



CHESAPEAKE MUSIC INTERLUDE



Daraja Ensemble



Excelsa Quartet



BLOCK4 Quartet



Cerulean Trio



Olympus Piano Trio

And the Winner Is!

by Amy Blades Steward The selection of winners at the biennial Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition is a daunting task. This year's 41 applicants from England, Hong Kong, Austria, and the United States represent some of the finest young chamber music performers in the world. A preliminary judges' panel of eight notable musicians headed by J. Lawrie Bloom, founder and artistic director of the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival, pared the field of 41 down to five finalists in a blind review of applicant CD submissions. Mr. Bloom comments, "We had another exceptional field of applicants, and should have a very exciting Competition this year."

When these finalists come together on April 9 at the Avalon Theatre, another prestigious panel of judges will select the gold and silver medalists. Marcy Rosen, founding member of the world-renowned Mendelssohn String Quartet and artistic director of the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival; Tara Helen O'Connor, founding member of the Naumburg award-winning New Millennium Ensemble and head of the wind department at Purchase College Conservatory of Music; and Robert McDonald, recital partner for many years to Isaac Stern and a member of the piano faculty at The Juilliard School since 1999 will serve as the final judges.

Each ensemble performs a complete program of its choice, provided that the program contains three works of contrasting

style and character. The competition program must be no longer than 45 minutes. After the first three ensembles play, and during the program intermission, judges are sequestered in a room on the 3rd floor of the Avalon Theatre building where they have dinner. After the final two ensembles perform, the judges again adjourn to the 3rd floor room for final deliberations and selection of the gold and silver winners of the Competition. The Awards Ceremony, held during the reception in the main room of the Avalon Theatre, begins after the judges have reached a final decision.

The role of the judges goes beyond determining the medalists – they provide meaningful feedback to members of each ensemble. Based on discussions with past finalists, the judges' critiques are nearly as important as the awards themselves. Judges share their observations regarding competitors' performances with the young artists during the follow-up breakfast scheduled the morning following the Competition and through the judges' written critiques.

The audience attending the Competition on will also have an opportunity to judge each performance. The Audience Choice Award is announced along with the Gold and Silver prize recipients at the end of the evening. The excitement is contagious while waiting for the announcement of the awards. You won't want to miss the announcement, "And the winner is . . ."

An Extraordinary Musical Journey

By Amy Blades Steward. The 31st Annual Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival will be held in Easton, MD from June 5 through June 19, 2016. It will feature artists from the world stage in diverse musical ensembles playing familiar classics as well as a world premiere. Festival goers will enjoy this year's addition of a pre-concert discussion, concerts followed by dinner or cocktails, and a new historical venue.

The Festival begins its two-week run on Sunday, offering six concerts, four Artist Showcases, and two free rehearsals open to the public. Venues include the newly-renovated Christ Church in Easton and the historic Christ Church in St. Michaels, as well as returning favorites; the Avalon Theatre, the Academy Art Museum, Trinity Cathedral in Easton, the state-of-the-art performing space at the Oxford Community Center, and St. Michaels High School Performing Arts Theatre.

This year there will be 19 returning artists and two newcomers, cellist Michael Kannen and violinist Ara Gregorian who also performs on the viola. A special appearance by the District5 Wind Quintet on opening night sets the tone for escaping the ordinary to experience the extraordinary on this musical journey.

Festival Chairman Carolyn Rugg comments, "This year's Festival will offer attendees the opportunity to experience such favorites as the Beethoven Trio in E-flat Major and the exciting world premiere of Lev Mamuya Quintet for Oboe, Violin, Viola and two Celli. We hope you will join us for an inspiring two weeks of chamber music here on the Eastern Shore."

Sponsors of this year's Festival include the Talbot County Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Star-Democrat. Additional generous financial support from corporate, public and private benefactors enables Chesapeake Music to offer affordable tickets for Festival concerts and recitals; open rehearsals are free to the general public. Tickets go on sale in April 2016. For additional information, visit www.ChesapeakeMusic.org or call 410 819-0380.



Pictured left to right are members of the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival Committee: Michael Bracy, Don Buxton, Betsy Petty, Carolyn Rugg, chairman, and Bob Amdur, Missing from the photo are Mary Reidlan, Bernice Michael, Courtney Kane and Kaye Dutrow.

Jazz on the Chesapeake Fundraiser

Yotam is returning! If you attended the Thursday night concert at last year's jazz festival, you will remember the smooth, effortless, ultra-fast guitar work of Israeli Yotam Silberstein.

We are excited that Yotam will be performing at our annual Jazz on the Chesapeake fundraiser to be held on Saturday, April 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Bill Millar are our hosts for this special evening of "Jazz at Evergreen."

Join us for jazz, wine and hors d'oeuvres! For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lois Campbell at 410-819-0380.

"Since his arrival in New York in 2005, Israeli guitarist Yotam Silberstein has made an impact on the scene with his precision bebop lines and fleet-fingered improvisations." - Jazz Times



First Strings Receives Todd Fund Grant

By Eleanor Shriver Magee Chesapeake Music received a generous grant from the George B. Todd Fund with the Mid-Shore Community Foundation to support the First Strings program in the Dorchester County Public Schools. First Strings is part of our YouthReach Program that works with area schools to bring a greater exposure of classical and jazz music to area students. The First Strings initiative introduces 3rd and 4th grade students from Talbot and Dorchester Counties to the violin, while also exposing them to how to be a critical audience, to realize the fundamentals of teamwork and to appreciate the value of self-discipline. Our First Strings program is a highly personalized and direct service to area school children that enhances the quality of their education and plants the seeds of love for music to last a lifetime.

In addition to this grant, Chesapeake Music receives generous private and public support from individuals, corporations and foundations as well as the Maryland State Arts Council and Talbot County Arts Council. Donations received fund not only the YouthReach First Strings initiative but our other signature programs like the biennial Chamber Music Competition and annual Chamber Music and Monty Alexander Jazz Festivals.



Michael Bracy with Todd Fund recipients and Todd Fund Board members

Chesapeake Music Remembers Outstanding Board Members

Rush Moody, Past President and Board Member, died in November 2015. His passing was felt by all who knew him and is especially sad for all of us here at Chesapeake Music. He led Chesapeake Music through several transitions enabling us to grow and prosper as an organization. During Rush's tenure, Jazz on the Chesapeake was formed and continues today to provide outstanding jazz concerts throughout the year. He led with good cheer and superb advice. Rush had a big heart and never wavered in his love for this organization. He had an easy going way, which made it a pleasure for everyone to work with him, managing always to pilot through the rapids

without ever overturning the boat. We sincerely cherish our memories of Rush, his style, grace, generosity and kindness.

Jean McHale, Board Member for nearly nine years, also passed away in November 2015. Jean never failed to make us laugh when things got too serious. Jean worked hard, especially so on the Chesapeake Music Gala where she was often out in front of the crowd, with a heart-warming smile, getting you to buy all the things you really didn't need. She had an immediate way of putting people at ease and acted as the perfect "Town Crier" to spread the news about Chesapeake Music. Jean will be sorely missed, chiefly so when good humor and good advice are needed.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're starting our first season under the name Chesapeake Music, and it is a very full season: there have already been two sold-out winter jazz concerts, and coming up next is the Competition. Then, May brings a jazz concert, June features our 31st Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival, and Labor Day Weekend the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival. September brings a new year of our First Strings program in Talbot and Dorchester County schools. All of this happens because of the dedication of our 100 plus volunteers, our part-time staff, and the loyal financial support of our patrons.

One event which won't occur this year is the Gala. It was much loved, but after 10 years, we believed the format was getting a little tired, and decided to give it a rest. We hope that those who have provided special support for the Gala will redirect it to our festivals.

Please take advantage of the best bargain on the Eastern Shore: the all-day ticket to our Chesapeake

Chamber Music Competition on April 9. You will be able to see young groups early in their careers who may one day grace the greatest venues in the music world, such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Concertgebouw.

By the time you read this, you will be able to buy tickets for the 2016 Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival. Just go on line to chesapeakemusic.org.

One last note: we will be emailing a very short survey about your preferences with regard to Interlude. We will be very grateful if you take a couple of minutes to fill it out and return.

Michael Bracy,
President



To learn more about Chesapeake Music, please call 410-819-0380 or visit our website, www.chesapeakemusic.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jazz on the Chesapeake fundraiser

Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 5:30 to 7:30
To purchase tickets call Chesapeake Music at
410-819-0380

Jazz vocalist René Marie and her quartet

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the
Academy Art Museum at 8:00 p.m.

31st Annual Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival

June 5, 2016 through June 19, 2016

Board of Directors

Michael Bracy, President

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Courtney Kane, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary

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Marcy Rosen, Artistic Director of the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival

Monty Alexander, Artistic Director of The Monty Alexander Jazz Festival

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Eleanor Shriver Magee, Development Director of Chesapeake Music

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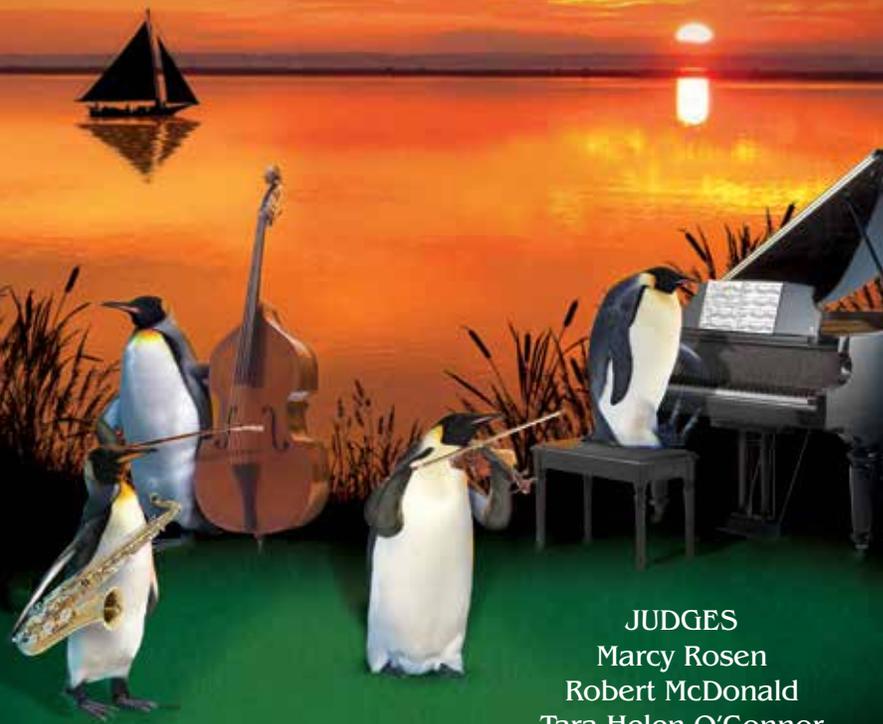


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The *Seventh* International Chamber Music Competition



JUDGES
Marcy Rosen
Robert McDonald
Tara Helen O'Connor

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Avalon Theatre

1:00 PM Introduction

1:15 - Daraja Ensemble

2:30 - Excelsa Quartet

3:45 - BLOCK4 Quartet

4:45-6:45 Intermission

6:45 - Cerulean Trio

8:00 - Olympus Piano Trio

9:00 to 10:00 - Reception and
Announcement of Winners

Tickets cost \$12 per person and will be
available only at the door. Students free

Sunday, April 10, 2016 - Public Concerts

1PM - BLOCK4 Quartet*
Temple B'nai Israel
101 West Earle Street
Easton, MD

2PM - Excelsa Quartet*
Church of the Holy Trinity
502 S. Morris Street
Oxford, MD

3PM - Cerulean Trio*
St. Mark's Methodist Church
Peach Blossom Road
Easton, MD

4PM - Daraja Ensemble*
Christ Church
103 Willow Street
St. Michaels, MD

4PM - Olympus Piano Trio
Christ Episcopal Church
601 Church Street
Cambridge, MD
Admission \$10, Students free

*FREE admission unless noted