



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Chance Farago, Director of Marketing
chance@baychamberconcerts.org
(207) 236-2823

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bay Chamber Concerts Opens 49th Summer Music Festival

Gets started with Butch Thompson and violin concert

Bay Chamber Concerts kicks off its 49th Summer Music Festival with jazz and classical concerts on July 1 and 2. On Wednesday, July 1, the acclaimed Butch Thompson Trio will perform at the Strand Theatre in Rockland at 8:00 p.m. "Opera House Opening Night" on Thursday, July 2, at 8:00 p.m. the Rockport Opera House will feature two of the world's greatest violins performing together at Bay Chamber Concerts for the first time.

Butch Thompson is well-known for his many performances on Garrison Keillor's NPR sensation, "A Prairie Home Companion." Since 1974, when Thompson played on a number of the first Prairie Home Companion broadcasts, he has been an audience favorite. By 1980, the show was being nationally syndicated, and the Butch Thompson Trio was the house band, a position the group held for the next six years. He continues to perform regularly on the program, and in venues around the globe.

The sweetness and buoyant rhythm of New Orleans music took hold of Thompson's life at an early age and hasn't let go. From Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" to Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo," from down and dirty blues out of south side Chicago to the roaring stride of 1920s Harlem, this little band puts on a very big show. The Trio is made up of Butch Thompson, piano; Eli Newberger, tuba; and Jimmy Mazzy, banjo and vocals. Co-sponsored by McCormick & Associates.

Opera House Opening night on July 2 will feature two of the world's great violinists, as they team up for their first Rockport concert together, joined by two old friends. Shmuel Ashkenasi was violinist for the Vermeer Quartet, resident quartet at Bay Chamber for over three decades. Joseph Silverstein was concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. They'll be joined by fellow Vermeer member Marc Johnson, cellist, and pianist Anastasia Antonacos, a Bay Chamber Concerts award winner.

The evening of classical chamber music will feature many little known works including Jean-Marie LeClair's Sonata for Two Violins in E minor, Op. 3, No. 5; Luciano Berio's Duo for Two Violins; Moritz Moszkowski's Suite for Two Violins & Piano, Op. 71. Ludwig van Beethoven's String Trio in E flat major, Op. 3 is more familiar and will end the program. The sponsors of the concert are Rush & Liz Kidder in

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Bay Chamber Concerts
58 Bay View St., Ste. 1 • Camden, ME • 04843

t: (207) 236-2823 • f: (207) 230-0454 • toll free

www.BayChamberConcerts.org

honor of Anne R. & Richard W. Davidson. It is also the first event of the Festival of Independence, which includes fireworks in Camden on July 3. More information about the Festival of Independence is available at the Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce.

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 the Butch Thompson Trio and Opera House Opening Night 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: 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.

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