



MEDIA CONTACT

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rethinkclassical

stauntonmusicfestival.com

AUGUST 16 - AUGUST 24, 2013

FACT SHEET

Year Founded 1997

History Each August, Staunton Music Festival (SMF) presents a week of twice daily chamber music concerts. SMF is committed to bringing audiences extraordinary performances from some of the world's most acclaimed chamber musicians. Selections range from the Renaissance through new world premiers. SMF engages in numerous activities to help audiences "rethink classical" including concerts, workshops, education programs, and commissioning new work.

Artistic Director SMF Artistic Director Carsten Schmidt enjoys a flourishing career with extensive performance and broadcast activities as soloist, chamber musician, and soloist with orchestras throughout Europe, North America, and Japan. He has been heard in such venues as Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Moscow Conservatory, as well as in broadcasts worldwide. His repertoire ranges from the early Baroque to new works, of which he has premiered more than 100. Since 1998 he has been Professor of Music at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.



Artists/Performers SMF attracts renowned vocalists and instrumental musicians from across Europe and the U.S. Approximately 60 musicians representing Germany, Russia, Netherlands, Canada, Finland, Austria, France, and the United States participate in the festival. Among the talented and celebrated artists for the 2013 season are Vladimir Mendelssohn (viola), Antti Tikkanen (violin), Andrew Willis (fortepiano), Minna Pensola (violin), Igor Begelman (clarinet), Sivan Magen (harp), and Carsten Schmidt (harpsichord).

Five Composers in Residence SMF's newest composer-in-residence is Zachary Wadsworth, who has performed at many of the world's leading venues, from the Kennedy Center to Westminster Abbey in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. Wadsworth (recently aired on NPR, BBC, and PRI), will debut a new work, commissioned specifically for the festival. Wadsworth earned graduate degrees from Cornell University (DMA) and Yale University (MM), and is an honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music (BM).

Rare Collection of Period Instruments French, Flemish, Italian, and German harpsichords, and two Viennese fortepianos.



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2013 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

MAKING OVERTURES

Saturday, August 17 at 7:30 pm

How do composers like Mendelssohn, Rossini, and Prokofiev decide to launch their musical ideas? Listen to overtures ranging from England's Renaissance genius John Dowland to America's Dadaist iconoclast John Cage. Highlights include chamber orchestra arrangement of Strauss' beloved Kaiserwalzer or "Emperor Waltz" and Mendelssohn's brilliant Hebrides Overture, which the composer wrote during a tour of the Scottish highlands. Also not to be missed is a cartoon favorite: Rossini's Overture to The Barber of Seville, played to comic delight by three pianists at one keyboard.

EARLY KEYBOARD EXTRAVAGANZA

Tuesday, August 20 at 7:30pm

It is a rare chance for anyone on the East Coast to hear so many historical keyboards assembled and performed by recognized masters at one occasion. They are each historically accurate, beautiful examples of workmanship, and bring an entirely new color to the music they produce. For this special event, look and listen to two exceptional fortepianos (on loan to the festival by a private collector), four harpsichords of various styles, and two organs.

"I have found the audiences at Staunton to be incredibly supportive and adventurous. Their openness and genuine interest in music as an ever-evolving art form contributes to the committed exploration of music and ideas that, for me, defines and distinguishes the Staunton Music Festival from all others."

- STEPHANIE CORWIN (BASSOON)

BAROQUE INSIDE/OUT

Friday, August 23 at 7:30 pm

An audience favorite for many years, Baroque Inside/Out presents a diverse range of works from the musical Baroque. The featured work is Vivaldi's magical Gloria, performed by vocal soloists, select chamber chorus and chamber orchestra. Also on the program is Pachelbel's immensely popular and familiar Canon in D, as well as lesser known works by composers from central and southern Germany. Roaming madrigal singers in the historic churchyard at Trinity Episcopal Church during intermission.

HANDEL & PURCELL

Saturday, August 24 at 7:30 pm

The summer concert series concludes with a magical English program at the Blackfriars Playhouse. The setting and acoustics are ideally suited for the dramatic works of England's two premiere Baroque masters. George Frideric Handel, a Saxon by birth and trained in Germany and Italy, traveled to London in 1710. Two years later he settled there permanently and spent the next forty years writing opera, oratorio, and chamber music for English audiences. Henry Purcell, who died only ten years after Handel was born, is England's greatest native composer. Acclaimed today for his dramatic music, such as Dido and Aeneas and King Arthur, Purcell also worked as organist at Westminster Abbey and wrote a great deal of chamber music for the royal court. This program features acclaimed vocal soloists, the select SMF Chamber Chorus, and period-instrument performances by the SMF Baroque Players.



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PUSHING OUTSIDE THE CLASSICAL MUSIC BOX

CHAMBER MUSIC OR CHEEKY PERFORMANCE ART – OR BOTH?

Saturday, August 17 at 7:30 pm

Sonatas and Interludes is the masterwork of American avant-garde composer John Cage (1912–1992). This Dadaist iconoclast lived through incredibly dynamic times and was at the forefront of the avant-garde. Cage writes for prepared piano, an instrument that operates entirely by muting. By attaching objects to the strings of the piano, Cage alters their sounds.

DRAMATIZED POETRY: ALFRED LORD TENNYSON & RICHARD STRAUSS

Thursday, Aug 22 at noon (FREE)

Enoch Arden, the work by Richard Strauss, is dramatized poetry. (The poetry is by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.) The music punctuates the recitation of the poem; it is not really sung at all, just read dramatically with musical accompaniment. It was quite popular during its early years (written 1897), but despite recordings by famous pairings (such as the actor Claude Rains and pianist Glenn Gould in 1962), it has not secured a stable position in the repertoire.

“We perform many standards like Handel, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Strauss - and we also mix in modern composers. Our artistic director, Carsten Schmidt, is a strong proponent of introducing new music as part of a vibrant chamber music experience.”

- JASON STELL (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)





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— Smithsonian (2012)**

**One of “America’s
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— Travel + Leisure (2012)**

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