriter:** Samoset Resort

**Media Sponsor:** Village Soup

**Honorary Sponsor:** Rush & Liz Kidder in memory of Anne R. & Richard W. Davidson

**Performers:** Peter Serkin, piano and Shmuel Ashkenasi, violin.

**Program:** Dallapiccola: Tartiniana Seconda; Busoni: 2nd Sonata; and Beethoven, Kreutzer Sonata.

**Description:** Two of America's greatest musicians: Shmuel Ashkenasi, violin and Peter Serkin, piano, return to Midcoast Maine to open Bay Chamber Concerts' 50th summer season with works by Dallapiccola, Busoni, and Beethoven (his Kreutzer Sonata)! Special 50th Anniversary event with complimentary pre-concert champagne toast (for ticket holders only) at 7:45 pm.

**Price:** \$50 for adults, \$8 for ages 18 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more. For more information call (207) 236-2823 or (888) 707-2770; e-mail [info@baychamberconcerts.org](mailto:info@baychamberconcerts.org); or go online at [www.baychamberconcerts.org](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org).

**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2010

**Time:** 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Camden Harbor Park, Atlantic Ave, Camden ME.

**Title:** Doo-Wop Bash, presented by Bay Chamber Concerts.

**Season Underwriter:** Down East Magazine

**Associate Underwriter:** Samoset Resort

**Media Sponsor:** Village Soup

**Principal Sponsor:** Camden Harbour Inn & Natalie's

**Performers:** Emil Stuccio and The Classics; and The Chiclettes

**Program:** A night of pop-oriented R&B.

**Description:** Harken back to the 1950s and 1960s, to the pop-oriented R&B music that fueled adolescent love. This popular singing group will provide a concert to celebrate Independence Day Weekend that will include the evening fireworks!

**Price:** Free and open to the public. For more information call (207) 236-2823 or (888) 707-2770; e-mail [info@baychamberconcerts.org](mailto:info@baychamberconcerts.org); or go online at [www.baychamberconcerts.org](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org).

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