

NEWS



August 12, 2020

MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020: "Reimagined"

The 28th Season is an Outdoor Musical Experience
Everyone Will Need



Moab Music Festival Board of Directors, staff, and **Co-Directors Leslie Tomkins and Michael Barrett** are excited to be able to move ahead with the reimagined 2020 Festival. The Festival will be pared down to accommodate protocols and keep audiences as safe as possible. Only outdoor concerts will be presented, without intermissions, pre-concert talks, or post-concert receptions and MMF will adhere to proper state and CDC health and safety guidelines and directives. "Our outdoor concerts in Moab's canyon country allow us to social distance and preserve the pure acoustics of *"music in concert with the landscape®,"* said Board President Hank Rutter, "while still enjoying our trademark world-class live-music experiences. We feel privileged to be one of the first festivals in the US to be able to proceed, which we hope will send a vital and powerful signal that the arts will survive and resonate again."

Running the gamut from chamber music to Latin jazz, MMF Artistic Director Leslie Tomkins and pianist and MMF Music Director Michael Barrett, have devised a singular tie-in to the worldwide celebrations of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday. Beloved by audiences, the German master was powerfully inspired by

composers who came before him, and had a seismic influence on succeeding generations of musical creators in so many genres. Beethoven's varied interests – including nature – and immense breadth of imagination will be featured in works both famous and rare, amidst one of the world's most magnificent landscapes.



MUSICAL RAFT TRIP

The season kicks off with a journey for lovers of music, nature, and outdoor adventure: a custom 3-day/2-night **Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip** through the Colorado River's Ruby-Horsethief and Westwater

Canyons, beginning on **Monday, August 31 at 7am**. Living up to the Festival's reputation as "an adventurer's paradise" (*Smithsonian* magazine), voyagers will spend part of the time drifting leisurely at the river's pace, followed by a day which includes exciting whitewater rapids like Little Hummer, Funnel Falls, Last Chance, and the famous Skull Rapid formed as the Colorado River flows through a narrow black granite gorge. Patrons will enjoy daily concerts by two Festival superstars– cellist Jay Campbell and violinist Francisco Fullana – in extraordinary settings, as well as swimming, walks, and dining experiences. After bringing their inner rhythms in tune with the river, participants return to Moab on the last evening, Wednesday, September 2. Outfitted by Sheri Griffith River Expeditions.

GROTTO CONCERTS

An exhilarating 45-minute jet boat ride down the Colorado River will bring listeners to "nature's own concert hall" (*The New York Times*) – a pristine, acoustically-perfect wilderness grotto carved from the surrounding red rocks. Imagine this grotto as a sonic marriage between the Sistine Chapel and Carnegie Hall, set within one of the most stunning natural settings to



be found anywhere. The first of three signature Grotto Concerts, on **Thursday, September 3**, features acclaimed pianist-composer Michael Brown performing Beethoven's Fifth symphony in a brilliant, devilishly-difficult transcription for solo piano, as arranged by the towering pianist Franz Liszt. This rarely heard tour-de-force will be paired with some of Mozart's sublime music for two pianists playing together at one instrument. At the next grotto performance, on **Wednesday, September 9**, Brown returns to dazzle the audience with Beethoven's monumental "Hammerklavier" Sonata, long considered unplayable, along with works by Robert Schumann for piano, four-hands. The final grotto adventure on **Monday, September 14**, the Festival finale, is *Music of Faith and Belief*, devoted to music by Johann Sebastian Bach. One of Bach's magnum opuses, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, was a lifelong touchstone for Beethoven from the time he learned the work by memory by age 12! Paying homage to Beethoven's admiration for his older German compatriot, this program intersperses several of Bach's sacred chorales with American spirituals for what is likely to be a transcendent experience.

MUSIC HIKES

At each of four invigorating Music Hikes, explorers will discover Moab's natural wonders, as they meet at the Grand County Middle School bright and early at 8am and are transported to stunning, surprise locations for an hour-long concert. On **Saturday, September 5**, hikers journey to a majestic spot in a secluded canyon, ideal for acoustic music, featuring solos, duos and trios by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Tarrega and John



Corigliano's *Red Violin* Caprices. The second hike on **Sunday, September 6**, trekkers will venture to Moab's own meditative inner landscape for *Everything That Rises*, when the JACK Quartet, "superheroes of the new music world" (*The Boston Globe*) offers a brand new work by Pulitzer Prize-winner John Luther Adams, who approaches nature as a canvas for his extended sonic explorations, and gives new meaning to the phrase "trail-blazing!" Lace up your hiking boots and join Jay Campbell and the JACK again – this time for a wilderness Hike on **Saturday, September 12**, when the canyons will ring out with sublime music of J.S.Bach and John Luther Adams. On the season's final Music Hike on **Sunday, September 13**, adventurers travel to another secret, equally stunning wilderness site for *String Theory*, where the virtuoso violinists Kristin Lee and Francisco Fullana and cellist Nicholas Canellakis lead an excursion through music from Bach and Prokofiev to Jakub Ciupinski and Daron Hagen.

Know before you go: The hike requires a moderate level of stamina, agility, and comfort with uneven footing and potentially some exposure on slick rock. Hiking/trail shoes are required. Comfortable outdoor clothing for a desert environment is recommended. Hiking poles are welcome. Please remember to hydrate and bring a water bottle.

Photo: Nate Ryan

RED CLIFFS LODGE

And to kick back after two of the hikes or let loose (or a little of both!), drop into Red Cliffs Lodge for a pair of toe-tapping, finger-snapping evenings of sheer delight. On **Saturday, September 5 at 7pm**, Master Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser teams up with his longtime duo partner Natalie Haas and her sister Brittany for cutting-edge fiddle and cello explorations. Enchanting audiences for over 20 years, the combination of



Alasdair's Scottish heritage, Brittany's American old-time roots and dance energy, along with Natalie's percussive cello playing bring audiences to a state of pure joy and abandon. And after the hike on **Sunday, September 6 at 7pm** head back to RCL to bask in a Chopin Polonaise, Beethoven Serenade, and Martinu Madrigals alongside exciting new works by Derek Bermel and Sky Macklay. There will be plenty of electricity to go around at the Festival's free annual **Labor Day** extravaganza on **Monday, September 7 at 7pm**, this year at Red Cliffs Lodge. The entire family is welcome to catch the (heat) wave when MMF celebrates the Moab Community's resilience with a free concert with performances of the music of Beethoven, Stravinsky, the American Songbook, and Scottish folk music.

THE RANCH

Picture being at a Private Ranch on the banks of the Colorado River, with great food, good company, and an eclectic mix of jazz, classical, and original music from two of the most versatile and electrifying young musicians of their generation. On **Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30pm** Time for Three's Charles Yang, who

"plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star" (*The Boston Globe*), joins the new host of NPR's popular *From the Top*, pianist Peter Dugan, and his "feats of alarming dexterity" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) for a sizzling, virtuosic romp, setting off musical fireworks that are likely to rival the pyrotechnics that close out the evening, which is a benefit for the Festival.

Photos: Richard Bowditch



Week 1 artists: violinist Francisco Fullana; violist Cynthia Phelps; cellists Jay Campbell, Nicholas Canellakis, Ronald Thomas; pianists Michael Barrett, Michael Brown; Justin Austin, baritone.

Week 2 artists: violinists Francisco Fullana, Kristin Lee, Christopher Otto, Austin Wulliman, Charles Yang; violist John Pickford Richards; cellists Jay Campbell, Nicholas Canellakis; pianists Michael Barrett, Michael Brown, Peter Dugan (& electric keyboard), Justin Austin, baritone.

JACK Quartet: Christopher Otto & Austin Wulliman, violins; John Pickford Richards, viola; Jay Campbell, cello

For more information about the Festival or to purchase tickets for the 28th annual Moab Music Festival go to the [website](#), or telephone the Box Office at (435) 259-7003. You may also visit the Festival Office at 58 East 300 South, Moab, UT 84532.



Watch Now



Season at a Glance

Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip

Monday, August 31 - Wednesday, September 2

Ruby-Horsethief and Westwater Canyons

Francisco Fullana, violin; Jay Campbell, cello

Program to be announced from the stage

Grotto I

Thursday, September 3, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

W.A. Mozart: Sonata for Piano Four-Hands in C major, K.521

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, C minor, Op. 67

Music Hike I: Classical Strings

Saturday, September 5, 8 am

Wilderness Area

John Corigliano: *Red Violin* Caprices

W.A. Mozart: String Duo No. 1 in G major for violin and viola, K. 423

J.S. Bach: Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

Francisco Tarrega: *Recuerdo del Alhambra*

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Trio No. 5 in C minor, Op. 9 No. 3

My Heart is in Havana

Saturday, September 5, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Paquito D'Rivera Quintet: Paquito D'Rivera, clarinet, saxophone; Diego Urcola, trumpet, valve trombone; Hamish Smith, bass; Alex Brown, piano; Eric Doob, percussion

Program to be announced from the stage

Music Hike II: Everything That Rises

Sunday, September 6, 8 am

Wilderness Area

JACK Quartet: Christopher Otto, Austin Wulliman, violin; John Pickford Richards, viola; Jay Campbell, cello

John Luther Adams: *Everything That Rises*

Virtuosos Then and Now

Sunday, September 6, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Michael Brown: Prelude and Dance for cello and piano (2019)

Isaac Albéniz: *Asturias*

Walter Piston: Duo for Viola and Cello

Sky Macklay: *Many Many Cadences*

Derek Bermel: Four Etudes for Violin

Ludwig van Beethoven: Serenade in D major for Violin, Viola and Cello, Op. 8

Frédéric Chopin: Polonaise in A-flat major, Op.53 "Heroic"

Bohuslav Martinů: Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola H. 31

(Dedicated to the memory of Bruce Browning)

Community Concert

Monday, September 7, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Igor Stravinsky: *Suite Italienne*

Ludwig van Beethoven: Cello Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69

Paquito D'Rivera Quintet: selected tunes

Ranch Benefit Concert

Tuesday, September 8, 5:30 pm

Private Ranch

Charles Yang, violin, vocals; Peter Dugan, piano

Program to be announced from the stage

Grotto II: Hammerklavier

Wednesday, September 9, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Robert Schumann: Bilder aus Osten, op. 66

Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata No. 29, in B Flat Major, op.106

("Hammerklavier")

Music Hike III: The Music of J.S. Bach and John Luther Adams

Saturday, September 12, 8 am

Wilderness Area

J.S. Bach: Violin Sonata No.3 in C major, BWV

1005

John Luther Adams: *The Wind In High Places*

J.S. Bach: Selections from The Art of Fugue

Curated by Jay Campbell

Music Hike IV: String Theory

Sunday, September 13, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Daron Hagen: Duo for Violin and Cello

J.S. Bach: Partita in D minor for solo violin, BWV 1004

Jakub Ciupinski: *Wreck of the Umbria*

Sergei Prokofiev: Sonata for Two Violins in C major, Op. 56

Curated by Kristin Lee

Grotto III:

Monday, September 14, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

J.S. Bach: Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006
Traditional Hymn: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
J.S. Bach: *Für Freuden laßt uns springen*, BWV 313
Traditional Hymn: *My Lord, What a Morning*
J.S. Bach: *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, BWV 653
Harry T. Burleigh: *Deep River*
J.S. Bach: *Es ist genug*, BWV 60
Hall Johnson: *Witness*
J.S. Bach: *Ein feste Burg*, BWV 80
Johnson: *Oh, Glory!*
J.S. Bach: *O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden*, BWV 244
Traditional Hymn: *Give me Jesus*
J.S. Bach: *Bist du bei mir*, BWV 508
Jesu, joy of man's desiring, BWV 147

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