

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media contact: Taly Louria Hahn

800-843-0778 / [cewmusicinfo@aol.com](mailto:cewmusicinfo@aol.com)



# BERKSHIRE HIGH PEAKS FESTIVAL MUSIC WITH ATTITUDE!

*Welcome to our first virtual High Peaks Festival!*  
**MUSIC UNDEFEATED!**

**JULY 20 - JULY 31, 2020**

*We're excited about the new possibilities.  
See what we've lined up with  
engaging lectures and added features!*



**HIGH PEAKS MUSIC FESTIVAL JULY 20-July 31 "ENCOUNTERING BEETHOVEN" WITH  
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED MUSICIANS AND STARS OF TOMORROW...**

**GOES VIRTUAL—AND OPENS ALL EVENTS TO AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE!**

<http://berkshirehighpeaksmusic.org/>

Faced with the exigencies of the pandemic, and the closure of the physical campus of the Berkshire School in Sheffield MA, rather than being defeated by Covid-19, **Berkshire High Peaks Festival will mount its 11th annual festival virtually!** As the cultural world awaits a return to concert halls and live in-person music, new possibilities have opened up, beyond surmounting the challenges. Using the best available technology, in addition to master classes by the stellar faculty and guests, the festival is presenting talks and webinars with prominent composers, renowned pedagogues and public relations professionals who will look at the past, present and beyond the Coronavirus universe to chart what might be the course of classical music! All festival events will be available to audiences, regardless of geographic location, via Zoom, with links provided prior to each event.

At the core of the ten-day festival are more than 40 international students of exceptional promise and demonstrated accomplishment. They will receive their lessons using platforms designed to enhance sound quality and allow for teacher and student to actually share music across screens. Violinists, violists, cellists, pianists and vocalists from Korea to Germany and the U.S., in vastly different time zones, will gather in affinity groups, at “Cafeteria Hour,” virtual “Afterglow” receptions following concerts, and in master classes and lectures to simulate to the extent possible the sense of community and fellowship that summer music fosters.

Directed by internationally acclaimed cellist Yehuda Hanani, who is joined by renowned colleagues, High Peaks infuses students with love and enthusiasm for their musical vocation, instilling them with an appreciation for past traditions and a spirit of adventure and discovery.

“We are committed to bringing the very best artists and leading pedagogues to continue this musical tradition. And although we can’t physically experience the breathtaking Berkshire environment that inspired generations of writers, artists and musicians, we will all grow as musicians, as players and as humans as we move upward and onward,” says Hanani. Guest faculty / performers include violinist Peter Zazofsky, First Prize winner of the Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Competition; Metropolitan Opera soprano Danielle Talamantes; and opera director and conductor Jay Lesenger, who directed John Corigliano’s *Ghosts of Versailles* last summer at Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown.

The theme of Beethoven as Promethean hero, originally intended to be amplified in performances of his piano works, sonatas for strings instruments and chamber music, seems particularly apt this summer, with a powerful message for fortitude and endurance. Beethoven was himself a champion of personal liberty and a symbol of resistance to dictatorship, overcoming his failing hearing and deafness and continuing to compose works that endure centuries later. His 5th Symphony, an icon of solidarity and resistance, gave solace to London under the German blitz and to the French under Vichy (“La Chanson de V” was broadcast in France as a message to prepare for an Allied attack) and his music can serve as a symbol for our own time to raise morale.

The series of daily talks begins with pianist Alexander Shtarkman taking a look at the “Beethoven Journey” through the lens of the thirty-two piano sonatas. And doyenne of American composers, Joan Tower, tackles the questions surrounding “Composing in the 21st Century -- Where to Now? Beethoven @250--Still Dead and Sending Us Messages from the Elysian Fields.” Singers will record Beethoven’s unknown folk songs, and string players will immerse themselves in the glorious sonatas, some with pre-recorded piano “partners.”

In addition, the festival provides practical, hands-on instruction that will help young musicians launch their professional lives: presentations like “Finding Your Brand,” acting tips for singers

and stage demeanor for instrumentalists. Violinmaker Francis Morris will probe the question as to why the great string instrument makers emerged in one remote region of Italy and offer advice on caring for string instruments, often one of the most expensive investments a player will make in their career. There is even a touch of Hollywood: Celebrated make-up artist to the stars and **Emmy nominee Garen Tolkin** will advise and critique on make-up application, hair styling and concert attire and demeanor for our participants on our virtual concert stage. She has shaped the image of countless actors such as Adrien Brody, Alicia Silverstone, Amy Chu, Carrie Fisher, Faye Dunaway, Eva Mendes, Glenn Close, Harrison Ford, Sharon Stone, Mira Sorvino!

...And more to come to keep participants and audiences excited and inspired as we continue to reinvent the modes of teaching, learning, and participating in the joys of chamber music.

**STAY TUNED...CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC CONCERTS, COMMISSIONS AND GALAS UNABLE TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF OUR 2019-20 SEASON WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO NEXT YEAR!**

### **OTHER HIGH PEAKS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Walter Ponce**, former chair of the piano department at UCLA and an internationally acclaimed performer, will talk about his recently published book "The Tyranny of Traditions in Piano Teaching," questioning the received wisdom of piano pedagogy of the past two centuries.

**Eliot Fisk**, leading guitarist and heir to Segovia's mantle, will share his extraordinary musicianship and experience.

Doyenne of American composers, **Joan Tower** (in the midst of composing a new cello concerto!) will share experience and inspiring thoughts.

**Atar Arad**, viola virtuoso, former member of the Cleveland Quartet, and professor at Indiana University, Bloomington, will present a master class for string players.

Famed publicist **Aleba Gartner** (raised the profiles of Miller Theater, NY Festival of Song, Bang on a Can, Brooklyn Philharmonic, etc.) and composer **Phil Kline** will imagine a post-pandemic world for performers.

High Peaks alumna cellist **Leah Plave** will speak about and play from her new CD, rediscovering the prominent Dutch composer Henriette Bosmans.

Acronym founder **Kivie Cahn-Lipman** "Goes for Baroque" as he examines and experiments with sound production and phrasing for all strings and vocalists.

Opera director **Jay Lesenger** (Opera Director, Chautauqua) will work with vocalists on interpretation, acting and communication.

Artistic Director **Yehuda Hanani** shares his years of probing the miracles inherent in the timeless music of Bach

HP faculty member **Jeffrey Zeigler** presents "On the Road with the Kronos Quartet!" He toured with the trailblazing quartet for eight seasons, and continues to collaborate with the most cutting edge of today's composers.

### **MORE ABOUT THE HIGH PEAKS FESTIVAL**

The Berkshire High Peaks Festival is a performing and teaching summer institute bringing together distinguished musicians, pedagogues and exceptionally gifted international students, held in the cultural hub of the southern Berkshires on the bucolic campus of the Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA. The intimate scale and highest level of talent make possible an invigorating ten days of discovery, exploration, bonding and growth. The festival has an all-inclusive atmosphere, fostering camaraderie and cross-cultural exchange and understanding. The faculty is similarly international. In past summers, in addition to the classical canon, the music has focused on traditions ranging from Latin American tango to Japanese ceremonial drums to the heritage of Jazz and improvisation in addition to the classical canon. Central to the festival's mission are performance opportunities for young artists on the cusp of their careers. Faculty and guest performers have included the most respected classical musicians and teachers of our time: guitarist Eliot Fisk; violinists Shmuel Ashkenasi, Elmar Oliveira, Peter Zazofsky, and Stefan Milenkovich; violists Pierre-Henri Xuereb and Michael Strauss; pianists James Tocco, Michael Chertock, and Vassily Primakov and cellists Thomas Landschoot, Sae Rom Kwon and Yehuda Hanani. Berkshire High Peaks concerts have taken place at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY; the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA; Saint James Place in Great Barrington; Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill, NY; Orpheum Theater in Tannersville, NY; in the orchard at Olana, at Claremont Historical Site and at the Carey Center for Global Good in Rensselaerville, NY.

Berkshire High Peaks Festival **Artistic Director YEHUDA HANANI** has received acclaim across the globe for his charismatic playing and profound interpretations. An extraordinary recitalist, he is equally renowned for performances with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Irish National Symphony, Belgrade Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Seoul Symphony, and BBC Welsh Symphony. His engaging chamber music with commentary series, Close Encounters With Music, has captivated audiences from Miami to Kansas City, Omaha, Calgary, Scottsdale, the Berkshires, and at the Frick Collection in New York City. He has been the subject of hundreds of articles and interviews in the media, and his weekly program on NPR affiliate station WAMC Northeast Radio, "Classical Music According to Yehuda" attracts thousands of fans. A prolific recording artist, he served on the faculties of the Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory, as Professor of Cello at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and now the faculty of Mannes School in New York City and has taught a generation of cellists at music festivals around the world: Aspen, Bowdoin, Round Top (TX), Great Lakes, Great Wall (China), Finland Festival, Casals Prades Festival, Ontario, Australia, and many more.

**COMPLETE 2020 HIGH PEAKS SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC EVENTS. ALL TIMES ARE US EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

**Monday, July 20**

**11 AM – Alexander Shtarkman, “32 Piano Sonatas—Beethoven Journey”**

**7:30 PM - Francis Morris, "The Mystique of Cremona--and How to Care for Your String Instrument"**

**Tuesday, July 21**

**11 AM - Joan Tower, "Composing in the 21st Century -- Where to Now? or "Beethoven @250--Still Dead and Sending Us Messages from the Elysian Fields"**

**7:30 PM -- Peter Zazofsky –Violin Masterclass**

**Wednesday, July 22**

**11 AM Jay Lesenger – Masterclass for Vocalists, "The Acting Singer"**

**4 PM Atar Arad – Viola Masterclass & "So You Want to Join a Quartet!"**

**Thursday, July 23**

**11 AM Aleba Gartner and Phil Kline, "Trending Now!"**

**7:30 PM Danielle Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson--Masterclass for vocalists**

**Friday, July 24**

**11:00 AM-- Eliot Fisk, "The Segovia Legacy—Five Centuries of the Guitar"**

**7:30 PM-- Kivie Cahn-Lipman, "Going for Baroque—In Theory and Practice"**

**Saturday, July 25**

**7:30 PM Concert -- "Moonlight Sonatas" with faculty, students and alumni**

**Sunday, July 26**

**4:00 PM-- Garen Tolkin, "Be a Star! Looking Your Best In the Limelight" Part I (with High Peaks participants)**

**7:30 PM Concert-- "Moonlight Sonatas" with faculty, students and alumni**

**Monday, July 27**

**11:00 AM-- Yehuda Hanani – Cello Masterclass**

**7:30 PM-- Walter Ponce, Book Talk, "The Tyranny of Traditions in Piano Teaching--A Critical History from Clementi to the Present"**

**Tuesday, July 28**

**4:00 PM-- Leah Plave, "The Rediscovery of Dutch Composer Henriette Bosmans"**

**7:30 PM-- Garen Tolkin, "Be a Star! Looking Your Best in the Limelight" Part II (with High Peaks participants)**

**Wednesday, July 29**

**11:00 AM-- Jeffrey Zeigler, "On the Road with the Kronos Quartet--Adventures in Repertoire" & Masterclass for cellists**

**7:30 PM-- Irina Muresanu – Violin Masterclass**

**Thursday, July 30**

**11:00 AM-- Yehuda Hanani, "Early Morning Thoughts on Bach"**

**7:30 PM Concert-- "Moonlight Sonatas" with faculty, students and alumni**

**Friday, July 31**

**11:00 AM-- Masterclass for vocalists -- Jay Lesenger, Danielle Talamantes, Kerry Wilkerson**

**RESCHEDULED TO FALL 2020**

**Beethoven@250! Celebration of an Immortal Genius**

MAHAIWE, GREAT BARRINGTON MA



The prototype of the romantic artist who overcomes adversity, the composer's composer, and exemplar of artistic freedom and bold expressive power, Beethoven left an indelible mark that forever altered the landscape of classical music. This program will chart three stations in a glorious history: Sonata No. 2 opus 5 for Cello, where he is still following a historic trajectory as a student of Haydn; the Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor opus 30 from his Middle period as he moves towards his zenith; and the Olympian "Archduke" Trio. Each is a sublime masterpiece representative of his career from young composer-performer to the start of his struggle with deafness and the cruel end of his own performing career. Apart from his dynamic energy and compositional genius, we are also drawn to Beethoven the man, with his musical expression of a utopia where people live together in harmony and his political aspirations for humankind. Ludwig van Beethoven turns 250 in December 2020, but is forever contemporary, relevant and fresh.

**Inna Faliks**, piano; **Irina Muresanu**, violin; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello

**RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 25 2021**

**Café Music—Jazz, Rap and World Premiere!**

MAHAIWE, GREAT BARRINGTON MA



Paul Schoenfield's runaway classical hit, *Café Music* for piano trio, sets the tone for this celebration of summer. Combining ingredients of classical music, jazz, klezmer

and whimsy, Café Music is irresistible and full of energy—caffeine-fueled music at its most entertaining. Claude Bolling's classical/jazz musings in the Suite for Cello and Jazz Trio (double bass and percussion) offer up interpolations of boogie-woogie and ragtime with Baroque underpinnings, not to mention sizzling panache. Gershwin, who "made an honest woman of jazz," is represented with his Three Preludes for Piano. Close Encounters continues its commissioning program with the unveiling of a new work by Tamar Muskal for tabla drums, cello and rap artist, featuring Avirodh Sharma, who has performed at Lincoln Center, the Joseph Papp Public Theater, the Joyce, Harlem Stage, and Joe's Pub. Of Muskal's music, the Chicago Tribune has written: "The ripples and shimmers that filled Muskal's post-minimalist score were as evanescent as swirling, digitized visuals—dissolving into one another with kaleidoscopic beauty...high-tech music theater at its most inventive and fascinating."

**Michael Chertock**, piano; **Xiao-Dong Wang**, violin; **Avirodh Sharma**, tabla; **Christylez Bacon**, rapper; **Loire Cotler**, rhythmic vocalist; **Artie Dixson**, percussion; **James Cammack**, double bass; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello and Children's Chorus