

Backstage Access: Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Season of Bravo! Vail  
Jennifer Teisinger, Executive Director of Bravo! Vail

This summer, Bravo! Vail Music Festival celebrates 30 years of extraordinary music making in the Vail Valley. Bravo! has come a long way since the first chamber music concerts on July 29, 1988 at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater. Just two short years after those inaugural concerts, the orchestra residencies began and from there, the festival grew every year based on the ambition that the most world-renowned artists would perform here.

Classical music has trends, just like other musical genres, and here at Bravo!, we keep up with them. Even after 30 years of performances, Bravo! continues to introduce new programs every year. In fact, weaving in artist debuts and world premieres with tried and true favorites is what keeps a festival alive and kicking. So, whether this summer is your first time or your hundredth time attending a Bravo concert, trust you may just hear something new!

#### ARTIST DEBUTS IN VAIL

Bravo welcomes 10 artists who will make their Vail debuts this summer.

**Steven Isserlis (June 24 and 25):** Steven Isserlis is an internationally renowned cellist who tours extensively with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and is a frequent collaborator of their Music Director, violinist, Joshua Bell. Mr. Isserlis's Vail debut includes two pieces he has recorded with the Academy: the Brahms Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra and Schumann's Violin Concerto.

**Simone Lamsma (June 30):** In high demand throughout Europe, Ms. Lamsma's debut here is with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra performing Mendelssohn's beloved Violin Concerto.

**Haochen Zhang (July 9):** Haochen Zhang's career catapulted into international stardom with a gold medal win at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009. Now 26-years old and an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Mr. Zhang is sought after in Europe, Asia, and the U.S. His Vail debut is with the Philadelphia Orchestra following a recital tour in Japan and China.

**Patricia Racette (July 16):** Dubbed as one of the great singing actresses of our time, Patricia Racette makes her Vail debut at the Bravo! Vail Gala – not in an operatic role, but in a cabaret performance aptly named *Diva on Detour*.

**J'Nai Bridges (July 21):** The hope of a career as a vocalist drew J'Nai Bridges away from basketball and track & field scholarships in college. Ms. Bridges is in demand on the world's opera stages and was recently nominated for the 2017 International Opera Awards. We get to hear her sing Gershwin songs with the New York Philharmonic.

**Leonidas Kavakos (July 22 and 23):** New York Philharmonic Artist in Residence Leonidas Kavakos makes his Vail debut with a splash in an unprecedented double-feature over two

nights. Hear Mr. Kavakos pour his soul into Brahms's Violin Concerto the first night and lead the New York Philharmonic as player and conductor the next.

The debuts continue with Bravo's first international string quartet, the **Danish String Quartet**, and the venerable **Emerson String Quartet** as well as the up and coming **Zora String Quartet** who is part of Bravo's chamber musicians in residence program.

## **NEW MUSIC**

If you were to ask any Bravo! staffer what concert they were looking forward to the most this summer, you would get 17 different answers. Some of us can't wait to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra's lush interpretation of Brahms' Symphony No. 2 (July 13) and others are anticipating the new music. New music?! Yes – five brand new pieces of music that have never been heard before! We get to be the first to hear this music, and we call it a world premiere – it's a very special thing. And, the composers who wrote the music will be listening with us, right here in Vail.

## **WORLD PREMIERES**

Overture for Violin and Orchestra by Edgar Meyer (June 22): written for violinist Joshua Bell who gave its first performance on Bravo's opening night with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

*Dos piezas para orquesta* by Roberto Sierra (June 30) with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

*Le Tombeau des Regrets* by Roberto Connesson (July 9) with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

*White Stone* by Julia Adolphe (July 26) with the New York Philharmonic.

*Pangaea for Piano and Strings* by David Ludwig (August 3) written for Anne-Marie McDermott.

Bravo's 30th season celebrates the new along with our favorites – come and be a part of it!

*Jennifer Teisinger is the executive director of Bravo! Vail. The Bravo! Vail music festival runs through Aug. 4. For more information about the season and to purchase tickets, visit [bravovail.org](http://bravovail.org) and call 877.812.5700.*