

# NEWS *from* FESTIVAL HILL

ORGAN AND PIANO CONCERT GOERS ENJOY THE MUSIC AND EACH OTHER

Volume 2, Issue 1 - Spring, 2013

## THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

We hope you'll mark your calendars and join us for Round Top Music Festival this summer. Come for the day, bring picnics and explore the Round Top area between performances. There is excellent dining and lodging in the neighborhood, as well as sites such as the Painted Churches, that can extend the fun of the experience you have here on the Festival Hill campus.

The Summer Festival Gala Opening of the 2013 Season happens Saturday, June 8. For six Saturdays, symphony orchestra and chamber concert performances are held on campus. The grand finale takes place July 13. In between are six weeks of music development and performance, all of it a treat to hear.

The excitement of being present with musicians who come from around the world continues to shine forth at Festival Hill. In addition to music, a variety of disciplines that inform and are informed by music are found here.

When the young artists are in residence, we are alive with sound. All around campus, people are rehearsing, teaching, studying, and performing. When it is time to recharge, the festival residents enjoy the peace of nature with strolls about campus.

This summer, conductors Perry So, Emilio Colón, Heiichiro Ohyama, Christoph Campestini, Edwin Outwater, Michael Stern, and Pascal Verrot will be part of the community—a community that feels like family. When we say this, not only are we thinking of performers, but also we are thinking of our many good friends who make up the audience. And we are always delighted to welcome new friends to campus.

### The Young Artists and the Texas Festival Orchestra

Each young artist is selected through a competitive audition process that brings students to Round Top who are studying at Eastman, Shepherd School of Music, New England Conservatory, and Juilliard, just to name a few. Each



receives a full scholarship for their intensive six weeks of study, designed to complement his or her preparation for professional careers these artists receive in school. Music education is expensive and, from the beginning, it has been our belief that our selection process should not distinguish applicants on the basis of capacity to pay. This approach has kept our festival orchestra fresh and talented, drawing appreciated accolades.

### Scholarships for All

Beyond audition, registration, and modest facility use fees, we cover the costs for these young artists with unrestricted donations of all sizes from individuals and businesses, ticket sales, food, and facility use fees. Central to our ability to fund the summer festival experience is the presence of people, businesses and foundations making major gifts to underwrite one or more of these \$5,000 scholarships or one of the summer performances. If this interests you, please let us know. The presence of a growing number of people who connect with Festival Hill in this way will help assure we are a continuing part of the musical landscape as times change around us.

### Be Part of the Community of Friends to the Arts

We are like a musical family, and through the interest of an amazingly caring group of friends to music, we have gotten where we are. The ability to talk in person, take walks together, converse over lunch in Menke Dining Hall, and spend six weeks exchanging and developing musical ideas is central to who we are and what we do to sustain and expand the tradition of music. It is great that music at Festival Hill is happening with us all together.

### The Festival Schedule

Some of you are able to come to one or a few of the concerts during the summer festival, and that's great. The people that are able to follow the progress of the orchestra as the artists learn more and more about working together have a special treat, as they see the multi-faceted personality of the orchestra emerge.

Here's what to look for this year. The first week Wagner and Prokofiev are on the program. Next come Brahms, Mozart, and Hindemith. Then we will hear Mahler's 7th in E minor. During the concluding three weeks we will hear more Prokofiev. We will listen to Poulenc, Ravel, Beethoven and Franck. It's always fun to see the chemistry of the orchestra develop and to see how the different conductors bring forth new elements in the young artists' performance. Consider attending the chamber music concerts as well—some with young artists, some with faculty, and some with both. The Young Persons' Concert, narrated for young children and youth and free of charge, happens June 11 this year.

Attendance at rehearsals and master classes adds to the experience of the festival and there is no charge. For details about those, check our website later in the spring at festivalhill.org. It is also a good idea to call the office, if you are driving a distance, to make sure there has been no last minute rehearsal or class schedule change. The Patriotic Concert, known for attracting a full house, happens Sunday, June 30. Not only is the Festival Concert Hall draped in celebratory bunting, but also many members of the audience are inspired to bring a patriotic theme to their attire. We study hard here, and we have fun.

As mentioned both Prokofiev and Poulenc are part of the summer repertoire; we are honoring their anniversaries this year. James Dick's annual solo recital at Festival Hill on February 16 also featured Poulenc and Prokofiev. A glimpse at the lives of these two composers illustrates the complex nature of music and suggests why the performance and learning programming at Festival Hill, while focused on music in the classic tradition, extends to other disciplines.

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## Music Inspires Partnership

Sergei Diaghilev commissioned ballet music from both Poulenc and Prokofiev, providing the composers a platform for expression through dance and music simultaneously. Poulenc linked with painting on occasion, giving first performances of several of his compositions at the artist Emile Lejeune's Montparnasse studio. Prokofiev found inspiration in literature, writing a composition "The Gambler" based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel of the same name. Likewise, Poulenc found inspiration in words, setting many of his friends' poems, such as poetry from Guillaume Apollinaire, to music. At Festival Hill, we encourage the exchange of ideas present in different arts and humanities disciplines by including performance and study of poetry, herbs, collections, theatre, and dance in the programs we offer.

## And a Look at the Spring and Fall

As noted in our winter newsletter, the Herbal Forum, often a sell-out, takes place March 22 and 23. Percussion Galore, under the direction of Tom Burritt, who is active in the creation and performance of new music, features two concerts on April 13. Also in our last update, we spotlighted the Poetry Festival, April 26, 27, and 28. This forum brings together outstanding talent and thinkers including, in the recent past, Poets Laureate. To register for the forums or festival, call our office at (979) 249-3129. In our summer update we'll provide you with information about the fall Library and Museum Collections Forum. Now we want to share a more detailed look at the Theatre Forum. Leader Kate Pogue reports the 2012 Forum was called "Land of the Midnight Sun" and focused on the great Scandinavian playwrights Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg. As it was the 100th Anniversary of Strindberg's death, there was a great deal going on in Sweden, and we received a grant from the Swedish Council of America to bring to Round Top noted theatre star, composer and musician Gunnar Edander.

Here's Kate's preview of the 2013 Theatre Forum:

### THE RHINE AND THE LORELEI

The 2013 Theatre Forum at Festival Hill in Round Top, Texas (November 1-3) is entitled *The Rhine and the Lorelei* and will address the great sweep of German theatre from Goethe to Brecht.

The Rhine is the storied river that flows through Germany to the sea, castles rising on its banks, and history rushing by in its currents. The Lorelei is the great rock rising over the Rhine Gorge between Switzerland and the North Sea. Strong currents make this an area of shipwrecks and undoubtedly once fueled the legends of water sprites or Rhine maidens distracting sailors with their beauty and luring them to their deaths. The power, movement, and waters of the Rhine, and the strength and beauty of the great rock make them ideal symbols for the plays we will study in this Forum.

More than any other national theatres we have studied (those of England, France, Italy, Austria, and America), great German theatre is connected with music: the Faust of Goethe inspires the Faust of Gounod; the plays of Schiller inspire Donizetti and Verdi; Brecht finds a musical collaborator in Weill; and the greatest single creator of theatre of the 19th century is the extraordinary Richard Wagner in whose work theatre and music become the product of a single magnificent imagination.

Our Saturday day-trip calendar will include presentations by Theatre Forum favorites between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Felicia Londre, nationally recognized theatre historian from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and author of fourteen books including the prize-winning *The Enchanted Years of the Stage*, will speak on Goethe and Faust. Vern Sutton, former head of the Opera Department and retired chair of the Music Department at the University of Minnesota – a performer known for his appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion," and a singer for whom opera composer Dominick Argento wrote many leading roles – will give a lecture-demonstration on Richard Wagner and the changing singing voice. Tom Foral, painter, actor, fabric and

set designer, will address Wagner as a theatre and scenic visionary. Ann Thompson, Houston's favorite speaker on all things operatic, will enlighten the audience on Verdi and Donizetti's use of the great plays of Schiller (a writer not often performed in the American theatre), while special guest Sonja Bruzauskas, internationally known mezzo soprano, will focus on Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill.

Additional talks and performances on Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning are offered for those who wish to spend the full weekend at Festival Hill.

The cost for event registration is \$120.00 for the complete weekend of events (Friday night through Sunday morning) or \$75.00 for Saturday events only (this includes the picnic lunch).

## OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Registrants for the Theatre Forum can make arrangements to spend Friday and Saturday nights on campus at Festival Hill. Accommodations range from the elegant Log House to the quaint and cozy bed-and-breakfast-style rooms of Menke House. These lovely facilities have the option of twin, double or queen-sized beds. Slightly further afield are the accommodations built to house the musicians and students who are in residence for six weeks every summer. These include the recently built Artists' Residences, ideal for those wanting to walk in the woods and pastures and hear the birds sing in the morning. The Garvey Grisham rooms, the Dorm rooms, and the Great Shed provide more rustic accommodation. All these rooms include two to four twin beds. Overnight reservations are made at the same time as registration for the Forum. For details and costs, call Vickie Hillman at (979) 249-3129.

## MEALS AT THE THEATRE FORUM

One of the delights of the Theatre Forum is the extraordinary food, which follows the theme of each Forum, so we will anticipate an elegant panoply of German-inspired dishes served in the Menke Dining Room. On Saturday, the noon meal will be offered in the gardens behind Menke House (weather permitting). We will enjoy a delicious luncheon al fresco, where the presenters and the audience have a chance to interact in a relaxed and beautiful atmosphere.

## THE GARDENS AT FESTIVAL HILL

During your visit to Festival Hill don't miss the gardens on display behind Menke House. The Shakespeare Garden leads down to the lake where you will discover the Apothecary Gardens, filled with medicinal flowers and herbs. Walk through the recently expanded Green House, search out the Bottle Tree, and then enjoy a walk through the woods.

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**Thank You** for reading about what's happening at Festival Hill. If you are a current Fellow of Festival Hill (have supported us with a very generous gift of \$1,000 or more since April, 2012), mark your calendar for the Annual Fellows Dinner, this year on April 13. If you participate as a supporter at any level or are interested in doing so, our program listing for the 2013 Music Festival Concert Program Book closes May 15. We are deeply appreciative of the support people who care about the cultural offerings at Festival Hill provide throughout and at any time during the year. The James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts is the 501(c)(3) organization with oversight responsibility for the Round Top Festival Institute, the sole endeavor on the Festival Hill campus.

## ROUND TOP FESTIVAL INSTITUTE

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