



For Immediate Release

Festival Mozaic Contact:
Bettina Swigger, Executive Director
Festival Mozaic
P.O. Bo
(805) 781-3009
bettina@festivalmozaic.com
www.FestivalMozaic.com

Summer Music Festivals Abound in California

***From Baroque to Contemporary Compositions,
Festivals Are a Unique Way to Experience Classical Music***

June 9, 2015 - It's summer, and for classical music fans, that means one thing: it's Festival season. There's nothing quite like a classical music festival. Each summer, artists from all over the world flock to our picturesque California communities to experience a unique mix of passion, intensity, and fun. One part artist's retreat, one part intensive study, and one part cultural tourism, festivals are a vital and vibrant way for artists and audiences alike to experience this art form that has lasted for centuries.

From June through August, California comes alive with festivals. No two are exactly alike, yet each shares one common thread: a love and respect for composers, musicians, and the communities in which they are rooted. In every corner of the Golden state, there are opportunities to experience world-class performances and connect with the artists who bring these great works of art to life. The ten festivals below showcase a rich and impressive spectrum of music-making in delightful destinations.

Mainly Mozart, San Diego (June 6-20) - The 2015 Mainly Mozart Festival runs June 6-20 at the historic Balboa Theatre in downtown San Diego. The Festival celebrates 27 years of brilliantly curated classical favorites from the Masters along with works new to the Mainly Mozart stage. Performing is an all-star orchestra of concertmasters and principal players from the nation's premier orchestras, along with the talents of world-renowned soloists, under the baton of new Music Director, Maestro Michael Francis. Free open rehearsals, lectures, Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra performances and chamber music at the Timken Museum of Art round out the annual Festival. www.mainlymozart.org; 619-466-8742

Ojai Music Festival, Ojai, (June 10-14) - The Ojai Festival presents music, symposia, and educational programs emphasizing adventurous, eclectic, and challenging music, principally by contemporary composers. The primary performance venue is the Libbey Bowl, an open-air setting not far from the center of Ojai. The Ojai Festival chooses a different music director each year. The 2015 Music Director is percussionist Steven Schick. A tribute to Pierre Boulez is planned. www.ojaifestival.org; 805-646-2094

Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, (June 15-August 8) - The Music Academy of the West cultivates discerning, appreciative, and adventurous audiences, presenting more than 200 public events annually, nearly half of them free of charge. These include performances by faculty, visiting artists, and fellows; masterclasses; orchestra and chamber music concerts, a fully staged opera, and an appearance by the New York Philharmonic. The Festival takes place from June 15 to August 8 at the Academy's scenic Miraflores campus and in venues throughout Santa Barbara. www.musicacademy.org; 805-969-8787

Music in the Mountains, Grass Valley (June 16-July 5) - With a 33-year reputation as the region's top classical music festival, Music in the Mountains SummerFest brings contemporary and classical music together. Concerts take place at three locations with headliners such as music legend Randy Newman and the aerialists, acrobats and jugglers of Cirque de la Symphonie, along with performances by piano virtuoso Conrad Tao, Storm Large of Pink Martini, and the MIM Orchestra and Chorus with soloists performing Requiem Mozart's final masterpiece, paired with Haydn: Symphony No. 44. www.musicinthemountains.org; 530-265-6124

The Mendocino Music Festival, Mendocino (July 11 – 25, 2015) - in its 29th season, is held in historical Mendocino Village overlooking the Pacific. The Festival presents jazz, world, opera, chamber music and more, but at its heart is the Festival Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Allan Pollack. Chamber music includes Calder Quartet and a lecture/concert Piano Series created by Associate Artistic Director Susan Waterfall. Her four-part *Mozart in Mendocino* culminates with Frederica von Stade and the Festival Orchestra. Also on offer – Rossini's Barber of Seville; the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, with Livia Sohn; Prokofiev Symphony No. 7; Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 with Spencer Myer; and the Brahms Requiem. www.mendocinomusic.org; 707-937-2044

Festival Mozaic, San Luis Obispo, (July 16-26) – Celebrating 45 Years in 2015, Festival Mozaic presents orchestra, chamber music, crossover fringe events, notable encounters, lectures, master classes and culinary and wine events in a variety of picturesque venues in wine coast country, including historic missions, intimate concert halls and private homes. Led by Scott Yoo, Music Director, highlights include two performances of Bach's Mass in B minor in collaboration with Bach Collegium San Diego, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, an all-Mozart program featuring Kristin Lee, violin, crossover band the Portland Cello Project, baritone Christopheren Nomura and more. www.FestivalMozaic.com; 805-781-3009

Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute, Menlo Park and Atherton (July 17–August 8) - The Bay Area's premier chamber music festival offers an incomparable musical experience: world-class concerts in intimate venues, innovative programs performed by a cadre of the world's great musicians, and numerous free opportunities to engage with artists and explore classical music. Led by founding by artistic directors David Finckel and Wu Han, Music@Menlo's 2015 festival explores the life and music of the prolific Austrian composer Franz Schubert and will feature the composer's greatest chamber works, alongside the music that Schubert composed like no other: his lieder. www.musicatmenlo.org; 650-331-0202

Carmel Bach Festival, Carmel (July 18-August 1) - Carmel Bach Festival will present its 78th annual season "Bach, Bohemia and Beyond" from July 18 through August 1, 2015, with pre-fest activities July 11 -17. The program, created by Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Paul Goodwin, highlights Bach's connections to the Eastern European region known as Bohemia and areas eastwards to Hungary and beyond. The 2015 Festival will include a world premiere by composer Benjamin Wallfisch. Additional highlights include the 1725 St. John Passion and a full-length performance of Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute." The 78th season will also feature soprano vocalist Dominique Labelle, tenor vocalist Thomas Cooley, and many others. www.bachfestival.org; 831-624-1521

Valley of the Moon Music Festival, Sonoma (July 18-August 2) - The Valley of the Moon Music Festival is the first U.S. festival entirely devoted to classical and romantic music on original instruments. Historical performance experts come from all over the world to perform and also to work with apprentices from the top conservatories. The culmination is six chamber concerts and wine receptions in the state-of-the-art auditorium at Hanna Boys Center. www.valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org; 707-509-3713

The Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Santa Cruz (August 7-16) - The world's top contemporary composers flock to the charming seaside town of Santa Cruz to share their compositions with a dedicated orchestra and an enthusiastic, eager audience. Led by Music Director & Conductor Marin Alsop, the Cabrillo Festival is a preeminent force in new music, both nationally and internationally. The twelve composers-in-residence of the 53rd season are Mason Bates, Sebastian Currier, Charles Halka, Ana Lara, Hannah Lash, David T. Little, Huang Ruo, Missy Mazzoli, Nico Muhly, Jonathan Newman, Sean Shepherd and Nathaniel Stookey. Also on the program are works by Philip Glass, James MacMillan, Christopher Rouse and Joby Talbot. Guest artists include Tim Fain (violin), Matt Haimovitz (cello), The Kronos Quartet, and Wu Wei (sheng). <http://cabrillomusic.org/>; 831.426.6966

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