



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 15, 2016

### **SNEAK PEEK: Eastern Music Festivals' 2016 Season (June 27 – July 30)**

**Performances by Acclaimed Faculty, EMF Young Artists, and Guests Scheduled**

#### **Two World Premiere Performances Planned**

(GREENSBORO, NC) — On Friday evening, February 12, at Starmount Forest Country Club, **Eastern Music Festival's** friends, faculty and Board of Directors celebrated the unveiling of the Festival's 55<sup>th</sup> season at the *Sketches of Spain* social. The season highlights announced by Music Director **Gerard Schwarz**, brought excitement to the room, counteracting the cold and windy February weather. Over 150 of the festival's most dedicated friends and supporters were on hand for the celebration.

"Beginning with the **Eastern Chamber Players** performance on Monday evening June 27 and continuing through to our **Eastern Festival Orchestra** finale on Saturday, July 30, this season moves quickly and covers a remarkably varied repertoire," Schwarz says. "We're featuring our outstanding faculty very prominently while continuing to present prominent guests artists, we're bringing in top-flight guest artists for concertos, recitals and master classes and our young artists are tackling incredibly challenging repertoire. We're presenting two world premiere works and playing with a number of themes and threads that carry throughout the festival. With over 60 performances, workshops, master classes, seminars and activities spread across five busy weeks, the festival is as intense as any ever produced by EMF. I couldn't be more excited about the shape and scope of the season."

In 2015, EMF enrolled 216 young artist participants between the ages of 14 and 23. These students came from 41 states and eight countries and courses of study included orchestra (all instruments), piano, classical guitar and conducting. 2016 auditions are underway and the festival's young artist population is expected to reach or exceed 2015's numbers. We look forward to an equally diverse and even more talented cadre arriving on June 25.

Two world premieres are scheduled.

The first, on Saturday, July 16, is the world premiere of 27 year old American Composer **Julia Adolphe's** *Viola Concerto* by the Eastern Festival Orchestra. Composed for and performed by EMF guest artist **Cynthia Phelps** (New York Philharmonic principal violist), the concerto was co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and League of American Orchestras.

The second premiere, which will take place on Saturday, July 23, is a yet-to-be-named orchestral composition by acclaimed composer/conductor/pianist **André Previn**, a four-time Grammy and ten-time Academy Award winner.

Mr. Previn's professional career has included deep explorations of jazz, original film scores for *Elmer Gantry*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, and a dozen more films, film adaptations for *Kiss Me Kate*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *My Fair Lady*, as well as two operas and compositions for voice, solo piano, chamber ensembles, concertos, and large orchestral ensembles.

Mr. Previn's work is the fourth composed for world premiere by the Eastern Festival Orchestra as part of the **McElveen-Hunter Commissioning Project**, a 10 year commitment to the creation of new works by noted composers generously funded by Ambassador Bonnie McElveen-Hunter. Previous premieres were by composers John Corigliano, Lowell Liebermann and Richard Danielpour.

Our Monday night chamber concerts at UNCG will include guest artists and will feature the chamber music of Mozart prominently, with at least one work of his works included in each performance. Tuesday night chamber music programming will include a special focus on Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*, Robert Schumann's *Piano Quartet in E-Flat Major, op.47*; Stravinsky's *Octet for Wind Instruments*; Debussy's *Sonata for Flute, Violin and Harp*; and Mozart's *String Quartet no.15 in D minor, K.421*. The chamber series will also include works by Amy Beach, Carson Cooman, and Aaron Jay Kernis.

#### **Festival Performances will include:**

Five **Eastern Festival Orchestra Saturday** evening performances - *Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Festival Orchestra Series – July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.*

Four **Eastern Chamber Players** performances at UNCG-School of Music, Theatre and Dance Recital Hall on **Mondays at 8pm – June 27, July 11, 18, 25** - with a special **Sunday afternoon, July 3 matinee at 3pm.**

Five **Eastern Chamber Players** performances at Dana Auditorium on **Tuesdays at 8pm – June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26.**

Eight **Young Artists Orchestras** performances are scheduled for **Thursday and Friday evenings at 8pm – July 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29.**

Plus – a number of collaborative programs, outreach performances, master classes, student chamber music recitals, workshops and seminars.

#### **Season Highlights:**

**Wednesday, June 29**  
**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

**EMF Piano Gala** features performances by **William Wolfram** and **Awadagin Pratt**

**Thursday, June 30**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

Acclaimed Violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** - in recital

The first half of the program features Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, our **2016 Tannenbaum-Sternberger Distinguished Teaching Artist** and EMF pianist Eunhye Grace Choi performing Gabriel Faure's ethereal *Violin Sonata No. 1, op.13* and other works for violin and piano.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg will be joined on the second half of the program by EMF's 2016 String Fellowship program participants in performances of chamber works including Edvard Grieg's *Holberg Suite, op.40*.

**Friday, July 1**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

Music Director **Gerard Schwarz** leads the **Eastern Festival Orchestra** and both **EMF Young Artists Orchestras** in a season opening celebration of Mozart's magic.

EMF Faculty artists **Shannon Scott** (clarinet), **Anna Kate Mackle** (harp) and **Les Roettges** (flute) will each be featured in concerto performances. Program will include Mozart's *Symphony No. 41, K.551* (Jupiter); *Clarinet Concerto, K.622*; and *Flute and Harp Concerto in C Major, K.299*

**Saturday, July 2**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

**Eastern Festival Orchestra** opens the **Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Festival Orchestra Series** with works by Tchaikovsky and Brahms.

Celebrated pianist and EMF faculty member **Awadagin Pratt** performs Brahms' *First Piano Concerto*, bookended by Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy* and *Symphony No. 5*.

**Wednesday, July 6**

**First Presbyterian Church, 8pm**

The music of **Vivaldi and the Italian Baroque** performed at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greensboro.

Featured on the program is the *Concerto for Violin and Cello in B-flat Major, RV 547*, with soloists **Catherine Cary** (Violin) and **Neal Cary** (Cello), both EMF faculty artists.

**Saturday, July 9**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

The Eastern Festival Orchestra performs Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, op. 55* and Dvořák's *Concerto for Violoncello in B minor, op. 104*. Cellist Julian Schwarz solos.

**Wednesday, July 13**

**Temple Emanuel, 9pm**

**The Greensboro Opera** and EMF collaborate to present light operatic and popular song.

**Friday, July 15**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

EMF's Young Artists Orchestras perform Prokofiev's *Lt. Kije Suite* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6 in B minor, op. 74*

**Saturday, July 16**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

**New York Philharmonic's** Principal Violist **Cynthia Phelps** and the **Eastern Festival Orchestra WORLD PREMIER** American Composer **Julia Adolpe's** *Viola Concerto*.

Grammy-winning guitarist and EMF faculty member **Jason Vieaux** also performs Rodrigo's *Guitar Concerto* on this performance.

**Sunday, July 17**

**Founder's Lawn, 6:30pm - FREE**

EMF's Young Artists perform a concert of popular and light classical music on the Founder's Lawn at Guilford College. Patrons are encouraged to picnic under the shade trees and enjoy a relaxed evening al fresco.

**Thursday, July 21**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

The EMF Young Artists Orchestras perform monumental tone poems -- Ravel's *La Valse* and Strauss' *Don Juan*.

**Saturday, July 23**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

The Eastern Festival Orchestra will **WORLD PREMIERE** an orchestral work by ten-time Grammy/four-time Academy Award winning composer, conductor and musician **André Previn**.

This work is the fourth composed for world premiere by the Eastern Festival Orchestra as part of the **McElveen-Hunter Commissioning Project**, a 10 year commitment to the creation of new works by noted composers generously funded by Ambassador Bonnie McElveen-Hunter.

This program will also include Strauss' *Violin Concerto* performed by guest artist **James Ehnes** and Prokofiev's *Symphony 5*.

**Sunday, July 24 – OPEN HOUSE**

**Various Guilford College locations and start times**

A **FREE, family-friendly** celebration of music and community presented by EMF's faculty, young artists and friends

Afternoon performances will include:

**EMF Percussion Ensemble Concert** (Dana Auditorium)

**Guitar Summit Young Artist Recital** (Carnegie Room, Hege Library)

**Young Artist Piano Recital** (Sternberger Auditorium)

**Eastern Festival Orchestra Concert** featuring EMF Conducting Fellows (Dana Auditorium)

**MUSEP** performance in collaboration with City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation (Dana Lawn)

**Wednesday, July 27**

**Temple Emanuel, 8pm**

**EMF Guitar Summit** -- Guitar faculty Jason Vieaux, Julian Gray and Kami Rowan, join with the festival's young guitarists to present a program of solo and chamber works.

**Thursday, July 28 and Friday, July 29**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

**EMF YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERTO CONCERTS** --Young Artists concerto competition champions are featured in solo performances with EMF's young artists orchestras.

Lutosławski's *Concerto for Orchestra* (Thursday) and Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* (Friday) provide capstones for young artist orchestra members and serve as dramatic conclusions to their summer of study.

**Saturday, July 30 – EASTERN MUSIC FESTIVAL FINALE**

**Dana Auditorium, 8pm**

The final **Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Festival Orchestra Series** performance of 2016 features **William Wolfram** performing Rachmaninoff's awe-inspiring *Concerto for Piano No. 2 in C minor, op.18* and finishes with orchestral excerpts from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*.

Planning for the season, which runs from June 25 to July 30, continues throughout the spring, as young artists enroll, outreach programs are confirmed, and final repertoire selections are finalized. Still to come are details about the **EMF Fringe** series and additional community-building and outreach programming.

EMF's 2016 student recruitment is underway. The 2016 young artists arrive in Greensboro on June 25 and the festival's performance season runs from June 27 through July 30, 2016.

Additional details will be posted to the festival's website – [www.easternmusicfestival.org](http://www.easternmusicfestival.org) – and via social media as the spring progresses. Ticket packages will go on sale in April and single seat sales begin in May.

For more information about Eastern Music Festival  
visit [www.easternmusicfestival.org](http://www.easternmusicfestival.org)

To purchase tickets or for ticket information  
visit our [website](#) or call Triad Stage: 336-272-0160

Find and follow us on social media



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