



Bravo! Vail Music Festival Announces Its Thirtieth Season June 22–August 4, 2017

**Concerts feature residencies by four returning ensembles:
the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra,
The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic;**

**Soloists include violinists Joshua Bell, Simone Lamsma, James Ehnes,
Gil Shaham, and Leonida Kavakos; cellist Steven Isserlis; trumpeter and vocalist Byron
Stripling; and pianists Garrick Ohlsson, Yefim Bronfman, and Inon Barnatan;**

**The 30th season includes a record number of world premieres, expanded
educational offerings, and the largest-ever number of string quartets
performing in Bravo! Vail's chamber music programs;**

**Jaap van Zweden and Alan Gilbert make their final Bravo! Vail appearances as
music directors of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic, respectively;**

**The Festival's annual gala features a one-time-only performance by classical soprano
Patricia Racette in her trademark program *Diva on Detour***

Vail, CO—(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)—The Bravo! Vail Music Festival announces its milestone 30th season, which runs from June 22 to August 4, 2017. The season features the return of its longtime resident ensembles the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic as well as the second-annual residency of the London-based chamber orchestra the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, led by violinist and Music Director Joshua Bell. The 30th season celebration includes a record number of world premieres signifying the launch of a New Works Project, expanded educational offerings, and the largest-ever number of string quartets performing in its various chamber music programs.

Bravo! Vail's historic 30th season also features Jaap van Zweden and Alan Gilbert in their final Bravo! Vail concerts as music directors of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic, respectively. Van Zweden will succeed Gilbert in September 2017, serving as music director designate of the New York Philharmonic before officially becoming music director in 2018.

“At 30 years young, Bravo! Vail is the only festival to host four of the greatest orchestras in the world in this stunning mountain setting. There are many ways to celebrate turning 30, so Bravo has elected to focus on what it does best, extraordinary classical music presentations and education programs,” said Bravo! Vail Executive Director Jennifer Teisinger.

Teisinger spoke of the Festival’s excitement to launch its new commissioning initiative, the New Works Project: “It is every classical music organization’s responsibility to contribute to the musical canon. Bravo’s excellent relationship with each of the resident orchestras and its tradition of chamber music presentations make it the perfect organization to commission new works and give living composers a voice right here in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. With the launch of this New Works Project, along with an infusion of string quartet performances, the expansion of the After School Piano Program, a brand new format for the annual Gala, and the launch of a spectacular new website, we are celebrating 30 years by ramping up every aspect of our mission. We can’t wait for summer!”

Bravo! Vail Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott commented on the 2017 Festival: “Bravo! Vail’s 30th season is a milestone in so many ways. Musically it is a celebration not only of our beginnings as a chamber music festival, but also our future as a vibrant creative community.”

McDermott continued, “In particular, I am thrilled that over the course of six weeks, Bravo! Vail audiences will have the opportunity to hear seven string quartets, including three that are playing in Vail for the very first time, as well as the world renowned Emerson String Quartet. The string quartet is the heart and soul of the chamber music repertory, and includes some of the most profound music ever written.

It is also a special joy and honor that we are hosting five world premieres of works Bravo! Vail has commissioned as a result of the New Works Project. This is such an exciting moment for the Festival. Living composers are the lifeblood of music, and for us at Bravo!, helping give birth to a new piece of music is a great privilege and responsibility. To support composers – and spur the creation of new musical expression – is the most noble endeavor we can pursue.”

McDermott said, “For our musicians, it’s the chance to discover a new piece together, an experience that always fills an ensemble with a great intensity that comes through in the performance. And for us in the audience, what a privilege to witness the next step forward for classical music, hearing a work for the first time and forming our own reactions and opinions, free of any preconceived ideas.”

THIRTIETH SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

In honor of its 30th season, Bravo! Vail presents its richest and most diverse array of programs to date.

New Works Project

Bravo! continues to evolve in exciting new directions in 2017. After introducing a fresh focus on chamber orchestra and international artistic partnerships last summer with London's Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Bravo now launches a brand new initiative in 2017, the New Works Project, marking the next step in the festival's dedication to celebrating creativity in classical music. The initiative signals a new level of commitment to commissioning and supporting the artists who are the voices of classical music today. Each season, Bravo will premiere original works written by established and emerging composers from around the world. The Festival's 2017 season features the world premieres of four orchestral works — the first orchestral commissions in the Festival's history — which will be performed by each of the four resident orchestras. Bravo! also commissioned a chamber piece, which will be premiered during a chamber music concert.

On June 22, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, led from the concertmaster's chair by Music Director Joshua Bell, performs the season's first world premiere, a new work by American composer and bassist **Edgar Meyer**, co-commissioned by Bravo! Vail and the Academy and featuring Bell as soloist. The three other orchestral premieres include *Dos piezas para orquesta* by Puerto Rican composer **Roberto Sierra**, performed on June 30 by Jaap van Zweden and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; a new work by French composer **Guillaume Connesson**, performed on July 9 by Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève and The Philadelphia Orchestra; and a new work by American composer **Julia Adolphe**, performed by Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic. On August 3, the last night of the Classically Uncorked series, Anne-Marie McDermott and the Aeolus, Calder, and Lyris quartets premiere American composer **David Ludwig's** chamber music piece *Pangea* for Strings and Piano.

Guest Artists

Bravo! Vail welcomes more than a dozen internationally acclaimed guest artists who perform a range of repertoire with all four of the Festival's resident ensembles. The artists include violinist **Joshua Bell** (June 22 and 24–25 with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields), cellist **Steven Isserlis** (June 24–25 with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in his Bravo! Vail debut), pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** (June 28 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra), violinist **Simone Lamsma** (June 30 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in her Bravo! Vail debut), trumpeter and vocalist **Byron Stripling** (July 4–5 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra), vocalist and tap dancer **Ted Louis Levy** (July 5 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra), vocalist **Miche Braden** (July 5 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra), violinist **James Ehnes** (July 7 with The Philadelphia Orchestra), pianist **Haochen Zhang** (July 9 with The Philadelphia Orchestra in his Bravo! Vail debut), violinist **Gil Shaham** (July 14 with The Philadelphia Orchestra), pianist **Yefim Bronfman** (July 15 with The Philadelphia Orchestra), violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** (July 22 as soloist and July 23 as soloist/conductor with the New York Philharmonic in his Bravo! Vail debut), **pianist Anne-Marie McDermott** (July 26 with the New York Philharmonic), pianist **Inon Barnatan** (July 28 with the New York Philharmonic), soprano **Susanna Phillips** (July 28 with the New York Philharmonic), mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Johnson Cano** (July 28 with the New York Philharmonic), tenor **Joseph Kaiser** (July 28 with the New York Philharmonic), and bass **Morris Robinson** (July 28 with the New York Philharmonic).

String Quartet

Building on the strength and popularity of its accessible and diverse chamber music offerings, Bravo! Vail welcomes seven string quartets — its largest lineup ever — to perform in its Chamber Music Series, its Free Concert Series, and Bravo! Vail After Dark. The quartets include the **Emerson String Quartet**, the newly formed **New York Philharmonic String Quartet** (debut season and Bravo! Vail debut), and the **Calder Quartet**, **Aeolus Quartet**, **Lyris Quartet**, **Danish String Quartet** (Bravo! Vail debut), and **Zorá String Quartet** (Bravo! Vail debut).

Bravo! Vail's Thirtieth Annual Gala

On July 16, the gala event ***An Enchanted Evening Celebrating Thirty Years of Bravo! Vail*** will be held at the Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, and its proceeds will benefit Bravo! Vail's Education Programs and Free Concerts. New this year is a one-time-only performance by classical soprano **Patricia Racette**, who will perform her trademark program ***Diva on Detour*** with longtime collaborator **Craig Terry** on the piano. *Diva on Detour* is presented exclusively in honor of Bravo! Vail's 30th season.

Education and Outreach

Having served the Vail Valley community for the past thirty years, the Festival is expanding its educational and outreach activities in order to make classical music and its numerous benefits accessible to as wide and diverse a local audience as possible. For the first time ever, Bravo! Vail presents **two free family concerts** instead of one. ***Gershwin's Magic Key***, produced by Classical Kids Music Education and presented by Bravo! Vail and the National Repertory Orchestra, will be performed both up valley and down valley at the **Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail** and the **Lundgren Amphitheater in Gypsum**, respectively. Bravo! Vail's popular **Instrument Petting Zoo** will be on-site and open for children to explore before both performances.

THE ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

After its history-making debut last season, the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** — the first chamber orchestra and the first internationally based ensemble to perform at Bravo! Vail — returns for a three-concert residency **June 22–25, 2017**. Music Director and Grammy Award-winning violinist **Joshua Bell** leads the orchestra from the concertmaster's chair in works that span the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras as well as in the world premiere of a newly commissioned piece.

On June 22, the Academy begins its residency with **Mendelssohn's** breathtaking **Symphony No. 3 ("Scottish")** — inspired by Mendelssohn's visit to the ruins of Mary, Queen of Scots, chapel at Holyrood Palace — and **Mozart's** spirited **Violin Concerto No. 1**, featuring Bell as soloist. The program also features Bell in a world premiere of a **new work** by **Edgar Meyer** co-commissioned by Bravo! Vail and the Academy.

For the orchestra's second concert, on June 24, **Bell** performs a rarely heard arrangement of the second movement of **Schumann's Violin Concerto** and also partners with longtime collaborator **Steven Isserlis**, in his Bravo! Vail debut, for **Brahms's** last orchestral composition,

the **Double Concerto for Violin and Cello**. Isserlis, whom *The Telegraph* called “Britain’s greatest cellist,” also performs **Dvořák’s *Silent Woods***, the fifth movement of the evocative suite *From the Bohemian Forest*, originally written for piano four-hands. The concert also includes one of **Beethoven’s** final pieces from his early period, his lighthearted **Symphony No. 2**, which, paradoxically, Beethoven wrote while despairing over his ever-increasing deafness.

To conclude its residency on June 25, the Academy performs **Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for Strings**, which the composer described as “a heartfelt piece,” and Bell again solos in **J. S. Bach’s** wonderfully sweet-sounding **Violin Concerto in A minor**. Isserlis returns to perform the **Cello Concerto in B major** by one of Bach’s sons, **C. P. E. Bach**.

THE DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

From **June 28 through July 5**, the **Dallas Symphony Orchestra** returns to Bravo! Vail for a six-concert residency. This is the final summer the Dallas Symphony will be led by Music Director **Jaap van Zweden**, who will serve as the New York Philharmonic’s music director designate in the 17/18 season before officially becoming music director in the 18/19 season. The Dallas Symphony presents a rich lineup that includes favorites of the classical repertoire as well as movie scores, patriotic tunes, a world premiere, and more.

The Dallas Symphony begins its residency on June 28 with an **all-Tchaikovsky** program, led by **van Zweden**, which features Grammy Award–winning pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** performing the enduringly popular **Piano Concerto No. 1**. The concert also includes the dramatic **Symphony No. 4**, which Tchaikovsky once described as conveying “that fateful force which prevents the impulse toward happiness from entirely achieving its goal.”

For the orchestra’s second program, on June 30, **van Zweden** conducts **Prokofiev’s** grand and long-awaited **Symphony No. 5** — which premiered in Moscow more than 14 years after Prokofiev’s previous symphony debuted in Boston — as well as the world premiere of a **newly commissioned work** from Puerto Rican composer **Roberto Sierra**, *Dos piezas para orquesta*, which Sierra described as a diptych “containing two contrasting pieces that are generated by the same musical material and creative impulse. The contrast is established by the lyrical and introspective nature of the first piece and the jubilant and energetic character of the second.” Dutch **violinist Simone Lamsma**, whose playing has been described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “absolutely stunning” and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as “polished, expressive and intense,” joins the orchestra, in her Bravo! Vail debut, for **Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto**, one of the most beloved works in the violin repertoire.

On July 1, **van Zweden**, in his last appearance at Bravo! Vail as music director of the Dallas Symphony, leads the orchestra in works from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, including **Haydn’s Sinfonia Concertante** for oboe, bassoon, violin, cello, and orchestra, which premiered in London in 1792 and, in this performance, features members of the orchestra as soloists; the **Prelude to Wagner’s** groundbreaking 1850 opera **Lohengrin**,

whose story is rooted in Arthurian legend; and **Stravinsky's** avant-garde ***The Rite of Spring***, which famously caused a riot at its premiere in Paris in 1913.

Jeff Tyzik, the Dallas Symphony's principal pops conductor, leads the next concert on July 2, ***John Williams: Music from the Movies***. Williams has earned fifty Oscar nominations to date, making him the second-most nominated person in history, after Walt Disney. The orchestra performs selections from twelve of Williams's acclaimed scores — which span four decades — including *The Cowboys*, *Jaws*, *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Hook*, *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler's List*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and *Catch Me If You Can*.

On July 4, **Tyzik** returns to conduct the orchestra's annual **Patriotic Concert**, which features trumpeter and vocalist **Byron Stripling**.

To conclude its residency on July 5, the orchestra, again led by **Tyzik**, presents ***Return to the Cotton Club***, a music-and-dance show featuring vocalist and tap dancer **Ted Louis Levy**, vocalist **Miche Braden**, trumpeter and vocalist **Byron Stripling**, and others. Amazing fan favorite Byron Stripling, the modern-day Louis Armstrong, takes you to Harlem's hottest jazz club in a swingin' program of old-time jazz, blues, and big band music, with favorites by **Duke Ellington**, **Louis Armstrong**, **Cab Calloway**, and more.

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

Under the leadership of Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, The Philadelphia Orchestra returns for a six-concert residency **July 7–15** that features the high points of its artistic profile, including popular orchestral pieces, an award-winning film score, a world premiere, and internationally acclaimed guest artists. The residency features works that are cornerstones of the orchestra's programmatic vision, offering audiences in Vail the best of everything the orchestra has accomplished this season.

Stéphane Denève, the orchestra's recently renewed principal guest conductor (through the summer of 2020), leads the first concert of the residency on July 7, showcasing that legendary "Philadelphia Sound" by performing **Sibelius's** stirring **Symphony No. 2** — which the composer called "a confession of the soul" — and two works by **Tchaikovsky**: the folk-song-infused **Andante Cantabile** from the **String Quartet No. 1, Op. 11** (arranged by former Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Leopold Stokowski) and the beautifully lush **Violin Concerto**, featuring Grammy Award-winning violinist and frequent collaborator **James Ehnes**.

For its second program, on July 8, the orchestra presents a **screening** of the 1982 Steven Spielberg-directed film ***E. T. The Extra Terrestrial***, set to a live performance of **John Williams's** **Academy Award-winning score**, conducted by **Denève**. This charming film is also a deeply psychological tale about childhood and loss, made all the more poignant by the virtuosic score. Denève enjoys a close, personal bond with Williams and has been a strong advocate for both his concert music and his film scores.

On July 9, **Denève** leads the **world premiere** of *Les Regrets*, a newly commissioned work by French composer **Guillaume Connesson**. **Denève** is a champion of Connesson's music and says of his work: "It is music that I truly believe in. I do have faith that you will love his music as much as I do." The program also includes **Beethoven's** regal **Symphony No. 7** — which the composer once described as "one of my best works" — and **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 4**, featuring **Haochen Zhang** in his Bravo! Vail debut. In 2009, four days after his nineteenth birthday, Zhang became the youngest musician to win the Gold Medal in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Zhang is also scheduled to perform during the orchestra's three-day Rachmaninoff Festival in Philadelphia in April 2017.

Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** leads the July 13 concert, which features two works each by Bach and Brahms. The program begins with selections from **Brahms's Eleven Chorale Preludes**, beautifully transcribed from their original organ setting by contemporary German composer Detlev Glanert and commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra. Next are famous and popular orchestrations by Stokowski of organ works by **Bach: the Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor** and the **Tocatta and Fugue in D minor**. The program concludes with **Brahms's** pastoral-like **Symphony No. 2**.

For the concert on July 14, **Nézet-Séguin** conducts works that span the Classical, Romantic, and modern eras. Grammy Award-winning violinist **Gil Shaham** joins the orchestra for a performance of **Mozart's** exuberant **Violin Concerto No. 3**, written when the composer was nineteen years old. The orchestra also performs **Tchaikovsky's** tragic tone poem *Francesca da Rimini* — which draws inspiration from Dante's *Divine Comedy* and suggests the influence of Liszt and Wagner — and **Stravinsky's** music from the ballet *Petrushka*, recently recorded live in Philadelphia for future release on the Deutsche Grammophon label.

The orchestra's residency concludes on July 15 with **Nézet-Séguin** conducting selections from **Beethoven's** only ballet, *The Creatures of Prometheus*, **Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture** — famous for its thrilling finale — and **Mason Bates's** 2012 symphony for orchestra and electronica, *Alternative Energy*. *Alternative Energy* is a symphony in four movements for orchestra, laptop, and a set of speakers, which are arranged around the orchestra to give the performance a spatial effect. The *San Francisco Chronicle* described *Alternative Energy* as a "formidable and inventive new work," and the *L. A. Times* called it "fascinating." The program also includes **Prokofiev's** forward-looking **Piano Concerto No. 2**, performed by Grammy Award-winning pianist **Yefim Bronfman**.

THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Returning to Bravo! Vail for its fifteenth annual residency, the **New York Philharmonic** presents six concerts **July 21–28** that spotlight its illustrious history during its 175th anniversary season. The concerts also feature the world premiere of a work by American composer Julia Adolphe and performances by the Philharmonic's Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence Leonidas Kavakos (who appears as both conductor and violin soloist) and its Artist-in-

Association, pianist Inon Barnatan. The residency also honors the conclusion of **Alan Gilbert's** eight-year tenure as music director and features major symphonies by Mahler (one of the Philharmonic's former music directors), Dvořák, and Beethoven.

On July 21, guest conductor **Bramwell Tovey** leads the orchestra from both the podium and the piano in an all-American celebration. The program begins with **Charles Ives's Variations on America** (orchestrated by William Schuman), followed by **Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture**, an arrangement of the best-known songs from **Gershwin's** opera *Porgy and Bess* performed by American mezzo-soprano **J'Nai Bridges** in her Bravo! Vail debut. The program also includes **West Side Story Symphonic Dances by Leonard Bernstein** (the Philharmonic's former music director and laureate conductor) and concludes with **Gershwin's** jazz-influenced symphonic poem **An American in Paris**.

The following day, on July 22, **Music Director Alan Gilbert** conducts **Berlioz's** brilliant first symphony, the **Symphonie Fantastique** — a programmatic work that evokes an artist's hallucinations while suffering from unrequited love — and **Brahms's** towering **Violin Concerto**, featuring the orchestra's Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, Greek violin sensation **Leonidas Kavakos**, in his Bravo! Vail debut. Kavakos won the prestigious Sibelius, Paganini, and Naumburg violin competitions (all before the age of 21), and in 2014 *Gramophone* named him Artist of the Year. In 2017, he was awarded Denmark's Léonie Sonning Music Prize, the country's highest musical honor.

Kavakos made his Philharmonic conducting debut in October 2016, and on July 23, in a special Bravo! Vail concert, he leads the orchestra in **Weber's Overture to Oberon**, **Schumann's** triumphal **Symphony No. 2**, **J. S. Bach's** rich **Violin Concerto in D minor**, for which he also appears as soloist.

Alan Gilbert returns on July 26 to lead a program that showcases the Philharmonic's history of premiering important and influential works. The orchestra performs **Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, From the New World**, which it premiered in December 1893; the performance concludes *The New World Initiative*, the Philharmonic's season-long, citywide project revolving around Dvořák's *New World* Symphony — and its theme of home — through performances, community outreach, and education projects on the occasion of the Philharmonic's 175th anniversary season. Pianist and Bravo! Vail Artistic Director **Anne-Marie McDermott** joins the orchestra for **Gershwin's** moody, jazz-infused **Concerto in F**, a work the New York Symphony (a forebear of the Philharmonic) commissioned and then premiered in December 1925 with Gershwin as soloist. The orchestra also performs the **world premiere** of a newly commissioned work by American composer **Julia Adolphe**.

On July 27, **Alan Gilbert** leads the orchestra in the monumental and movingly melodic **Symphony No. 7** of **Gustav Mahler**, who served as the Philharmonic's music director from 1909 until his premature death in 1911.

The concert on July 28 marks a historic moment for both the Philharmonic and Bravo! Vail, as **Alan Gilbert** leads his final performance in Vail as the orchestra's music director, a position he's held since September 2009. The **all-Beethoven program** begins with the transcendent **Piano Concerto No. 2**, featuring **Inon Barnatan**, who closes out his third and final season as the Philharmonic's inaugural Artist-in-Association, and concludes with Beethoven's magnum opus, his **Symphony No. 9**. Soloists for the symphony include soprano **Susanna Phillips**, mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Johnson Cano**, tenor **Joseph Kaiser**, and bass **Morris Robinson**. The orchestra will be joined by the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra Chorus**, which is under the direction of **Duain Wolfe**.

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Bravo! Vail's annual Chamber Music Series presents four intimate and dynamic concerts by principal musicians from two of the festival's resident orchestras — the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble and the New York Philharmonic — plus world-class quartets; celebrated guest artists; and Bravo! Vail's Artistic Director, internationally acclaimed pianist Anne-Marie McDermott. The concerts are held on Tuesday nights in June and July at the beautiful Donovan Pavilion.

The series begins on June 27 with a performance by **Anne-Marie McDermott** and the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble**. The repertoire for the evening is to be announced.

On July 11, the nine-time Grammy Award-winning **Emerson String Quartet** performs works that span the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The program begins with three works by the influential English Baroque composer **Henry Purcell**: his bittersweet **Chacony in G** (arranged by Britten) and **Two Fantasies**. Next is **Shostakovich's** monumental **String Quartet No. 8 in C minor** followed by **Beethoven's** masterful **String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor**, one of the composer's later works and, reportedly, one of his favorites.

For the concert on July 18, four pianists — **Anne-Marie McDermott**, **Anton Nel**, and **Bravo! Vail's 2017 Piano Fellows Jenny Chen and Chelsea Wang** — join forces to collaborate on nine engaging works from the **duo-piano repertoire**. Nel and Wang kick off the powerful program with the **Sonata for Two Pianos in D major, K. 448, by Mozart**, followed by McDermott and Chen performing **George Gershwin's** four-hands arrangement of his lively orchestral piece **An American in Paris**. Following intermission, all four pianists take to the stage for eight-hand arrangements of classic works such as **Rossini's** rousing **William Tell Overture**, **Gounod's** mesmerizing **Waltz from the opera Faust**, **Chabrier's** fiery **España Rhapsody**, **Glinka's** riveting **Overture to his opera Rusland and Ludmilla**, **Wilberg's** high-energy **Fantasy on Themes of Bizet's Carmen**, and **Joplin's** lighthearted **Rag Rhapsody**.

The recently created **New York Philharmonic String Quartet**, which debuted in New York City in March, concludes the series on July 25. Concertmaster **Frank Huang**, Principal Associate Concertmaster **Sheryl Staples**, Principal Viola **Cynthia Phelps**, and Principal Cello **Carter Brey** perform three major works from the nineteenth-century chamber music repertoire, beginning

with **Mendelssohn's** tumultuous **String Quartet in F minor**, written for his beloved sister Fanny shortly after her death and two months before his own death at the age of thirty-eight. The program continues with one of **Beethoven's** first string quartets, the sublime **String Quartet in C minor**, and ends with **Dvořák's** perennially popular **String Quartet No. 12 in F major ("American")**, written in the summer of 1893 when the Czech composer, who was living in New York City at the time, was vacationing in Spillville, Iowa.

CLASSICALLY UNCORKED PRESENTED BY ARIETTA WINES

Another uniquely intimate experience offered by Bravo! Vail, Classically Uncorked presented by Arietta Wines pairs great music with great wine and great food in a sophisticated, cabaret-style setting. Three chamber music concerts featuring works by leading contemporary composers are held at Donovan Pavilion August 1–3 and include complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. As a special partnership of the thirtieth season of Bravo! Vail, the Festival announces Arietta Wine, the artisanal producer of Napa wines that inspired the opening night's program for this year's Classically Uncorked series, will be its wine sponsor for the 2017 series.

Classically Uncorked begins August 1 with a nod to the musically named Napa Valley winery Arietta ("a short aria"), thanks to **Anders Hillborg's *Kongsgaard Variations***, performed by the **Calder Quarter**. Hillborg wrote this piece in 2006 and dedicated it to John Kongsgaard, who co-founded Arietta winery with his wife, Maggy, and Fritz and Caren Hatton. In a program note, Hillborg wrote: "The label on a bottle of Arietta wine displays a couple of bars from the Arietta theme from Beethoven's last piano sonata in his own handwriting. So when I was asked to compose a piece in honor of this fabulous wine, this theme would naturally have a key role in the piece. . . . The music [in the *Kongsgaard Variations*] floats aimlessly through the centuries, displaying reminiscences of Baroque, folk-music, Renaissance, and Romanticism, but with Beethoven's Arietta theme as the musical epicenter." The **Beethoven** sonata at the heart of both the winery's name and the variations composed by Hillborg, the **Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor**, is also on the program and will be performed by **Anne-Marie McDermott**. Another work by **Beethoven**, the highly virtuosic **String Quartet No. 9 in C major, Op. 59, No. 3**, featuring the **Calder Quartet**, concludes the concert. Beethoven described this quartet — the last of his three radical "Razumovsky" quartets — as being "for a later age."

American composer **Philip Glass**, who turned eighty years old on January 31, is celebrated in the second concert of the series, held on August 2, with a performance by the **Aeolus Quartet** of his **String Quartet No. 3**, which is based on music from Glass's score to the 1985 film *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*. The **Aeolus Quartet** also performs **Persichetti's** plaintive and probing **String Quartet No. 2**, written in 1944, and **Schubert's** tense yet lyrical **Quartettsatz**, the first movement of an unfinished string quartet. Next, the **Calder Quartet** performs **György Kurtág's** 2005 suite ***Six Moments Musicaux*** and **Schubert's** poignant **String Quartet No. 14 in D minor ("Death and the Maiden")**, which reflects the composer's struggles with an illness that would claim his life four years later at the age of thirty-one.

The final concert of the series, held on August 3, opens with **Brahms's Three Intermezzos for Solo Piano**, which were among the last compositions he wrote and reflect a maturity and beauty that remain unequalled in the piano repertoire. Next, the **Lyris Quartet** and **Anne-Marie McDermott** perform the **world premiere** of American composer **David Ludwig's Pangea for Strings and Piano**, a Bravo! Vail Commission. The program also celebrates **Philip Glass**, presenting his **String Quartet No. 5**, performed by the **Lyris Quartet**. The culmination of the Classically Uncorked series is a work that features three ensembles — the **Aeolus**, **Calder**, and **Lyris quartets** — performing **Steve Reich's** cyclical **Triple Quartet**.

BRAVO VAIL AFTER DARK

Putting an informal, unique, and highly accessible twist on the chamber music experience, Bravo! Vail After Dark presents three critically acclaimed quartets performing in a handful of the Vail Valley's most popular bars and ale houses. The series' three concerts feature evolutionary music, from classical favorites to innovative contemporary works, performed by **Ensemble Connect** on July 21 at the **Vail Ale House**, the **Danish String Quartet** on July 29 at **Crazy Mountain Brewing Company**, and the **Calder Quartet** on August 4 at a down valley location to be announced.

EDUCATION & FREE EVENTS

Education and community outreach are a vital part of Bravo! Vail's core mission. In 2017, the Festival presents more than twenty-five free concerts throughout the Vail Valley.

2017 Free Concert Series

The popular Free Concert Series returns in 2017, featuring **Bravo! Vail's Piano Fellows** and **Young Ensembles-in-Residence**. Throughout the season, these rising stars perform beautiful and engaging programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the **Vail Interfaith Chapel** in Vail, the **Edwards Interfaith Chapel** in Edwards, and the **Brush Creek Pavilion** in Eagle; they also perform on **Gallery Row** in Beaver Creek.

2017 Little Listeners

Bravo! Vail once again presents its Little Listeners at the Library series, which introduces children to the wonders of classical music. The series' eight programs will be staged in **public libraries** throughout the Vail Valley, including those in **Vail, Avon, Eagle, and Gypsum**. **Members of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Zorá String Quartet, and Ensemble Connect** will perform engaging and entertaining repertoire at these fun and free family-friendly events.

2017 Pre-Concert Talks

The Pre-Concert Talk series is another key component of Bravo! Vail's educational programming. In 2017, the series returns with **five lectures**, presented by **musicologists from around the state**, which are held before select orchestral performances, including all four concerts that feature **world premieres**. The lectures provide musical insights and historical context and details, giving concertgoers a deeper understanding of the works they'll hear during that evening's performance.

Free Family Concerts

For the first time in its thirty-year history, Bravo! Vail is offering **two free family concerts** instead of one — both up valley and down valley — in an effort to expand the Festival's reach and to further develop its commitment to serving local residents.

A collaborative Bravo! Vail and National Repertory Orchestra presentation of *Gershwin's Magic Key*, a Classical Kids Music Education production, takes place on Wednesday, July 12, at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail at 11:00 a.m. and the Lundgren Amphitheater in Gypsum at 6:00 p.m. An hour before each performance, children of all ages are invited to Bravo! Vail's **Instrument Petting Zoo**, where they can explore real orchestral instruments.

During *Gershwin's Magic Key*, musicians from Colorado's prestigious **National Repertory Orchestra**, led by The Philadelphia Orchestra's assistant conductor, **Kensho Watanabe**, perform more than twenty works by American composer George Gershwin. **Will Martin**, one of the co-writers of *Gershwin's Magic Key*, will perform the solo piano part in Gershwin's famous *Rhapsody in Blue*. The works are woven into a fictional story that centers on a chance meeting between Gershwin and a poor newspaper boy on the streets of New York City.

The National Repertory Orchestra, located in Breckenridge, is an entirely fellowship-based summer orchestra that trains young professionals as they embark upon their orchestral careers.

Young Professionals-In-Residence

Each season Bravo! Vail is proud to host two groups of musicians in the early stages of their professional careers. This year, Bravo! Vail welcomes the Zorá String Quartet, which comprises students from the Curtis Institute of Music, and Ensemble Connect, made up of young professional musicians from around the country who are participating in a two-year fellowship program. Ensemble Connect is a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

Zorá String Quartet

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.

Ensemble Connect

Ensemble Connect comprises young professional musicians selected to participate in a prestigious two-year fellowship program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. The fellowship,

which celebrates its tenth anniversary in the 2016–17 season, includes residencies in schools throughout New York City as well as performances at Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, (Le) Poisson Rouge, and other local venues.

Piano Fellows

This summer marks the third year of Bravo! Vail’s professional artist development program, which is designed to nurture and showcase the talents of two gifted young pianists. This year’s remarkable fellows, Chelsea Wang and Jenny Chen, will give a number of recitals and chamber music performances throughout the Vail Valley. Wang and Chen will be coached by the Festival’s Artistic Director, Anne-Marie McDermott, and other distinguished performer-pedagogues.

Chelsea Wang, a native of West Des Moines, Iowa, currently studies with Ignat Solzhenitsyn at the Curtis Institute of Music. She has performed with the Des Moines, Fort Worth, and Waterloo-Cedar Falls symphony orchestras, and her chamber music appearances include Music at Angel Fire and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. Wang has been featured on the NPR radio program *From the Top*, hosted by pianist (and frequent Bravo! Vail guest artist) Christopher O’Riley, and she was a prizewinner at the 2012 New York International Piano Competition and the 2010 Eastman International Piano Competition.

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.

Some of Wang and Chen’s rehearsals and coaching sessions will be open to the public; visit bravovail.org for more information.

THE LINDA AND MITCH HART SOIRÉE SERIES

The Linda and Mitch Hart Soirée Series gives patrons the rare opportunity to hear the Festival’s world-class musicians perform intimate concerts in some of the Vail Valley’s most beautiful homes. Guests can enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres before each performance and a gourmet three-course meal prepared by the finest local chefs afterwards.

Violinist **Joshua Bell** and **members of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields** launch the four-concert series on June 23 with one of the greatest works in the chamber music repertoire: **Mendelssohn’s Octet in E-flat major**, written when the composer was sixteen years old. The opening concert will be held at the Marijke and Lodewijk de Vink residence in Mountain Star and will be catered by Daniel Joly of Mirabelle at Beaver Creek.

On July 10, pianist **Anne-Marie McDermott** and two **members of the Emerson String Quartet** (violinist **Philip Setzer** and cellist **Paul Watkins**) perform at the Marlys and Ralph Palumbo residence in Red Sky Ranch. The program includes a group performance of **Haydn's** delightful **Piano Trio No. 39 in G major ("Gypsy Rondo")** as well as a performance of **Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Piano**. Jean-Michel Chelain of The Left Bank will cater the event.

Bramwell Tovey performs on the piano and also tells stories related to the pieces he'll be playing at the Sherry and Jim Smith Residence in Arrowhead on July 19. Catering will be provided by Tracey Van Curan of Foods of Vail.

The final concert of the series, held on July 30 at the Marcy and Michael Balk residence in Beaver Creek, features the **Danish String Quartet** performing **Beethoven's String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, No. 1 ("Razumovsky")**, the first of three quartets commissioned by Prince Andrey Razumovsky and the first of Beethoven's middle-period quartets, which depart in style from his earlier works. The evening will be catered by Eric Berg of Vail Catering Concepts.

THE THIRTIETH SEASON GALA

On July 16, Bravo! Vail hosts its Thirtieth Season Gala, *An Enchanted Evening Celebrating Thirty Years of Bravo! Vail*, at the Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch. New this year is a one-time-only appearance by classical soprano **Patricia Racette**, who performs her trademark program ***Diva on Detour*** with longtime collaborator **Craig Terry** on the piano. *Diva on Detour* is presented exclusively in honor of Bravo! Vail's 30th anniversary.

In addition to Racette's performance, the Thirtieth Annual Gala includes dinner, dancing, and an auction. Proceeds benefit Bravo! Vail's Education Programs and Free Concerts, helping to ensure that the Festival's extensive community outreach initiatives continue to grow and evolve over the next thirty years. The event is co-chaired by Deirdre and Ronnie Baker and Lisa and Ken Schanzer.

Tickets

Subscriptions on sale now – save 15%

Subscription packages featuring 3 or 4 select concerts are on sale now! Receive 15% off, purchase before the general ticket on sale, and receive subscriber benefits. Packages start at \$69 for lawn, and \$111 for pavilion seats. Chamber Packages and Classically Uncorked presented by Arietta Wine packages are also available, starting at \$72 and \$126 respectively.

General ticket sales begin Tuesday, April 18.

To purchase tickets please email ticketing@bravovail.org, buy online at bravovail.org, or call the Box Office at 877.812.5700.

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.

Media Contact: Lisa Mallory, 970.827.4310, lmallory@bravovail.org.