

NEWS



May 4, 2021

RED ROCKING OUT AT THE MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

The 29th Season Includes...

**A World Premiere By Kenji Bunch, Narrated by George Takei
and Concerts in Outdoor Venues Along the Colorado River, at Local Ranches,
on Musical Hikes, and Rafting Adventures**



Moab, Utah - The Moab Music Festival announces an inspiring and powerful 2021 slate of events, running from **August 30 through September 16**. Whether audiences need a retreat or a reboot after a complicated year, the fabled town filled with charming shops and restaurants, a 3-diamond spa, a top-notch winery, surrounded by Southeast Utah's ruggedly stunning desert, and some of America's best hiking, biking, and jeep trails, is the perfect place to safely spread out and enjoy MMF's trademark world-class live music experiences. The 2020 Festival was one of the only events in the U.S. to welcome live audiences, and in 2021, it will again be live and continue to follow all local, state, and national health and safety guidelines, continuing its commitment to the health and safety of its patrons, artists, and staff as its top priority.

The centerpiece of the 29th season is the launch of its Commissioning Club with the

World Premiere of a work by Kenji Bunch for narrator George Takei and chamber ensemble about Japanese American Confinement in America on **Saturday, September 4th**. Other programs bring patrons to an array of outdoor venues along the Colorado River, local ranches, on musical hikes, rafting adventures, and in intimate (outdoor) gatherings, where concert goers will hear world-class performances surrounded by the majestic sky and blazing red rock cliffs as the quintessential backdrop for the musical ride of a lifetime.



MUSICAL RAFT TRIPS

Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip, August 30 - September 1

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 30 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 of 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 Festival favorites—cellist **Jay Campbell** and violinist **Francisco Fullana**—in extraordinary settings, as well as swimming, walks, and sumptuous dining. After bringing their inner rhythms in tune with the river, participants return to Moab on the last evening, Wednesday, September 1, ready to enjoy the rest of the Festival. *Outfitted by Sheri Griffith River Expeditions.*

NEW!...San Juan River Musical Raft Trip, September 13-16

Those adventurers who do not want their MMF experience to end will set out on a custom 3-day /2-night **San Juan River Musical Raft Trip** down the **San Juan River (September 13 through 16)**. Embark on one last once-in-a-lifetime experience of the 29th Festival, on a scenic float trip on the Upper San Juan River where travelers will enjoy daily and evening concerts by two extraordinary Moab Music Festival Artists, violinist Cindy Wu and cellist Clancy Newman, on one of the prettiest river experiences in the region. A leisurely pace allows patrons to enjoy the spectacular red rock canyons, petroglyph panels, Ancestral Pueblo ruins, remarkable geographic features, and desert wildlife, all illuminated by a naturalist along the way. The trip begins with a dinner and hotel stay in historic Bluff, Utah. The MMF's newest journey, exploring 27 miles of the San Juan from Sand Island to Mexican Hat, voyagers experience good company, spectacular nature and the ultimate melding of music in concert with the landscape.

GROTTO CONCERTS

An exhilarating 45-minute jet boat ride down the Colorado River, departing at 11:30am sharp, 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. The concerts weave a rich sonic tapestry in one of the most stunning natural environments imaginable, combining the beauty of music with the area's scenic wonders. The first of three signature Grotto



Concerts, ***Beethoven in the Arches*** on Thursday, September 2, features virtuoso guitarist Jason Vieaux and violinist Kristin Lee, and the exciting young Junction Trio making its Festival debut in a program which includes Pulitzer and Grammy winning composer John Corigliano's *The Red Violin Caprices*, derived from his Academy Award winning score to the film of the same name, along with works by Bach and Vivian Fung, culminating in the Trio's interpretation of Beethoven's majestic "Archduke" Trio. On Thursday, September 9, artists will take patrons to ***Sonic Extremes*** when a steel pan and marimba in a percussion duo make their grotto debut. Debussy's vocal music and a Bach Suite for solo keyboard bring the afternoon to a transcendent close. Three great composers, Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn, shape the final program, ***Mozart and the Classical Style***, on Sunday, September 12, along with a contemporary reflection on Haydn. Dazzling pianist and composer Michael Brown performs his own *Etude-Fantasy on the Name of Haydn* and Ravel's tribute *Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn*. Patrons join artists for conversation and a few last moments in the grotto at a light reception before jumping on the jet boat and heading back to town – these receptions take place after each concert.

MUSIC HIKES

At each of four invigorating Music Hikes, explorers will discover Moab's natural wonders, as they meet at the Swanny City Park bright and early at 8am and are transported to stunning, surprise locations for an hour-long concert of unparalleled musical intimacy. On Saturday,



September 4, hikers journey to a majestic spot in a secluded canyon ideal for acoustic music to explore the violin's limits and wonders, with a program entitled ***Fiddlers Three***, which includes Telemann's solo Sonata and Akiho's striking work for steel pan and violin. Audiences look forward to a brighter future after the past year's hardships in ***Pain and Redemption***, curated by cellist Jay Campbell on Sunday, September 5 in another private spot. He juxtaposes the old and new with works reaching back to the Renaissance and Baroque alongside a work by the multi-faceted American composer Caleb Burhans. On Friday, September 10, trekkers will venture to Moab's own meditative inner landscape to hear the Festival's spectacular strings in ***Classical Quintets***, a program of luminous quintets by Mozart and Mendelssohn. ***Imprints***, on Saturday, September 11, will take adventurers to another equally spectacular wilderness site for the final Hike of the season. The program explores enduring remembrance and the imprints we create in life, from the tracks desert animals leave in the red sand, to the legacies left by loved ones. The eclectic program includes works by the Baroque composer

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber, contemporary composer Shih-Hui Chen, 20th century Dutch composer Theo Lovendie, the string quartet premiere of Pulitzer and Grammy winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis's touching *Elegy (for those we lost)* which commemorates the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with other works for string quartet, including Barber's beloved *Adagio* for strings.

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. Comfortable outdoor clothing for a desert environment is recommended. Hiking poles are welcome. Please remember to hydrate and bring a water bottle.

RED CLIFFS LODGE

The inaugural work of MMF's Composers Club premieres on **Saturday, September 4th**, and features celebrated actor **George Takei**, as narrator and host of a powerful evening entitled **LOST FREEDOM:**

JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT IN AMERICA.

Written by violist and MMF Composer-in-Residence Kenji Bunch and narrated by Takei, the new work revisits a dark part of American history when Japanese Americans were stripped of their property and liberty, and Takei's own past growing up in Confinement camps during WWII. The piece glimpses at Moab's own part in this tragic time with its Citizen Isolation Center at nearby Dalton Wells. "Although they indeed present a cautionary tale of one of our country's darkest times," Bunch commented "ultimately, we see Mr. Takei's words as a message of hope that relies on the humanity of our generations to come." The premiere is bookended by two compositions by another camp survivor Paul Chihara and Andy Akiho's *Synesthesia Suite*. This program, at Red Cliffs Lodge, honors those citizens and the three Japanese American composers. It exemplifies the potency of art and music and their ability to offer a forum for expression, and is a powerful example that echoes the current climate.



Head back to Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the Colorado River on **Sunday, September 5 at 7pm**, for ***Nights in the Garden of Spain***. Concertgoers will be transported to a starry evening evoking the romance, longing, and passion reminiscent of the flowery late nights of Andalusia. The concert features the Spanish guitar, gypsy violin, and the human voice in a concert of classic Spanish works by Granados, De Falla, Turina, and Sarasate.

SORREL RIVER RANCH

Kick off your hiking shoes and head on over to Sorrel River Ranch on **Saturday, September 11 at 7pm** for, an exuberant evening with **The Manhattan Transfer**. The acclaimed group made music history winning Grammys in popular and jazz categories in the same year, and will bring Moab audiences hits in its



signature pop, jazz, R&B, rock & roll, and swing styles.

LABOR DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Spread out your blanket, soak up the sunshine, and enjoy the Festival's free annual **Rocky Mountain Power Family Concert** on **Monday, September 6 at 2pm** at **Old City Park** when the festival's eclectic programming is on display and offers something for everyone. The all-star program features a rousing and transfixing performance by young percussionist/composer Andy Akiho in his own work, guitarist Jason Vieaux in Pat Metheny's latest work for solo guitar, and soprano Corinne Winters in selections from the American Songbook. The Festival expresses its gratitude to our sponsor, Rocky Mountain Power, for helping the series keep the lights on!



PRIVATE HOMES

On **Tuesday, September 7**, one of the Moab area's most exclusive homes is the setting for a special celebration of Beethoven. ***Beethoven as He Heard His Music*** lets a select audience hear the master's music on the instruments on which it was performed during his lifetime. String instruments and a piano of

Beethoven's era reveal the secrets of period performance practice, with the music being performed in an intimate salon. The concert is followed by an exquisite dinner and wonderful conversation with the artists and other guests.

Picture being at a **Private Ranch** on the banks of the Colorado River, on **Wednesday, September 8 at 5:30pm** as the sun sets over the river, with great food, good company, and the sweet sounds of guitarist/singer/songwriter Matt Munisteri and his 21st Century String Band. The ensemble will perform tunes from the Red Hot American Songbook in styles ranging from Ragtime to Swing, shining a spotlight on the bright side of life.

AND IN SCHOOL

Extensive educational outreach is integral to the Festival's activities, and artists will visit The Grand County and The Moab Charter Schools on **Friday morning, September 3** for assembly for the high school and middle school students. Students will hear George Takei and the newly written work and learn about his, and the region's experience. The Festival's ongoing educational programs go beyond performances for students, and include scholarships, teacher support, instrument purchases, and more, giving back to the community which has supported this acclaimed series for over two decades.



Program and artists subject to change

Week 1 artists: violinists, Francisco Fullana, Stefan Jackiw, Kristin Lee; violists Kenji Bunch (Composer-in-Residence), Cynthia Phelps, Leslie Tomkins; cellists Jay Campbell, Tanya Tomkins; pianists Michael Barrett, Conrad Tao; guitarist Jason Vieaux; soprano Corinne Winters; percussionists Ian Rosenbaum, Andy Akiho (composer); narrator George Takei

Junction Trio Stefan Jackiw, violin; Jay Campbell, cello; Conrad Tao, piano

Week 2 artists: violinists, Francisco Fullana, Ayano Ninomiya, Cindy Wu; violists Leslie Tomkins, Cindy Wu; cellists Jay Campbell, Nicholas Canellakis, Clancy Newman, Tanya Tomkins; bassist Robert Black; pianists Michael Barrett, Michael Brown, Eric Zivian; soprano Corinne Winters; percussionists Ian Rosenbaum, Andy Akiho (composer); Matt Munisteri Quartet.

The Manhattan Transfer: Cheryl Bentyne, Trist Curless, Alan Paul, Janis Siegel, vocals; Ross Pederson, drums; Boris Koslov, acoustic, electric bass; Yaron Gershovsky, piano, electric keyboard

For more information about the Festival or to purchase tickets for the 29th 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.

Learn More About the Moab Music Festival:



Watch Now

Moab Music Festival 2021 Season at a Glance

Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip
Monday, August 30 - Wednesday, September 1
Ruby, Horsethief and Westwater Canyons
Francisco Fullana, violin; Jay Campbell, cello
Program to be announced from the stage

Grotto Concert I: Beethoven in The Arches

Thursday, September 2, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Johann Sebastian Bach: Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

John Corigliano: *The Red Violin Caprices*

Vivian Fung: *Twist*

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio in B-flat major, op. 97 ("Archduke")

Music Hike I: Fiddlers Three (Dedicated to Thomas G. Stockham)

Saturday, September 4, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Georg Philipp Telemann: Fantasia for Violin No. 7 in E-flat major, TWV 40:20

Andy Akiho: *the rAy's end*

Deciduous

Béla Bartók: Sonata for Solo Violin, Sz. 117

Erő Dohnányi: Serenade in C major, Op. 10

Lost Freedom

Japanese American Confinement in America

Narrated by George Takei

Saturday, September 4, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Kenji Bunch: *Minidoka*

Andy Akiho: *Murasaki (Purple)* from Synesthesia Suite

Paul Chihara: *Redwood*

Andy Akiho: *Karakurenai (Crimson)* from Synesthesia Suite

Paul Chihara: *Duo Lyrico*

Andy Akiho: *Aka (Red)* from *Synesthesia Suite*

Kenji Bunch: *Lost Freedom* (World Premiere) *MMF Commission

Music Hike II: *Pain and Redemption* (Curated by Jay Campbell)

Sunday, September 5, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Nicola Matteis Jr.: *Fantasia*

John Dowland: *Flow my tears*

Go Crystal Tears

Caleb Burhans: *Contritus*

Joseph Haydn: Quartet No. 63 in B Flat major, Op. 76, No. 4 ("Sunrise")

Nights in the Garden of Spain

Sunday, September 5, 7 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Francisco Tárrega: *Capricho Arabe*

Isaac Albeniz: *Mallorca*, op. 202

Pablo de Sarasate: *Navarra*, op. 33

Enrique Granados: *Descúbrase el pensamiento*

Piano Quintet in G minor, op. 49

La Maja y el Ruiseñor, from Goyescas

Joaquín Turina: *Scène Andalouse*, op. 7

Pablo Luna Carné: *De Espana Vengo*, from *El Nino Judío*

Manuel De Falla: *Danza ritual del fuego*, from *El Amor Brujo*

Rocky Mountain Power Community Concert

Monday, September 6, 2 pm

Old City Park

Tickets: FREE, but ticketed

Johann Sebastian Bach: Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578 ("Little Fugue")

Andy Akiho: *27*

George Gershwin: *Someone to Watch Over Me*

Kurt Weill: *One Life To Live*, from *Lady in the Dark*

Frederick Loewe: *I Could Have Danced All Night*, from *My Fair Lady*

Frédéric Chopin: Introduction and Polonaise Brillante, in C major, Op. 3

Pat Metheny: *Four Paths of Light*

House Benefit Concert

Tuesday, September 7, 5:30 pm

Private Home

Ludwig van Beethoven:

Violin Sonata No. 4 in A Minor, op. 23, I. Presto

Bagatelle op. 119, No. 2 in C Major

Cello Sonata No. 1 in F Major, op. 5, no. 1, Adagio sostenuto – Allegro

Bagatelle op. 119, No. 1 in G Minor

Sonata No. 5 in F Major, op. 24 ("Spring"), I. Allegro

Bagatelle op. 126, No. 2 in G Minor

Sonata No. 5 in D Major, op. 102, no. 2, I. Allegro con brio

Bagatelle op. 119, No. 6 in G Major

Trio No. 1 in E-flat Major, op. 1, I. Allegro

Ranch Benefit Concert: The Matt Munisteri Quartet

Wednesday, September 8, 6 pm

Private Ranch

Program to be announced from the stage.

Grotto Concert II: *Sonic Extremes*

Thursday September 9, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Jacob Druckman: *Reflections on the Nature of Water*

Andy Akiho: *Hadaïro* (Beige) from *Synesthesia Suite*

Claude Debussy: *Chanson de Bilitis*

Johann Sebastian Bach: English Suite No.3 in G minor, BWV 808

Music Hike III: Classical Quintets

Friday, September 10, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Felix Mendelssohn: String Quintet No. 1 in A major, op. 18

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: String Quintet No. 3 in C major, K. 515

Music Hike IV: Imprints (Celebrating the Life of Bruce Browning)

Saturday, September 11, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Aaron Jay Kernis: *Elegy (for those we lost)* ** premiere of quartet version

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber: Rosary Sonata No. 16, Passacaglia (*The Guardian Angel*)

Shih-Hui Chen: *Returning Souls* - Four Short Pieces on Three Formosan Amis Legends

Theo Loevendie: *Dance*

Edvard Grieg: *Two Elegiac Melodies*, op. 34

Samuel Barber: *Adagio*, String Quartet, Op. 11. No. 2

The Manhattan Transfer

Saturday, September 11, 7 pm

Sorrel River Ranch & Spa

Program to be announced from the stage

Grotto Concert III: Mozart and the Classical Style

Sunday, September 12, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

W.A. Mozart: Sonata for Piano Four-Hands in D major, K.381/123a

Maurice Ravel: *Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn*

Michael Brown: Etude-Fantasy on the Name of Haydn

Joseph Haydn: Piano Trio No. 44 in E major, Hob. XV:28

Ludwig van Beethoven: 7 Variations on Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen, WoO 46

W.A. Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat major, K. 493

San Juan River Trip

Monday, September 13 - Thursday, September 16

San Juan River

Cindy Wu, violin; Clancy Newman, cello

Program to be announced from the stage

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