

NEWS



April 1, 2022

MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON AUGUST 22-SEPTEMBER 16

INCLUDES THREE COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES BY NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSERS, A WORLD PREMIERE BY JOHN LUTHER ADAMS, A CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN WEST, POPUP AND FLOATING CONCERTS AND MORE

Artists include Béla Fleck, the JACK quartet, Time for Three, Anthony and Demarre McGill, Timothy Long, Martha Redbone and more



Moab, Utah - The Moab Music Festival's 2022 season celebrates 30 years of place, people, and the extraordinary environment that has inspired *music in concert with the landscape®*. The exciting and powerful lineup, running from **August 22 through September 16**, pays tribute to three decades of unique artistic and audience "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences, and all the performers and collaborators who have helped shape and propel it through the decades. Headlining the anniversary season are three world premieres of newly-commissioned works by Native American composers, curated by pianist and conductor Timothy Long. Other programs bring patrons to various outdoor venues along the Colorado River, local ranches, music hikes, rafting adventures, intimate (outdoor) gatherings, and new events like in-town popups and a "floating" concert where concertgoers will hear top-notch performances surrounded by the majestic sky and blazing

SCROLL TO BOTTOM FOR FULL CALENDAR



MUSICAL RAFT TRIPS

Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip, August 22-24

The Festival begins its watery musical adventures with a journey for lovers of music, nature, and outdoor exploration: 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 22 at 7 am**. 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 guitarist Rupert Boyd and cellist Laura Metcalf in extraordinary settings, in addition to swimming, walks, and sumptuous dining. After bringing their inner rhythm in tune with the river, participants return to Moab on the last evening, Wednesday, August 24, ready to enjoy the rest of the Festival.

Outfitted by Sheri Griffith River Expeditions.

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 (**Tuesday, September 13 through Friday, September 16**). Embark on one last inspiring experience of the 30th Festival on a scenic float trip on the Upper San Juan River, where travelers will enjoy up close and personal concerts by two extraordinary Moab Music Festival Artists, violinist Kristin Lee and guitarist Jason Vieaux, 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.

STAR HALL

When there's "**Extreme Weather**," you can duck into the charming restored Historic **Star Hall** (from the early 20th century) for a program on **Friday, August 26 at 7 pm**, which looks at how composers have depicted weather in their work, which is a major factor in MMF's unique locations. The chamber music program includes Beethoven, Debussy, Mahler, Thompson and features Igor Stravinsky's monumental "The Rite of Spring" for two



pianos. One of the most influential musical works of the 20th century, it depicts various pagan rituals on the advent of spring and is sure to thrill audiences.

NEW EVENTS

On **Saturday, August 27 at 5:30 pm**, patrons will board an open-air river boat on the Colorado for MMF's inaugural evening **Floating Concert**. Listeners will be treated to the sounds of Schubert on the water, surrounded by towering canyon walls against a red rock backdrop. The program includes some of the composer's songs about rivers and the beloved



"Trout" quintet for piano and strings, which he wrote at age 22. The concert allows audiences to reflect on the importance and the survival of the life-giving waterway and the reverence we share in the drought-stricken Southwest.

Another new location for the 30th Anniversary season is a secluded streamside meadow surrounded by red rock walls and dotted with cottonwood trees, which will host the next unforgettable evening of *music in concert with the landscape®* on **Sunday, August 28 at 5:30 pm**. Rejoice in two Festival favorites for **Music in the Meadow**; Mozart's Duo for violin and viola in G Major, which Mozart wrote as a favor for his old friend Michael Haydn, who owed music to Archbishop Colloredo but was taken ill; and Dvořák's masterful Quintet for Strings. In addition to great music in another memorable setting, guests will enjoy refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres.

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 which has become one of MMF's signature events. 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 Grotto Concerts is on **Thursday, September 1**, and listeners can truly connect to 'infinity and to eternity in space,' as was composer Oliver Messiaen's hope when he wrote the *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*. The transformative work was written partially during his time in a WWII prison camp, where his vision of spirituality and his faith in the human spirit prevailed. Ravel's *Chansons madécasses* ("Songs of Madagascar"), which sets Évariste de Parry's poetry, and Stravinsky's magical *Divertimento* for violin and piano, based on his first ballet, *Fairy's Kiss*, round out the program. On **Thursday, September 8**, listeners will enjoy an afternoon of Bach's "Capriccio on the Departure of a Beloved Brother" for solo piano, Mendelssohn's second Sonata for cello and piano, and Mozart's joyous G minor Piano Quartet. The exciting final Grotto concert, on **Monday, September 12**, not only traverses the Colorado River but 250 years of

western music, with an afternoon of dazzling works by Mauro Giuliani ("Grand Duo Concertant" for violin and guitar), Schubert (his monumental F minor "Fantasy" for two pianos), Paganini's poetic "Cantabile," and a knock-your-socks-off finale of the latest eclectic works from the genre-defying Time for Three's trio of bassist Ranaan Meyer, and violinists Charles Yang and Nick Kendall. Audiences can join the 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 after each concert.

MUSIC HIKES

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

On **Saturday, September 3**, hikers journey to experience

New Music in an Ancient Space where sandstone walls offer a majestic spot in a secluded canyon to hear world premieres by living composers for solo bassist and program curator Robert Black. The Bang on a Can All-Stars bassist will premiere music by John Luther Adams and Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei written expressly for the location in which they will be heard. The "eye-opening, exhilarating" (*The New York Times*) JACK Quartet and Festival artists join in for music by Julie Zhu and John Adams' groundbreaking 20th century classic *Shaker Loops*. On **Sunday, September 4**, follow award-winning composer and vocalist Martha Redbone to another secret breathtaking landscape to hear the latest from her catalog of songs, along with the solo-violin music of composer Shih-Hui Chen. Violist and composer Jessica Meyer opens the program with two of her string compositions. Natural and artistic wonders are on display on **Saturday, September 10**, when trekkers will venture to another stunning spot to bask in the sounds of Boccherini's famous *Fandango* Quintet for guitar and strings, and Astor Piazzolla, the master of Nuevo Tango, represented here by his *Histoire du Tango* for violin and guitar. Jason Vieaux, one of America's leading guitarists, anchors both works.

Know before you go. The hikes require 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.

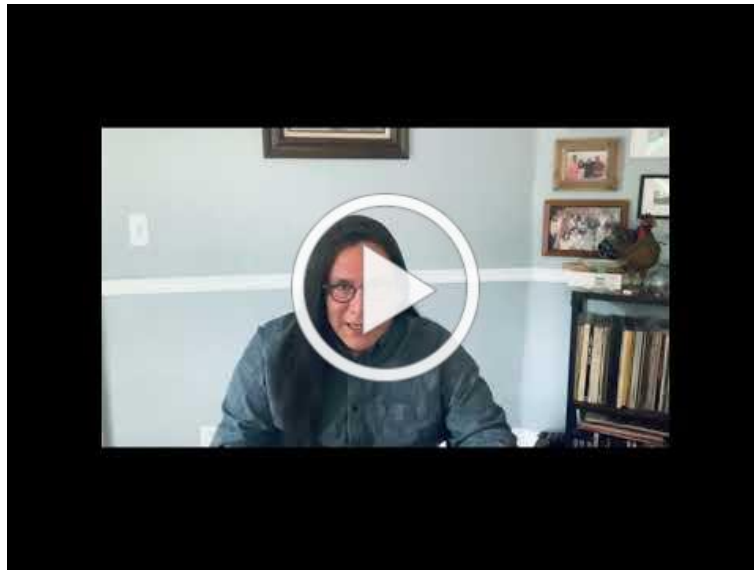
RED CLIFFS LODGE

On the heels of MMF's inaugural Commissioning Club premiere last summer by Kenji Bunch with renowned actor George Takei, the second season celebrates Native American music with three commissions in an evening titled **Sunrise on Turtle Island: Contemporary Native American Voices** on **Saturday, September 3 at 7 pm**. Conductor and pianist Timothy Long curates and leads



performances of world premieres exploring the new generation of Native American composers, including Dawn Avery, Laura Ortman, and Martha Redbone. They each bring a unique musical voice and their own stories of growing up in America to their compositions and performances. The program includes existing works by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, and Lewis Ballard, who was a mentor to Long and Tate. Other events surrounding this program include a panel exploring musical, cultural and societal Native American experiences, in-town studio walks, displays, and in-town popup concerts by the composers and artists. Turtle Island refers to the origin story of North America as a great turtle on whose back we have built our civilizations. This concert honors our current Native American artists and acknowledges their ancestors whose land we now call America.

Curator Tim Long Tells Us More...



On **Sunday, September 4 at 7 pm**, head back to Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the Colorado River for **Copland and the American West**. Audiences will revisit an early MMF commission, *Conversations with Essie* for narrator, clarinet, violin, bass, piano, banjo & percussion, by violinist, author, and composer Gerald Elias. Commissioned for the 10th Anniversary of the Festival and premiered on the first anniversary of 9/11, the dramatic text draws from the reminiscences of Western pioneer Essie White, who ran her own ranch--the White Ranch, where Red Cliffs Lodge sits today, and audiences will enjoy hearing about the harsh wilderness outside Moab starting in the 1930s. The program includes another picturesque portrait of Moab, *Grandstaff*, by Elias. The piece is a brief portrait of Black frontiersman William Grandstaff, who homesteaded and ranched at mile 3 on the River Road (Highway 128) in the late 1800s. The program closes with the perennial favorite, Aaron Copland's iconic *Appalachian Spring*.

SORREL RIVER RANCH

Kick off your hiking shoes and head on over to Sorrel River Ranch on **Saturday, September 10 at 7 pm** for the return of Festival favorite Béla Fleck. The banjo innovator and sixteen-time Grammy-Award winner brings his exhilarating show *My Bluegrass Heart*, the vividly collaborative evening highlighting Fleck's talent as a leader and his stellar bandmates. Head back to



Sorrel River Ranch on **Sunday, September 11 at 7 pm** for an ensemble that sets off the flaming red rock cliffs over the Colorado River as vividly as the sunset does, with the genre-busting energy and virtuosity of *Time for Three* to close out the Festival's 30th Anniversary season.

LABOR DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

The entire community is invited to soak up the sunshine and join in on the birthday fun! The Festival's free annual Rocky Mountain Power Family Concert on **Monday, September 5 at 2 pm** at Old City Park is MMF's 30th birthday celebration this year, complete with its signature musical thrills, nature's brilliance...and cake! MMF's eclectic programming



is on display and offers something for everyone. The all-star program features performances by baritone Justin Austin, fresh from a run at New York City's Lincoln Center, Native American World Hoop Dancing champ Joseph Secody, and the wind virtuosity of clarinetist Anthony McGill and flutist Demarre McGill. The Festival is grateful to its sponsor, Rocky Mountain Power, for helping the series keep the lights on and for the Moab Community's love and support over the past 30 years.



PRIVATE RANCH

As the sun sets over the River on **Friday, September 2 at 5:30 pm**, patrons will enjoy great food and good company at one of Moab's most serene spots, a private ranch on the banks of the Colorado. After a sunset meal, Grammy Award-winning violinist Tessa Lark and "one of the brightest stars of the guitar" (*The New York Times*), guitarist Frank Vignola take the stage to create an intimate musical

experience with intricate original arrangements and improvisation from classical to jazz, making for an unforgettably exciting performance.

On **Friday, September 9 at 5:30 pm**, one of the Moab area's most exclusive homes is the setting for a glittering evening of "chestnuts" and favorites that are usually just the "icing" on the cake of a program...encores! This **House Benefit Concert** shows off the skills of eight Festival artists in a program of Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Massenet, and some beautiful surprises. The concert is followed by an exquisite dinner and lively conversation with the artists and other guests.

AND IN SCHOOL

Extensive education and community outreach are integral to the Festival's activities. Artists will visit the Grand County and Moab Charter Schools on **Friday morning**,

September 9, for an assembly for the high school and middle school classes. Students will hear portions of **Sunrise on Turtle Island:**

Contemporary Native American Voices and learn more about the Native American experience, an integral part of the landscape in which they live. The Festival's ongoing education programs go beyond performances for students. They include scholarships, teacher support, instrument purchases, and more, giving back to the community, which has supported this acclaimed series for decades.



Program and artists subject to change.

All photos unless otherwise noted, Richard Bowditch

Float & Star Hall concerts, Nate Ryan

Raft Trip, Boyd Matson

Artists: **violin:** LP How, Nicolas Kendall, Tessa Lark, Kristin Lee, Ayano Ninomiya, Aubree Oliverson, Christopher Otto, Ruben Rengel, Cindy Wu, Austin Wulliman, Charles Yang; **viola:** LP How, Jessica Meyer, John Richards, Leslie Tomkins; **Cello:** Dawn Avery, Jay Campbell, Laura Metcalf, Tanya Tomkins, Alice Yoo; **Bass:** Robert Black, Ranaan Meyer; **Flute,** Demarre McGill; **Clarinet** Anthony McGill; **Guitar** Rupert Boyd, Jason Vieaux, Frank Vignola;

Time for Three: Nicolas Kendall, Charles Yang, Ranaan Meyer

JACK quartet: Christopher Otto, Austin Wulliman, John Richards, Jay Campbell

Composers: John Luther Adams, Dawn Avery, Gerald Elias, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, Laura Ortman, Martha Redbone, Daniel Szazghabaei

For more information about the Festival or to purchase tickets for the 30th 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.

Moab Music Festival 2022 Season at a Glance

Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip

Monday 8/22-24, 7 am

Ruby, Horsethief and Westwater Canyons

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

Extreme Weather

Friday 8/26, 7 pm

Star Hall

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F major, op. 68 ("Pastoral")

Gustav Mahler: "Ich hab ein glühend Messer in meiner Brust"

Robert Schumann: "Lust der Sturmnacht"

Virgil Thompson: "A Prayer to St. Catherine of Siena"

Claude Debussy: "Il pleure dans mon coeur"

Igor Stravinsky: *Le Sacre du printemps (The Rite of Spring)*

Floating Concert: Schubert on the Water

Saturday 8/27, 6:30 pm

Colorado River

Franz Schubert:

“Auf Dem See”

“Des Fischers Liebesglück”

“Auf dem Wasser zu singen”

Piano Quintet in A major, D.667 (“Trout”)

Music in the Meadow

Sunday 8/28, 5:30 pm

Mill Creek Meadow

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Duo for Violin and Viola in G major, K, 423

Antonín Dvořák: String Quintet No. 2 in G major, op. 77

Grotto Concert I

Thursday 9/1, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Igor Stravinsky: Divertimento (After the Fairy's Kiss)

Maurice Ravel : *Chansons madecasses*

Olivier Messaien: *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* [Quartet for the End of Time]

Ranch Benefit Concert

Friday 9/2, 5:30 pm

Private Ranch

Tessa Lark and Frank Vignola

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

Music Hike I: New Music in an Ancient Space

Saturday 9/3, 8am

Wilderness Area

Daniel Sabzghabaei: *There's Time* (World Premiere)

Julie Zhu: *The Answers*

John Luther Adams: *Three Nocturnes* (World Premiere)

John Adams: *Shaker Loops*

Sunrise on Turtle Island: Contemporary Native American Voices

Saturday 9/3, 7 pm

Pre-concert talk, 5:30

Red Cliffs Lodge

Louis W. Ballard: A City of Silver

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate: Standing Bear: A Ponca Indian Cantata in Eight Tableaux

Laura Ortman: World Premiere TBA

Dawn Avery: World Premiere TBA

Martha Redbone: World Premiere TBA

Music Hike II

Sunday 9/4, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Johann Sebastian Bach: Suite in G major, BWV 1007

Jessica Meyer:

Slow Burn

Getting Home

Shih-Hui Chen: *Fantasia on the Theme of Plum Blossoms*

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: *Louisiana Blues Strut*

Copland and the American West

Sunday 9/4, 7 pm

Pre-concert talk, 5:30

Red Cliffs Lodge

Aaron Copland:

Hoe-Down

Saturday Night Waltz

from *Rodeo*

Dan Emmett: *The Boatman's Dance*

Gerald Elias: *Conversations with Essie*

Copland:

Zion's Walls

Assorted Classic Cowboy songs

Elias: *The Ballad of William Grandstaff*

Rocky Mountain Power Community Concert

30th Birthday Celebration

Monday 9/5, 2 pm

Old City Park

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Tarantella*, op. 6

Franz Danzi: Sinfonia Concertante III. Allegretto

OTHER WORKS TBA

Grotto Concert II Genius Prodigies

Thursday 9/8, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Capriccio on the Departure of the Beloved Brother*, BWV. 992

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Quartet in G minor K. 478

Felix Mendelssohn: Sonata No. 2 in D major, op. 58

House Benefit Concert: Encores

Friday 9/9, 5:30 pm

Private Home

Frédéric Chopin: Nocturne op.9, no. 2

Edward Elgar: Salut D'amour op.12

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *None But The Lonely Heart*

Jules Massenet: Méditation from *Thais*

Chopin: *Largo* from Sonata in G minor, op. 65

Chopin: Etude in E minor op.25 no. 7

OTHER WORKS TBA

Music Hike III: Fandango and Tango

Saturday 9/10, 8 am

Wilderness Area

Luigi Boccherini: Guitar Quintet No.4 in D major, G.448 ("Fandango")

Astor Piazzola: *Histoire du Tango*

OTHER WORKS TBA

Béla Fleck: My Bluegrass Heart

Saturday 9/10, 7 pm

Sorrel River Ranch

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

Time For Three

Sunday 9/11, 7 pm

Sorrel River Ranch

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

Grotto Concert III

Monday 9/12, 11:30 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Franz Schubert: Fantasia in F minor, D.940

Ranaan Meyer: *A Concerto for My Family*

Mauro Giuliani: Grand duo concertant in A major, Op. 85

Niccolo Paganini: *Cantabile*

San Juan River Musical Raft Trip

Tuesday, 9/13-16, 5 pm

Colorado River Wilderness

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

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