Live choice

Brian Wise selects the finest concerts and operas in North America

1 Norfolk Chamber Music Festival
Norfolk, CT, 6 July
Tel: 860-542-3000
Web: norfolk.yale.edu
Turn-of-the-century Vienna is the focus of this opening weekend concert at Norfolk. Pianist Orion Weiss and members of the Yale School of Music faculty perform Schoenberg’s arrangements of Strauss waltzes, along with chamber works by Korngold and Richard Strauss.

2 Grand Teton Festival
Teton Village, WY, 6–7 July
Tel: 307-733-1128
Web: www.gtmf.org
Against the backdrop of the Teton Range, conductor Donald Runnicles and the Festival Orchestra open this seven-week festival with Copland’s majestic Lincoln Portrait, Rachmaninov’s First Piano Concerto (with Daniil Trifonov as soloist), and works by Britten and Kernis.

3 Lanaudière Festival
Joliette, QC, Canada, 7 July
Tel: 866-842-2112
Web: www.lanaudiere.org
The Lanaudière Festival brings conductor Susanna Mäkki and the nearby Montreal Symphony Orchestra for Berlioz’s Symphonie fantastique and Elgar’s Cello Concerto, with soloist Alban Gerhardt.

4 Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Rockport, MA, 7 July
Tel: 978-546-7391
Web: www.rockportmusic.org
Boston’s A Far Cry string orchestra serves up Glass’s Third Symphony, Bach’s Third Brandenburg Concerto, plus Bartók and Osvaldo Golijov.

5 The Cunning Little Vixen
Glimmerglass, Cooperstown, NY, 8 July – 15 August
Tel: 607-547-2255
Web: www.glimmerglass.org
Janáček’s woodland tale is presented in a naturalistic new production by E Loren Meeker. Festival artistic advisor Eric Owens takes the bass-baritone role of the Forester and soprano Heidi Stober plays the eponymous Vixen. Presented in a new English translation.

6 Bernstein’s Trouble in Tahiti
Tanglewood, MA, 12 July
Tel: 888-266-1200
Web: www.bso.org
Leonard Bernstein’s 1952 one-act opera – a tuneful, jazzy sendup of postwar suburbia – is presented as part of Tanglewood’s celebration of the composer’s centenary. It stars soprano Alexandra Silber and baritone Shuler Hensley, and is directed by the composer’s daughter Jamie Bernstein.

7 Adams’s Doctor Atomic
Santa Fe Opera, NM, 14 July – 16 August
Tel: 888-280-4654
Web: www.santafeopera.org
John Adams and Peter Sellars’s 2005 opera about the Manhattan Project is revived in Santa Fe, not far from the Los Alamos laboratory where it all took place. Ryan McKinney stars as J Robert Oppenheimer and Julia Bullock plays his wife Kitty Oppenheimer.

8 Cleveland Orchestra
Blossom Festival, OH, 15 July
Tel: 216-231-1111
Web: www.clevelandorchestra.com
As part of the Blossom Music Center’s 50th-anniversary season (see left), John Storgårds leads the Clevelanders in Antheil’s Over the Plains, Britten’s Violin Concerto (with Vilde Frang) and Schumann’s ‘Spring’ Symphony No. 1.

9 The Knights
Naumburg Bandshell, New York, NY, 17 July
Tel: N/A
Web: www.naumburgconcerts.org
The Knights, a vibrant orchestral collective led by Eric Jacobsen,
The conductor.

Elizabeth Ogonek.

the conductor.

Soprano

this fantastical staging of Haydn’s oratorio by the Catalan theatre troupe La Fura dels Baus. Acrobat and video imagery augment performances by the choir Accentus, the Insula Orchestra and soloists.

Haydn’s Creation

With the demise of the Lincoln Center Festival, the Mostly Mozart Festival picks up some of the slack by offering this fantastical staging of Haydn’s oratorio by the Catalan theatre troupe La Fura dels Baus. Acrobat and video imagery augment performances by the choir Accentus, the Insula Orchestra and soloists.

Music Academy of the West

Programme on 21 July includes works by Holst and Vaughan Williams. Do you feel a strong British identity?

Back when I was living in Hong Kong, it was a British colony, but it was something I had taken for granted. After the 2014 win and I had graduated, I was like, ‘OK, I’m just going to pack my bags and embrace being a British person.’ With the LSO, I was there every day, soaking in the sound, attending rehearsals and taking notes. And I started doing bigger and bigger things. And now I’m so happy that they gave me this opportunity.

You won’t be that much older than some of the students you and the LSO players will be working with at the Academy…

One of the reasons why the LSO and I work well is that they can open a dialogue and see I can do it. They don’t talk down to me. They say, ‘Let’s do it together’. One of the reasons why I was able to take my music to a higher level is that they were pushing me to do better.

and Finnish composer Sebastian Fagerlund’s turbulent tone poem Isola.

and Robert Spano also conducts Christopher Theofanidis’s First Symphony and Finnish composer Sebastian Fagerlund’s turbulent tone poem Isola.

Classically Uncorked

Bravo! Vail Music Festival, CO, 31 July

Tel: 970-827-5700

Web: www.bravovail.org

The adventurous vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth and the Dover Quartet share a programme (with related wine pairings) that includes string quartets by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Stravinsky and recent works by Missy Mazzoli, Ted Hearne and Judd Greenstein.

Los Angeles Philharmonic

Hollywood Bowl, CA, 31 July

Tel: 323-850-2050

Web: www.hollywoodbowl.com

One-time Hollywood resident Stravinsky is the focus, as Matthias Pintscher conducts the Pulcinella Suite and Violin Concerto, the latter with Nathan Cole as the soloist. Edgar’s Enigma Variations completes the Anglo-Russian bill.