

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES CONTINUES AT BRAVO! VAIL WITH BARTÓK AND REICH

Pianists Anne-Marie McDermott and Gilles Vonsattel join Third Coast Percussion in performance of Bartók's individualistic and expressive Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion

Vail, CO – July 18, 2014 – The Bravo! Vail Chamber Music series continues on Tuesday, July 22 with a pair of two brilliant works for two pianos and percussion, featuring Bravo! Vail Artistic Director and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott and pianist Gilles Vonsattel together with Third Coast Percussion at Vail's Donovan Pavilion. The concert spotlights two exhilarating works: *Sextet* by American composer Steve Reich and Béla Bartók's individualistic and expressive *Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion*. These rarely-performed works call for two virtuosic pianists to combine forces with percussionists to create a performance that is thrilling to watch and fascinating to hear. Physically demanding for both pianists and percussionists, the *Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion* will feature two members of Third Coast Percussion, who will play seven instruments between them: timpani, bass drum (gran cassa), cymbals, triangle, snare drum (both on- and off- snares), tam-tam (gong) and xylophone.

McDermott offers Bartók's *Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion* to Bravo! Vail after several years of planning and eager anticipation. Bartók, who fled the rise of the Nazis in Hungary in 1936, composed the *Sonata* from sanctuary in Switzerland to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Society for Contemporary Music in 1937. The *Sonata* simultaneously explores Bartók's fascination with the "percussive timbres of the piano and the expressive capacity of percussion." Its fiendishly difficult writing is not for the faint-hearted, but in the right hands, it is arguably Bartók's most dazzling masterpiece.

Steve Reich, called "our greatest living composer" by *The New York Times*, was commissioned to write *Sextet* by Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, and by the French Government for the Nexus Percussion Ensemble. The first performance, under the title *Music for Percussion and Keyboards*, was given at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 1984 by Nexus, with guest artists playing keyboards. The last movement was revised in 1985 and the title shortened to *Sextet*. The American premiere was presented by Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians at Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival in 1985.

Sextet, which American mathematical physicist John Baez describes as exploring "dissonant harmonies and aggressive rhythms while maintaining a similar luminous purity," not only represents one of the pinnacles of Reich's career, it is one of the most remarkable pieces of music composed within the past 30 years. Reich—winner of a 2009 Pulitzer Prize for his composition *Double Sextet*—has explored the use of tuned percussion instruments, such as marimbas and vibraphones, in his compositions since studying Javanese gamelan and African music in the early 1970s.

Third Coast Percussion, which is midway into its first Bravo! Vail residency, is a Chicago-based ensemble that explores the sonic possibilities of the percussion repertoire, delivering exciting performances for audiences of all kinds. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "vibrant" and "superb," these "savvy and hyper-talented young percussionists" (*Musical Toronto*) make their Bravo! Vail Chamber Music Series debut at this concert.

If You Go: *Bartók and Reich*

Pianists Anne-Marie McDermott and Gilles Vonsattel come together with Third Coast Percussion in a program that pairs Bartók's Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion with Steve Reich's composition for the same instrumentation, *Sextet*. Bartók's Sonata for Two Pianos & Percussion, a virtuosic tour de force for all its performers, features an impressive battery of percussion instruments: timpani, bass drum, cymbals, triangle, snare drum, tam-tam (gong), and xylophone. Reich's *Sextet*, written for an ensemble of four percussionists and two keyboardists, received its American premiere in 1985 as part of the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The percussionists play (at various times) three marimbas, two vibraphones, two bass drums, crotales, sticks, and tam-tam.

What: ***Bartók and Reich***
Where: Donovan Pavilion, 1600 South Frontage Rd W, Vail, CO 81657
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2014
Cost: Tickets start at \$29.
Information: Visit bravovail.org or call the Box Office: 877.812.5700.

About Bravo! Vail

Bravo! Vail, one of North America's premier summer music festivals, brings world-renowned musicians to picturesque venues throughout Eagle County, Colorado for six weeks each year, drawing music lovers from around the world. The only festival in North America to host three of the world's finest orchestras in a single season, Bravo! Vail celebrates its 27th season June 27 through August 2, 2014, under the direction of Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott and Executive Director James W. Palermo. The 2014 season features residencies by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic, with celebrated concerto artists plus a wide array of stellar chamber music performances. For more information about Bravo! Vail visit www.bravovail.org or call [970.827.5700](tel:970.827.5700).

How to Purchase Tickets

All tickets for the 27th Season of Bravo! Vail are now on sale. Purchase tickets online at www.bravovail.org or by calling the box office at 877.812.5700.

- Orchestral concerts featuring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and New York Philharmonic start at \$28 for both lawn and "Saver" pavilion seats.
- Lawn tickets for children between the ages of 2 and 12 are \$5.
- Tickets for the Chamber Music Series start at \$29 and Silver Oak & Twomey Series tickets start at \$50.
- Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM MST.

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