

Bravo! Vail presents its first-ever spring family chamber music concert, *Leave It to Ludwig*, created and produced by Director of Family Programs at New York's Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bruce Adolphe

***Leave It to Ludwig* will be performed on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Beaver Creek and on Sunday, April 9, 2017 in Gypsum**

Vail, CO—(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)—A special new family event comes to the Valley April 8 and 9—Bravo! Vail's first-ever Spring Family Concert! The hour-long program, *Leave It to Ludwig*, features the music and stories of one of the greatest composers of all time—Ludwig van Beethoven. *Leave It to Ludwig* is presented at 4:00PM up valley on Saturday, April 8 at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek, and down valley on Sunday, April 9 at Eagle Valley High School in Gypsum.

Created by Director of Family Programs at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bruce Adolphe, *Leave It to Ludwig* is an original and fun-filled way for parents to immerse their children in the wonderful world of classical music, and for everyone in attendance to learn the stories and meanings behind some of the greatest and most familiar music ever written. Entertaining to people of all ages, *Ludwig* resonates especially with young audiences ages 6 and up.

The program is a brilliantly conceived introduction to Beethoven—part concert, part theater—in which Beethoven comes to life to reveal to a young amateur pianist the true heart and soul of his music. Bravo! Vail 2017 Piano Fellow Jenny Chen plays the young pianist, who is struggling to master Beethoven's famous Piano Sonata in C minor, commonly known as the Sonata *Pathétique*. One day, while the pianist is practicing the sonata, a bust of Beethoven magically comes to life. Beethoven (Adolphe) tells the pianist that the best way to understand and appreciate the Sonata *Pathétique* is to get to know more of his music. This leads to engaging performances and entertaining, story-filled explorations of Beethoven's brilliant string quartets—performed by Bravo! Vail 2017 Young Professionals in Residence Zorá String Quartet—which span the composer's legendary career.

Bravo! Vail's presentation of *Leave It to Ludwig* is part of the Festival's mission to expand its educational and outreach activities in order to make classical music and its numerous benefits accessible to audiences throughout the Valley. Says Bravo! Vail Executive Director Jennifer Teisinger, "The expansion of Bravo's offerings to families is one of our exciting new initiatives to celebrate Bravo's 30th season this year. We are thrilled to bring Beethoven's genius to life through the story-telling mastery of Bruce Adolphe augmented by the brilliance of the Zorá

Quartet and pianist Jenny Chen. This program is more than simply fantastic music-making – it is a great introduction to classical music and a chance to learn more about Beethoven, while laughing out loud at Adolphe’s antics. These concerts are fun, casual, and offered at 4pm to fit into your après ski schedule. We’ll see you there!”

What: Bravo! Vail Music Festival presents two performances of the Spring Family Concert: *Leave It to Ludwig*

Where and when: Saturday, April 8, 4 p.m., at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek; Sunday, April 9, 4 p.m., at Eagle Valley High School in Gypsum

Admission: \$5 for adults, free for children and students

A special thanks to the Bravo! Vail partners who made this project possible: Town of Gypsum, The Paiko Foundation in honor of the Vail Police, Slifer Smith & Frampton Foundation, and Carole A. Watters

About Bruce Adolphe:

Adolphe is the resident lecturer for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where he founded the family concert series *Meet the Music!* In addition to his work with the Chamber Music Society, Adolphe serves as composer-in-residence for the Brain and Creativity Institute at the University of Southern California, and he’s the creative director for an interdisciplinary educational organization he co-founded called The Learning Maestros. Adolphe also hosts the *Piano Puzzler* segment on the American Public Media program *Performance Today*.

About Jenny Chen (2017 Bravo! Vail Piano Fellow)

Jenny Chen was born in Taipei, Taiwan. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and her master’s degree from Yale University; currently she’s pursuing her DMA at the Eastman School of Music. Chen has performed with numerous ensembles, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. In 2015, she performed Mozart’s Concerto for Two Pianos with Anne-Marie McDermott and the Pacific Symphony. Her numerous honors include earning silver medals at the New York International Piano Competition and the Eastman School of Music’s Young Artists International Piano Competition as well as the Henk de By Incentive Prize at the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in the Netherlands.

About Zorá String Quartet (2017 Bravo! Vail Young Professional in Residence)

The acclaimed Zorá String Quartet, whose members earned diplomas from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, is the 2016–17 Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 2015, the quartet won the Grand Prize and Gold Medal at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the Coleman National Chamber Music Competition, and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Their repertoire spans works from the Classical period to the present day, and the ensemble has performed at Alice Tully Hall in New York City, the Emilia Romagna Festival in Italy, and the Beethoven House in Bonn, Germany.

About Bravo! Vail Music Festival

The Bravo! Vail Music Festival brings world-renowned musicians to picturesque venues throughout the Vail Valley for nearly seven weeks, drawing music lovers from around the world. The only festival in North America to host four of the world's finest orchestras in a single season, Bravo! Vail celebrates its 30th season from June 22 through August 4, 2017. The 2017 season features residencies with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic — plus the London-based Academy of St Martin in the Fields, which, in 2016, became the first international orchestra to perform at the Festival. In addition, internationally acclaimed chamber artists and soloists perform a wide array of unique and carefully curated chamber music programs. For more information about Bravo! Vail, visit bravovail.org or call 970.827.5700.

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