

32nd MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Destination Festival for Adventurous Music Lovers

August 28 to September 14, 2024

SEASON 32 EXPLORES REGION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COLORADO RIVER WITH WATER-THEMED COMMISSIONS, FILM SCREENINGS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, FLOATING CONCERTS, AND BOAT RIDES TO SECLUDED OUTDOOR VENUES

From Haydn to Hopi Nation, Mozart to Mingus, Bernstein to Bluegrass, Moab Music Festival brings eclectic and varied perspectives to destination venues



Moab, UT— April 9, 2024 — The Moab Music Festival has made music with the mighty Colorado River for 31 seasons. As the region's lifeblood, the river is both a spiritual inspiration to all who visit, and the economic powerhouse of life in the region. It's an integral part of MMF; many concerts take place right next to the river, in red sandstone concert halls carved by the water itself, some even on the water.

From **August 28 to September 14, 2024**, the 32nd Season of the Moab Music Festival explores the Southwest's complex relationship with the Colorado through music, and the places it's played, contextualizing musical events by raising awareness about persistent drought and overuse of water in the region. **John Weisheit**, Co-Founder at Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper, and an expert on this section of the Colorado, is the special advisor to this season's festivities. The Festival also welcomes Native voices as it examines the river's many meanings to the communities reliant on it. Performers will include Navajo pianist-composer **Connor Chee**, and **Howard Dennis**, a Hopi Flute Chief and advisor to Waterkeeper Alliance, who, with fellow Hopi Nation artists, shares ancient Hopi water rites

at both a new concert event, and at the annual Community Concert.

MMF pays homage to its fluid collaborator this season with themed programs, talks, and screenings, as well as three world premiere commissions. Two emerging composers with ties to Utah, **Maya Miro Johnson** and **Roydon Tse**, have each created a new chamber work inspired by the Colorado River for **MMF's first-ever Composition Competition**. Composer Eve Beglarian, hailed as a "humane, idealistic rebel," (*Los Angeles Times*), brings a new piece about water to the Festival in tribute to longtime MMF Artist, bassist Robert Black.

Other events this season include a panel discussion and screening of the film *A River Out of Time*; a screening of the film *Maestro* featuring a Q&A with Leonard Bernstein's eldest daughter, Jamie Bernstein; a concert remembrance of longtime MMF artist Robert Black; and a musical ramble around the grounds of new venue Easy Bee Farm. With its signature Floating Concerts aboard an open-air boat on the Colorado; Festival-favorite Music Hikes in remote wilderness areas; and riverside red rock Grotto Concerts, Moab Music Festival makes *music in concert with the landscape*®.

SCROLL DOWN FOR FULL CALENDAR

NEW VENUE: EASY BEE FARM

Encounter MMF Artists making *music in concert with the landscape* while walking around scenic and sustainable Easy Bee Farm. On **Wednesday, August 28**, welcome to the Festival with **A Movable Musical Feast!** Sample a feast of favorites from Mozart, Bach, and Brahms, to Andy Akiho and Giovanni Sollima, while sampling drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the farm.



NEW EVENT: THE HOPI TRADITION

The Hopi are the original caretakers and first users of the Colorado River. On **Friday, August 30**, members of the Hopi Nation from Second Mesa, Arizona, share ancient and sacred water rites at MMF for the first time through story, costume, dance, and prayer. **Howard Dennis**, a Hopi Flute Chief, advisor to Waterkeeper

Alliance, board member of Black Mesa Trust, and representative of Native Waters Rising, leads the group. **The Hopi Tradition** takes place at a beautiful outdoor venue on the back lawn of the Gonzo Inn, right beside Mill Creek, a Colorado tributary.

RED EARTH

The glass-walled Red Earth Venue, surrounded by red rock cliffs, sits at the

entrance to a sprawling 17-acre wilderness in the heart of canyon country. On Thursday, September 5, MMF returns to the Venue for the second time, with a program of American music from the middle of the 20th century. Mid-Century Modern America links space-age design and trends in classical music through a diverse survey of mid-century composers, from Charles Mingus to Giancarlo Menotti. Both streamlined and smoky, modern and nostalgic, sparkly and spiky, mid-century American music runs the gamut, looking both to the future, and the past.



STAR HALL

Historic **Star Hall** in downtown Moab offers the intimacy and acoustic clarity ideal for both chamber music and film screenings in a comfortable and easily accessible indoor setting. The award-winning film ***A River Out of Time*** comes to MMF for a pre-Festival water-themed kick off event on **Sunday, August 25**. While paying homage to the

Colorado River—the spiritual backbone of the American West—the film draws the Basin's current water crisis into sharp focus as it follows a diverse group of whitewater enthusiasts, educators, scientists, and artists retracing and reimagining John Wesley Powell's exploratory 1869 Colorado River expedition.

The film ***Maestro***, which chronicles the relationship between conductor Leonard Bernstein, and his extraordinary wife, Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein, created a sensation when it came out last fall. Bernstein was a global force during his life, but the Festival has its own special connection to the iconic Maestro. On **Tuesday, September 3**, get an intimate look at this glittering historical figure with a screening of the film accompanied by stories from his eldest daughter Jamie, and MMF Music Director Michael Barrett, who was Bernstein's assistant conductor for six years.

On **Saturday, September 7**, MMF honors the memory of trailblazing bassist Robert Black, a core Festival Artist for over three decades. A founding member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Black's extensive career championing new music expanded both the repertoire and capabilities of his instrument. In ***A Joyful Musical Life from the Bass Line***, MMF pays homage to a dear friend with new and filmed works by Black's collaborator Yoshiko Chuma, an MMF commission by Black's close friend composer Eve Beglarian, and a new solo by Black's former student Zach Rowden, among other tributes.

FLOATING CONCERT

Back for the third time, the

Festival's much talked-about **Floating Concerts** take patrons several miles up the Colorado River on an open-air river boat. There are two chances to experience music *and* the river as never before this season. First, on **Friday, August 30, Keyboards on the Colorado** returns music born of water to its spiritual home. Barcarolles, literally "boat songs," mimic the gentle sway of the current, while



Ravel's *A boat on the ocean* and Smetana's ode to his hometown river the Moldau get a bit more tempestuous. A special preview of a new work for piano and percussion by Michael Stephen Brown with the composer performing brings the form into the present—floating on the Colorado River.

On **Sunday, September 8**, Miclen Laipang, a young violin virtuoso on the rise, travels from his current homebase in Paris to curate **Red, White, and Blues**, a special program of French and American music featuring Ravel's Violin Sonata. Pianist Julia Hamos, another brilliant young American currently based in Europe, completes the star-spangled, bi-continental duo with eclectic dynamism. Moab Music Festival Music Director Michael Barrett joins for lyrical works by Claude Debussy and Amy Beach.



GROTTO CONCERTS

An exhilarating high-speed boat ride down the Colorado River brings listeners to "nature's own concert hall" (*The New York Times*), an acoustically pristine wilderness grotto carved from the surrounding red rock. One of the Festival's signature events, **Grotto Concerts** weave a rich sonic tapestry in a stunning natural environment, enriching beautiful music with the area's scenic wonders.

The season's first Grotto Concert on **Thursday, August 29** explores the musical connections between

Johannes Brahms and his mentor Robert Schumann. **19th Century Classics** contrasts Schumann's sunny and optimistic Piano Quartet with Brahms' brooding, probing Piano Quintet.

On **Friday, September 6**, a string trio arrangement of Bach's revered "Goldberg Variations" takes pride of place in **J.S. Bach and Sons**, a concert featuring papa Bach's music alongside that of his children. Carl Philip Emmanuel and Wilhelm Friedemann represent the next generation; their works demonstrate the development of the Classical Style in the 18th Century.

The season's final Grotto concert celebrates the turn of two centuries, the 19th and 20th, on **Wednesday, September 11**. In **Vienna at the Turn of the Centuries**, Joseph Haydn represents the high classicism in vogue around 1800, while Fritz Kreisler's music for solo violin bids a nostalgic farewell to the 19th century and its values—including tonality. Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*, poised on the threshold of the 20th century, expands 19th-century harmony into a world of looming social and scientific upheaval.

MUSIC HIKES

Among its most popular events, MMF's three **Music Hikes** offer unparalleled access to the natural wonders of Moab. Guides lead trekkers into secluded canyons, where an hour of impeccable music awaits, performed by Festival artists in river-carved canyon concert halls. Adventurers meet at Moab's Aarchway Inn at **7:30 am** and board



shuttles to the hikes' surprise locations. The hikes require a moderate level of stamina and agility, so comfortable desert environment clothing is recommended.

On **Saturday, August 31**, **Mozart in the Morning** features two of the great genius' masterpieces: the Clarinet Quintet, and the work Einstein called "one of his noblest," the Divertimento for string trio.

On **Sunday, September 1**, **Just Breath(e)** explores the transcendent connection between breath, life, and flute. This theatrically conceived program tells an ancient tale of life, breath, and music anew, through a collection of newly written miniatures by a diverse array of composers. Works by Timo Andres, Clarice Assad, Kinan Azmeh, Juhi Bansal, Viet Cuong, Ellis Ludwig-Leone, Diane Monroe and Matthew Evan Taylor are intertwined with specially arranged works by Andy Akiho, Raven Chacon, Chris Cerrone and Kevin Puts that play on the same theme.

During the final hike of the season, on **Saturday, September 7**, uncommon groupings expand sonic possibilities with **Unusual Quartets: Sacred and Profane**, which features works for a quartet of cellos, and a quartet by fiddler Mark O'Conner that replaces the second violin with a double bass.



RED CLIFFS LODGE

The festival returns to picturesque **Red Cliffs Lodge** overlooking the Colorado River and backed by towering red rock walls for two concerts this season. It's a location and view you may well recognize from its many film and television appearances.

The Colorado River flowing

through Moab sets the scene for two **World Premieres** about water commissioned by the MMF Commissioning Club from up-and-coming composers with Utah ties in **Colorado Currents**. On **Saturday, August 31**, the new works, by Maya Miro Johnson and Roydon Tse, accompany pieces by Utah composer John Costa, Diné composer Conner Chee, and performances by members of the Hopi Nation.

In a **panel discussion** before the performance **Saturday, August 31**, experts and musicians discuss the importance of water, Colorado River stewardship, and Hopi religious beliefs. Panelists include John Weisheit, Co-Founder at Living Rivers and Colorado Riverkeeper, Howard Dennis, Hopi elder and board member of Black Mesa Trust, and this year's MMF Commissioning Club grantees composers Maya Miro Johnson and Roydon Tse.

Back by popular demand after its MMF debut last season, indie-pop sibling trio **BAILEN** brings flawless harmonies and bumping energy to the main stage at Red Cliffs Lodge on **Sunday, September 1**. The NYC-based band, noted for a "sumptuous blend of adventurous songwriting, wistful melodies and youthful spirit" by *The Indy Review*, perform a mix of originals, classic 70's pop, and rock.



LABOR DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

The entire community is invited to soak up the sunshine at the Festival's free annual **Rocky Mountain Power Community Concert**. Come together on Labor Day, **Monday, September 2** beneath the shady cottonwoods at gorgeous Old City Park for a joyous celebration of the community MMF calls home. The wide ranging program includes

music from the American Songbook, a work by Diné composer-pianist Connor Chee about his musical heritage, duos for flute and marimba, and a special performance of traditional song and dance by Hopi Nation artists. The siblings of indie-pop trio BAILEN finish the program with adventurous and melodic originals.

PRIVATE RANCH BENEFIT CONCERTS

This season there are two opportunities to join Festival artists at some of Moab's most beautiful **private homes** for intimate evenings of music and food. The convivial occasion offers an exceptional opportunity to experience a performance up close, followed by a celebratory dinner and an opportunity to mingle with the artists.



First, in **Bernstein, an Intimate Portrait** on **Wednesday, September 4**, join Leonard

Bernstein's daughter Jamie Bernstein, author of the acclaimed memoir *Famous Father Girl*, as she shares family stories and insight into the evening's selections of her father's work.

Then, on **Tuesday, September 10**, at a private working ranch on the banks of the Colorado, GRAMMY-nominated violinist Tessa Lark sparks a lively evening of virtuosity and fun with **Stradgrass**, a concert of selections from her latest album *The Stradgrass Sessions*, which combines classical technique and Kentucky Bluegrass tradition to foot-stomping effect.

MUSICAL RAFT TRIP

The festival concludes with the trip of a lifetime for adventurous music lovers. The **Cataract Canyon Musical Raft Trip** takes participants through glorious Canyonlands National Park, and some of the country's most challenging whitewater, on a custom 4-day/3-night itinerary. After an orientation **Tuesday, September 10**, the adventure begins with MMF's signature Grotto Concert **Wednesday, September 11**. Expert guides set



up camp and cook delicious meals at gorgeous riverside sites each night, as three remarkable MMF artists, Tessa Lark, Kristin Lee, and Jay Campbell, serenade guests with everything from Baroque to Bluegrass. A scenic return flight over Canyonlands National Park returns adventurers to Moab on the final day of the trip, **Saturday, September 14**.

Outfitted by Sheri Griffith Expeditions



AND IN SCHOOL

As a festival rooted in the unique beauty of its home, MMF makes community investment essential to its operation. On **Tuesday, September 3**, sibling trio **BAILEN** and **Hopi Nation** artists will visit the Grand County and Moab Charter Schools to give presentations for high school, middle school, and elementary school classes. The Festival's education programs go beyond just performances for

students and include scholarships, teacher support, instrument purchases, and more. With these programs, they endeavor to give back to the community that has supported this acclaimed series for decades.

Program and artists subject to change.

All photos unless otherwise noted, Richard Bowditch; Red Earth Venue, Claire Codling; Raft Trip, Boyd Matson

Violin: Miclen LaiPang, Tessa Lark, Kristin Lee, Geneva Lewis, Aubree Oliverson, Simone Porter
Viola: Jessica Bodner, LP How, Cynthia Phelps, Leslie Tomkins
Cello: Jay Campbell, Serafim Smigelskiy, Alice Yoo, Matt Zalkind
Double Bass: Nathan Farrington, Zach Rowden
Guitar: Mark Stewart
Voice: Ariadne Greif, soprano; Mary Rice, mezzo-soprano; Andrew Garland, baritone
Winds: Catherine Gregory, flute; Yoonah Kim, clarinet
Percussion: Ian Rosenbaum
Piano: Michael Barrett, Michael Stephen Brown, Connor Chee, Julia Hamos, Derek Wang
Ensembles: Howard Dennis & Hopi Dancers; BAILEN: Daniel Bailen, vocals/bass; David Bailen, vocals/drums; Julia Bailen, vocals/guitar
Composers: Eve Beglarian, Maya Miro Johnson, Roydon Tse
Narrators: Jamie Bernstein, David Jaggard
Dancer/Choreographer: Yoshiko Chuma

For more information about the Festival or to purchase tickets for the 32nd 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.

All photos by Richard Bowditch unless otherwise noted

Moab Music Festival 2024 32nd Season at a Glance

Documentary Screening: *A River Out of Time*

Sunday, August 25, 7:00 pm

Star Hall

Tickets: Free

A Movable, Musical Feast

Wednesday, August 28, 5:30 pm

Easy Bee Farms

Tickets: \$80

- Mark O'Connor: Menuhin Caprice
- Mozart: Duo No. 2 in B-flat major, K. 424
- Giovanni Sollima: Alone
- J.S. Bach arr. Sitkovetsky: Selections from the Goldberg Variations
- Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581 "Stadler"
- Brahms: String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 18
- Andy Akiho: Karakurenai

Grotto I: 19th Century Classics

Thursday, August 29, 11:00 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Tickets: \$490

- Robert Schumann: Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 47
- Johannes Brahms: Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

Floating Concert I: Keyboards on the Colorado

Friday, August 30, 8:30 am

Colorado River

Tickets: \$185

- Fauré: Barcarolle No. 5, Op. 66 in F-sharp minor
- Tchaikovsky: June: Barcarolle from The Seasons
- Ravel: Une barque sur l'océan [A Boat on the Ocean] from Miroirs

- Smetana: The Moldau from Vltava
- Michael Stephen Brown: New Work for Piano and Marimba

The Hopi Tradition

Friday, August 30, 6:00 pm

Gonzo Inn, back lawn

Tickets: Free, donations accepted, children 6-18 free

- Program announced from the stage

Music Hike I: Mozart in the Morning

Saturday, August 31, 7:30 am

Wilderness Area

Tickets: \$80

- Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581 "Stadler"
- Mozart Divertimento in E-flat major, K. 563

Red Cliffs I: Colorado Currents

Saturday, August 31, 7:00 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Tickets: \$45

- Roydon Tse: Living Waters (*MMF Commission*)
- Hopi Presentation
- John Costa, text Terry Tempest Williams: "A Heron Stands," from *Refuge*
- Andy Akiho: Portal
- Maya Miro Johnson: New Work (*MMF Commission*)
- Connor Chee: Original works

Music Hike II: Just Breath(e)

Sunday, September 1, 7:30 am

Private Ranch

Tickets: \$80

- Kinan Azmeh: Nafas
- Timo Andres: Memory
- Juhi Bansal: Spaces Between
- Ellis Ludwig-Leone: Free Dive
- Clarice Assad: Just Breathe
- Viet Cuong: Streamline
- Raven Chacon: For Barbara Croall; For Carmina Escobar; Untitled
- Christopher Cerrone: To Breath
- Matthew Evan Taylor: 27 Breaths
- Kevin Puts: Air
- Diane Monroe: A memory
- Evan Premo: Inside the breath
- Couperin: Les Barricades Mystérieuses
- J.S. Bach: Air from Orchestral Suite no. 3
- Beatles arr. Berio: Yesterday

Red Cliffs II: BAILEN

Sunday, September 1, 7:00 pm

Red Cliffs Lodge

Tickets: \$45, children \$5

- BAILEN: Daniel Bailen, vocals/bass; David Bailen, vocals/drums; Julia Bailen, vocals/guitar; with guest Moab Music Festival string artists

Rocky Mountain Power Community Concert

Monday, September 2, 2:00 pm

Old City Park

Tickets: FREE

- Hopi Nation Presentation
- Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5
- Gareth Farr: Kembang Suling
- Connor Chee: Original Compositions
- Selections from the American Songbook
- BAILEN

Film Screening: *Maestro*

Tuesday, September 3, 7:00 pm

Star Hall

Tickets: FREE

- Screening and Q&A with Leonard Bernstein's daughter Jamie Bernstein, Artistic Director Leslie Tomkins, and Music Director Michael Barrett.

House Benefit Concert: Bernstein, An Intimate Portrait

Wednesday, September 4, 5:30 pm

Private Home

Tickets: \$250-\$1,000

- Bernstein: Anniversaries
- Bernstein: Arias and Barcarolles

Red Earth: Mid-Century Modern America

Thursday, September 5, 7:00 pm

Red Earth

Tickets: \$95

- Jonathan Larson: *Hosing the Furniture*
- Menotti: Suite for 2 Cellos and Piano
- Aaron Jay Kernis: *The Four Seasons of Futurist Cuisine*
- John Cage: Living Room Music
- Bernstein: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano
- Paul Bowles arr. Barrett: "I Have a Heart Problem" from *A Picnic Cantata*
- Charles Mingus: Myself When I Am Real
- Bernstein: La Bonne Cuisine

Grotto II: J.S. Bach and Sons

Friday, September 6, 11:00 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Tickets: \$490

- J.S. Bach: French Suite No. 4 in E-flat major, BWV 815
- Works by CPE Bach and Wilhelm Friedemann Bach
- Bach arr. Sitkovetsky: Goldberg Variations for String Trio, BWV 998

Music Hike III Unusual Quartets: Sacred and Profane

Saturday, September 7, 7:30 am

Wilderness Area

Tickets: \$80

- Mark O'Connor: String Quartet No. 1
- Christopher Cerrone: Shall I Project the World?
- J.S. Bach arr. Hampton: Air from Orchestra Suite No. 3, BWV 1068
- Wynton Marsalis: Fiddle Dance Suite
- Queen arr. Korte: Bohemian Rhapsody
- Paul Wiancko: Cello Quartet op. 1 "When the Night"

Robert Black: A Joyful Musical Life from the Bass Line

Saturday, September 7, 7pm

Star Hall

Tickets: Pay what you wish, children 6-18 free

- Yoshiko Chuma: Original Film
- Mark Stewart: To Whom It May Concern, Thank You
- Zach Rowden: New Work
- Eve Beglarian: New Work*
- Yoshiko Chuma: New Work
- David Jaggard: I had a dog
- James Sellars: Palm Court Music
- Schubert: Piano Quintet in A major, D. 667 "Trout"

Floating Concert II: Red, White, and Blues

Sunday, September 8, 8:30 am

Colorado River

Tickets: \$185

- Meredith Monk: Ellis Island
- Debussy: Beau Soir
- Gershwin arr. Frolov: Concert Fantasy on Porgy and Bess
- Franck: Violin Sonata in A major, M. 8
- Amy Beach: Romance
- Ravel: Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major

MMF Informal

Sunday, September 8, Time TBA

Venue: USU Campus

Ranch Benefit Concert: Stradgrass

Tuesday, September 10, 5:30 pm

Private Ranch

Tickets: \$150-\$500

- Selections from The Stradgrass Sessions to be announced from the stage

Grotto III: Vienna at the Turn of the Centuries

Wednesday, September 11, 11:00 am

Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

Tickets: \$490

- Haydn: Piano Trio
- Kreisler: Works for 3 Violins and Piano
- Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4

Cataract Canyon Musical Raft Trip

Orientation: Tuesday, Sept 10, 12:30 pm, Sheri Griffith River Expeditions

Departure: Wednesday, Sept 11, 11:00 am, Archway Inn

Return: Saturday, Sept 14, ca. 5:00 pm

Tickets: \$3,600

- Programs announced from the stage

MEDIA CONTACT:

Elizabeth Dworkin

Elizabeth@dworkincompany.com

Matthew Woodard

Matthew@dworkincompany.com

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Dworkin & Company
elizabeth@dworkincompany.com
dworkincompany.com



Dworkin & Company | PO Box 248 | Bedford Hills, NY 10507 US

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