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FALL SEASON



We hope you and your loved ones are well and safe during this challenging time! It was our dearest hope that we would be performing in-person for you this fall. We miss the concert stage, and we miss you.

We are excited to bring you six concerts performed live on the beautiful stages of Mechanics Hall and Shapiro Hall at Joy of Music. These concerts will be professionally live-streamed in HD. You will have a front row seat in the comfort and safety of your home.

Settle in with your favorite beverage, a good pair of headphones and be sure to check your internet connection!

In keeping with our commitment to racial diversity and equity in our organization, we are proud to perform the music of two celebrated black composers: Eleanor Alberga and George Walker. Our new Spotlight series shines a light on our amazing core musicians. Finally, we are celebrating Beethoven's 250th this season with his "Ghost" and "Archduke" Piano Trios to honor the great master.

Stay on this journey with us, and together we will experience the beauty and joy of music!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Kraus". The script is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Tracy Kraus
Executive Director

ABOUT US

The experience of live classical music can be powerful and transformative. WCMS is committed to engaging audiences through the highest standard of performance and empowering youth through intensive education programs.

Our unique concert experiences are designed to appeal to diverse audiences. This fall, we are offering an array of live-streamed concerts **performed live on stage**. Our new **Spotlight Concerts** are curated programs by the individual members of our core and shine a light on the world-class musicianship that embodies the essence of WCMS.

WCMS offers three educational programs. **Neighborhood Strings**, an award-winning community-based program that offers free music lessons in violin, viola, and cello to at-risk youth from Worcester's Main South and Downtown neighborhoods. **ChamberFest Music Camp** is an innovative, fun classical chamber music camp for strings, woodwinds and pianists age 12 through adult.

And finally, **Musician as Citizen**, connecting Neighborhood Strings and ChamberFest, seeks to develop mentorship skills that provide leadership opportunities and build community awareness.



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2020-2021 SEASON 15 | FALL CONCERTS

RESONANCE – Tom Keil Memorial Concert

Sunday, September 20 at 4:00 PM

Live-streamed from the stage of Mechanics Hall

Eleanor Alberga, George Walker, and Ludwig van Beethoven

Presenting Sponsor: Nora Keil

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THE SPOTLIGHT CONCERTS

Thursdays at 7:30 PM

Live-streamed from the stage of Shapiro Hall, Joy of Music

Concert sponsors: Nora Keil, Lisa Piehler and David Schnare

October 8

Mark Berger, viola | Randall Hodgkinson, piano

Arvo Pärt, Mark Berger, and Johannes Brahms

October 22

Tracy Kraus, flute | Ariana Falk, cello | Randall Hodgkinson, piano

All-Shubert program

November 5

David Russell, cello

Caroline Shaw, David Sanford, Laurie San Martin, Tamar Diesendruck and Roger Zahab

November 19

Krista Buckland Reisner and Rohan Gregory, violins

Bela Bartok, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Von Biber, Astor Piazzolla

BACH AND BRAHMS

Friday, December 11 at 7:30 PM

Live-streamed from the stage of Mechanics Hall

Guest Mark Mummert, harpsichord

Bach, Corelli and Brahms

Concert sponsors: Ruth Westheimer, Richard and Phyllis Whitten

Full program information at worcesterchambermusic.org

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SPOTLIGHT: David Russell, cello

November 5 | Live-streamed from Shapiro Hall at Joy of Music

Program

in manus tuas (2009)

Caroline Shaw

Seventh Avenue Kaddish (2002)

David Sanford

Vast Steppe (for Rhonda Rider) (2016)

Laurie San Martin

3 Cryptic Variants (2017)

Tamar Diesendruck

Amnesia Kiss (1995)

Roger Zahab

- a. one hand washes the other
- b. Claude and the kids are fine, wish you were here
- c. memory erase

We gratefully acknowledge the support of tonight's sponsors:

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Note: Mr. Russell will speak about the compositions from the stage

THE COMPOSERS

Caroline Shaw is a New York-based musician—vocalist, violinist, composer, and producer—who performs in solo and collaborative projects. She was the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013 for *Partita for 8 Voices*, written for the Grammy-winning Roomful of Teeth, of which she is a member. Recent commissions include new works for Renée Fleming with Inon Barnatan, Dawn Upshaw with Sō Percussion and Gil Kalish, Seattle Symphony, Anne Sofie von Otter with Philharmonia Baroque, the LA Philharmonic, Juilliard 415, the Orchestra of St. Luke's with John Lithgow, the Dover Quartet, TENET, The Crossing, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, the Calidore Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, the Baltimore Symphony, and Roomful of Teeth with A Far Cry.

David Sanford credits a variety of influences with igniting his musicianship. "I started on trombone when I was about ten and liked big band music early. I wanted to be a jazz musician. Charles Mingus inspired me to be a composer later on." Sanford was also influenced by rhythm and blues/funk groups like Parliament, the Isley Brothers, and Sly and the Family Stone and, later, by orchestral and more mainstream popular music. Sanford has won many awards and honors, including a BMI Student Composer Award, a Koussevitzky Commission and a Guggenheim Fellowship, which enabled him to take a year off to focus exclusively on composing during graduate school. Recently, Sanford won the Samuel Barber Rome Prize Fellowship, allowing him to stay at the American Academy in Rome for 11 months with a group of 25 to 30 scholars in other areas of the humanities. One of the referees for his work wrote: "David Sanford is the real thing, a composer in the American tradition of brash, open-eared exploration: no material is too exalted or too debased for him to transform into his living art." Sanford's works have been performed by the Chamber Society of Lincoln Center, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Chicago Symphony Chamber Players, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Harlem Festival Orchestra, cellist Matt Haimovitz, the Corvini e Iodice Roma Jazz Ensemble, the Meridian Arts Ensemble, Speculum Musicae, the Empyrean Ensemble at UC Davis, Mount Holyoke faculty members Linda Laderach, Adrienne Greenbaum, and Larry Schipull, and dozens of other groups and performers. In addition, he has conducted

performances of his own works at Monadnock Music, New England Conservatory, the Knitting Factory, and the Five Colleges New Music Festival, and leads his own big band, the Pittsburgh Collective. He is the Elizabeth T. Kennan Professor of Music at Mt. Holyoke College.

American composer **Laurie San Martin** writes chamber and orchestral music. Recently she collaborated with soprano Haleh Abghari and visual artist Dana Harel to create a chamber opera based on Farid ud-Din Attar's twelfth-century Persian poem *Conference of the Birds*. Projects include a new work for the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players as part of their TenFourteen Project of ten new commissions in 2014–15. Recent awards include a Fromm Music Foundation commission and a Jebediah Foundation commission. She has also received awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, League of Composers-ISCM, the International Alliance for Women in Music, and the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer's Award. As a composition fellow, she has attended the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Montalvo, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Norfolk Contemporary Chamber Music Festival, and the Composers Conference at Wellesley College. She holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis University in theory and composition and has taught at Clark University. As professor of music at UC Davis, she enjoys wearing many hats: performing student works (as clarinetist or conductor), organizing arts events (as the faculty assistant to the Davis Humanities Institute), and promoting contemporary music (as an associate of the Emyrean Ensemble). Her music has been recorded on the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble's *San Francisco Premieres* CD, released in 2005, and on *Tangos for Piano* for the Raviello label and performed by Amy Briggs. Laurie is Professor and Chair of Music at the University of California at Davis.

Tamar Diesendruck writes virtuosic chamber music, including orchestral, choral, wind ensemble, and vocal works. Her music is often characterized as having a wide range of expression. Her works from the 1990s found common ground between disparate musical cultures, but more recent works avoid references: passages of guided freedom for players are incorporated to produce complex webs and networks of sound. Diesendruck's works have been performed by ensembles and soloists in Asia and the Middle East and throughout Europe and the United States. Her honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Rome

Prize, commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation and the Koussevitzky Music Foundation, and three awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She earned her MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley and her BA from Brandeis University. Commissioned by a consortium of ensembles, Diesendruck's fellowship project, "Variant Scenarios," will be scored for orchestral winds and percussion. Inspired by the processes of evolutionary biology, the idea of a collection of organisms, populations, and developmental scenarios comes out of a long-standing fascination with creating music of extreme variation from the same "DNA" and an interest in incorporating the multiple versions of compositional elements that emerge in the compositional process.

Roger Zahab instigates complex relations through his activities as composer, violinist, conductor, teacher and writer. His work has been performed throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia by such soloists and ensembles as cellists David Russell and Lawrence Stomberg, violists David Cerutti and Hannah Levinson, violinists Wyatt True and Nathalie Shaw, flutists Elizabeth Brown, Lindsey Goodman, George Pope and Rachel Rudich, guitarists James Ferla, James Marron and John Muratore, pianists Robert Frankenberry, Bennett Lerner, and Eric Moe, percussionists Lisa Pegher, Joshua Quillen, William Sallak, David Skidmore and Dale Speicher, new music groups California EAR Unit, Flute Force, The Furious Band, IonSound Project and Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and orchestras such as The New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, Robert Black, conductor, and the Akron Symphony Orchestra, Christopher Wilkins, conductor. As a violinist, Zahab has given more than a hundred first performances and championed music by a wide range of composers from John Cage to Eric Moe, Kwabena Nketia and Tison Street to Judith Weir and Christian Wolff. Recordings as violinist and composer are available on the Truemedias, Albany and Koch International Classics labels. He is a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Orchestra at the University of Pittsburgh and a founding core faculty member of the MFA in Music Composition at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

SEASON 15 GUEST ARTISTS



Aaron Engebret, baritone, enjoys a varied solo career in opera, oratorio, recital and devotes considerable energy to the performance of established music and contemporary premieres, frequently collaborating with many of today's preeminent composers. He has been featured as a guest soloist on stages from Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Boston's Symphony Hall, to international appearances from Sapporo Japan's Kitara Hall

to Le Theatre de la Ville in Paris and the AmBul festival in Bulgaria. He has been a guest of the Tanglewood, Ravinia, Rockport and Monadnock Music Festivals as well as many of the country's fine symphonies, among them Portland, Virginia, San Diego, Charlotte and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Engebret's work with composer and conductor Lukas Foss cultivated a passion for premiering new works: he has since collaborated with composers Harbison, Larsen, Musgrave, Rorem and Pinkham, among many others.

As an interpreter of early music, he is a frequent soloist with organizations including American Bach Soloists, Handel and Haydn Society, Miami Bach Society, Boston Baroque, Boston Camerata and Santa Fe Pro Musica. Nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Operatic Recording for his work with the Boston Early Music Festival and Radio Bremen (*Thésée* and *Psyché*, by Lully), he is in high demand as a recording artist.

He produced and recorded *The Complete Songs of Virgil Thomson* with Florestan Recital Project and New World Records, which is garnering international acclaim. With Gil Rose and BMOP and Odyssey Opera, Mr. Engebret is featured on numerous recordings, among them Thomson's *Four Saints in Three Acts* and Argento's *A Waterbird Talk*.



Mark Mummert, harpsichord, is Cantor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester and Assistant Director / Accompanist for the Worcester Chorus. He was Director of Worship at Christ the King Lutheran Church (Houston), the home of *Bach Society Houston* (2008-2015) and Seminary Musician at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1990-2008). His many musical compositions for worship are published by *Augsburg*

Fortress. Mark was the resident continuo artist at *Bach Society Houston*, playing in seven years all of the major passions and oratorios and many cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach. Mark performs on his Zeidler & Quagliata harpsichord, built on a Portuguese model. Mark serves on the faculty at the Hanover Theater and Conservatory for the Performing Arts.

MUSICIANS OF THE WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY



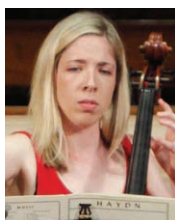
Violist and composer **Mark Berger** has toured throughout the United States and internationally as a member of the Lydian String Quartet. In addition to his work with the quartet, Berger frequently performs with many of Boston's finest orchestras and chamber ensembles including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Emmanuel Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Worcester Chamber Music Society, and

Music at Eden's Edge. He has recently appeared as a guest artist with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Boston Musica Viva, Chameleon Arts ensemble, and Radius Ensemble. Strongly devoted to the performance of new music, Berger has performed with many of Boston's new music ensembles including Sound Icon, Dinosaur Annex, Ludovico Ensemble, and ALEA III. He has recorded solo and chamber works for Albany, Bridge and Innova records. An acclaimed composer, Berger's works have been presented by many of the leading contemporary ensembles in the Boston area. His compositions have received awards and recognition from the League of Composers/ISCM, ASCAP, and the Rapido! Composition Competition. Berger is currently chair of the music department at Brandeis University, where he is also Associate Professor of the Practice.



"Things done right.."(Boston Globe), "...Excellent left hand.."(Toronto Star), and "...lovely tonal bloom..."(LeDROIT), describe performances of violinist **Krista Buckland Reisner**. Over the past 25 years, she has performed with well-known and diverse musicians from Leonard Bernstein to John Williams, Anton Kuerti, Plácido Domingo, Brian Wilson, Smokey Robinson, and Diana Krall. Krista has performed across North

America, Europe, Russian and New Zealand, including performances at Carnegie Hall, La Scala, and the Boston Esplanade on July 4th with the Boston Pops. Krista's early career was opera-focused; she served as Principal Second Violin of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Concertmaster of Opera Boston, performed Wagner's "Ring Cycle" with the Arizona Opera and played in the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. Also an early music aficionado, Krista performed with Canada's Aradia, Boston Baroque, and is currently a tenured member of the Handel and Haydn Society. Krista's love of chamber music led her to join WCMS nine years ago, after playing in the QX string quartet for many years prior with fellow WCMSers Peter Sulski and Rohan Gregory. Her commitment to bringing this art form to the Worcester community also included taking on administrative roles within WCMS as the organization grew. These included acting as General Manager and managing the Summer Festival and Music Camp for six years.



Ariana Falk, cello, serves as Education Director for the Worcester Chamber Music Society, and is a founding director of Neighborhood Strings, an intensive music and social justice program for youth from Worcester's underserved communities. She serves on the faculty of Clark University, and is a former faculty coach at Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Brown University. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany,

where she performed with the Heidelberger Symphoniker, and now serves as music director of the Massachusetts Fulbright Association. She appeared as a guest artist on the Marlboro College and Longy Faculty Artist series, live on WGBH Boston, and at Al Kamanjaddi festival in the West Bank. She has appeared as soloist with the Columbia and Olympia Symphonies, and is an alumna Fellow at Community MusicWorks in Providence. Ariana has performed at the Juilliard, Norfolk, Banff, Great Lakes, and Deer Valley summer festivals, and collaborated with artists including Menahem Pressler and Paul Katz. She received her doctorate from Boston University and M.M. and Artist Diploma degrees from the Yale School of Music, where she was recipient of the Aldo Parisot Prize, and played with the Grammy-nominated Yale Cellos, including performances at Weill Hall, Europe, and Asia.



WCMS cellist **Joshua Gordon** is equally at home whether performing on stage in famous concert halls around the world, in an Australian limestone arch cave, or with dancers on a Boston housing project basketball court. He joined the Lydian String Quartet and the music faculty of Brandeis University in 2002, and has been resident cellist at the annual Wellesley Composers Conference since 1989. He has been a guest of many ensembles

including the Apple Hill, Cassatt, DaPonte, Juilliard, and Ying Quartets, Boston Baroque, Boston Chamber Music Society, Chameleon Arts Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, Fromm Players at Harvard University, North Country Chamber Players, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Portland Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, and Speculum Musicae. Joshua Gordon's duo with pianist Randall Hodgkinson has been described as "insightful and impassioned" by *The New Yorker*, and their New World recording Leo Ornstein: Complete Works For Cello and Piano was named one of the top 10 classical recordings of 2007 by the *All Music Guide*.



Rohan Gregory is a violinist that has cultivated wide-ranging expertise in chamber music, new music, and world music. He has played with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, the Ancora Ensemble and award-winning Boccherini Ensemble and was also a founding member for ten years of the Arden String Quartet, performing new music concerts in New York, Boston, Amsterdam and St. Petersburg, Russia. On the world music scene, Rohan

has toured extensively. His travels have taken him to Europe with the Klezmatics, to Thailand with multi-ethnic flute player Abbie Rabinowitz, to India with the Indo-jazz group Natraj and to the U.S. west coast with Sophia Bilides Greek Folk Ensemble. Recently he has played nationally and internationally with the flamenco guitarist Juanito Pascual. Locally, Rohan is a member of the Lyric Opera Company and the Pedroia Quartet.



“The finest performance I have ever heard of this very difficult piece. It was as if he was reading my mind...” Aaron Copland on hearing pianist **Randall Hodgkinson** performing his Piano Fantasy in Jordan Hall. While a student at the New England Conservatory Hodgkinson became grand prizewinner of the International American Music Competition sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has performed

with orchestras in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Boston, Cleveland and abroad in Italy and Iceland, and also numerous recital programs spanning the repertoire from J.S. Bach to Mark Berger. A frequent guest of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, he also performs the four-hand and two-piano repertoire with his wife, Leslie Amper. Festival appearances include Ravinia, Bargemusic, Chestnut Hill Concerts in Madison Connecticut, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, and Chamber Music Northwest (Portland, OR). Solo recordings on the Ongaku, New World, and Albany labels have garnered much critical acclaim. Mr. Hodgkinson is on the faculties of the New England Conservatory of Music and Wellesley College and is currently studying to become a certified Feldenkrais Practitioner™.



“Supple and riveting.... elegant and adroit playing...dazzling” (Worcester Telegram) eloquently describes the playing of Executive Director and flutist **Tracy Kraus**. She has performed throughout Europe and the United States, at the Tanglewood and Aspen Music Festivals, at Carnegie Hall, and appeared live on WGBH radio. Her love of the Northern California coast led her to her current orchestral tenure with the Mendocino Music

Festival. In 1982, Ms. Kraus founded the Abbot Chamber Players and quickly discovered her passion for the genre as well as for organization. Ms. Kraus is a co-founder, and the Executive Director of the Worcester Chamber Music Society, leading the organization through a significant stage of growth and success. Ms. Kraus is a recent Katherine Erskine Award recipient, presented by the YWCA, for her leadership and significant contribution to the community.



Hailed as “superb”, “incisive” and “sonorous and panoramic” (Boston Globe), **David Russell** maintains a vigorous schedule both as a soloist and as a collaborator in the U.S. and Europe. He was appointed to the teaching faculty of Wellesley College in 2005 and currently serves as Lecturer and Director of Chamber Music. He has served as Principal cello of the orchestras of Odyssey Opera and Opera Boston since 2010 and performs

regularly with many ensembles based in New England such as Cantata Singers and Ensemble, the Worcester Chamber Music Society and Emmanuel Music. A strong advocate of new music, Russell has performed and recorded with contemporary ensembles such as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Firebird Ensemble, Ludovico Ensemble, Callithumpian Consort, Music on the Edge, Dinosaur Annex, Collage, the Fromm Players at Harvard, and entelechron. Recent projects include recordings of cello concertos by Chen Yi and Lukas Foss, recordings of solo and chamber works by Lee Hyla, Eric Moe, Tamar Diesendruck, Donald Crockett, Andrew Rindfleisch and Roger Zahab as well as premieres of music by David Lang, Barbara White, Marti Epstein, Daron Hagen, José-Luis Hurtado, Robert Carl, Gilda Lyons, and Jorge Martin. Russell has also recently premiered works for cello and orchestra by Laurie San Martin and Samuel Nichols, as well as works for solo cello by Tamar Diesendruck, Andrew Rindfleisch, and John Mallia. Russell has recorded for the Tzaddik, Albany, BMOPSound, CRI, Centaur and New World Records labels.



Peter Sulski, viola, has performed in over 30 countries as a member of the Apple Hill Chamber Players, London Symphony Orchestra, Academy of St.-Martin-in-the-Fields, Cyprus Chamber Orchestra, and Al Kamandjati Baroque Ensemble (Palestine). He returned to his native Worcester in 2002, after holding the position of Head of Strings of the Edward Said National Palestinian Conservatory. Mr. Sulski is a co-founder

of the Worcester Chamber Music Society and an educator with the society's Neighborhood Strings, a free program for disadvantaged youth. He currently appears as principal violist with Odyssey Opera, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and the Orchestra of Indian Hill. Other chamber music activities include the Pedroia quartet, duo partnerships with pianists Randall Hodgkinson and Yelena Beriyeva, Clark 2021 Contemporary Ensemble, and the Al Kamandjati Baroque Ensemble. Mr. Sulski is a United States Cultural Envoy to Jerusalem for his work bringing music to young Palestinians living in refugee camps. He is also a solo recording artist for Parma Records.



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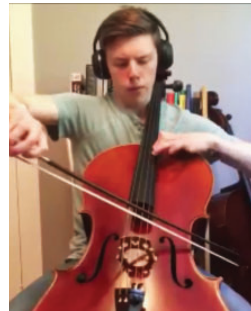
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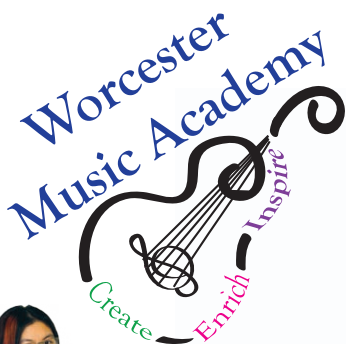
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