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COLORADO MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 CONCERT SEASON: "MUSIC WITH ALTITUDE" CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Summer program features the return of world renowned pianist Olga Kern; an appearance by the extraordinary Gil Shaham, one of the foremost violinists of our time; the greatest symphonic works of all times, including Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Dvorak's 9th "New World" Symphony, Holst's "The Planets" and Mahler's beautiful 9th Symphony; a French mini-festival featuring pianist and Van Cliburn competition medalist Benedetto Lupo; an all-new "Fresh Fridays" series; the "Happy Hour @Chautauqua" series featuring the return of the acclaimed ensemble Time for Three; and more!

January 23, 2017, BOULDER, CO – Music Director Jean-Marie Zeitouni and the Colorado Music Festival (CMF) announce an exciting and varied summer program for the 2017 concert season, the 40th anniversary for the Festival. Zeitouni leads the festival for his 3rd concert season as Music Director with programming that continues to inspire audiences through an especially diverse and entertaining program featuring world-class guest artists from around the globe, including the striking young Russian pianist Olga Kern who is back by popular demand to kick-off the Festival on opening night with a performance of Rachmaninoff's famous "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" as well as Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.1.

"We are particularly excited to welcome back to the Chautauqua stage Van Cliburn Gold Medal Winner Olga Kern to bring back the same excitement and energy concertgoers were thrilled by at the close of last season," commented Jean-Marie Zeitouni.

"In addition to a season packed with audience favorites like Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Dvorak's 9th "New World" Symphony, and Holst "The Planets", I am also thrilled to be presenting really significant works of music to this region for first time this summer, such as

Betsy Jolas' A Little Summer Suite (U.S. premiere) and music from French composers. There is a tremendous amount of music by French composers that I am really proud to be bringing to the Festival for the first time. We are also prominently dedicating important parts of our season to new music, as well as formats new to our audience. CMF's new music commissioning club - Click! continues with a world premiere by contemporary composer Julian Wachner."

The 2017 Season will mark the debut of a new "Fresh Fridays" series, a fresh approach to Friday Nights! It's a concert experience - reimagined. They start at 6:30pm with a short, hour-long concert featuring highlights from the Thursday night Festival Orchestra concert (Beethoven's 9th Symphony on July 14, music by French composers on July 21, and Holst's *The Planets* on July 28), and still have time for post-concert dinner and drinks.

The "Music Mash-up" series returns under the new name "Happy Hour @Chautauqua". These innovative performances offer a fun, intermission-free concert, preceded by a happy-hour featuring complimentary food and drinks from local restaurateurs.

"We are really excited to continue to bring this innovative concert experience to Boulder. We have had such a tremendous response to this series and have a not-to-miss line up for this season including an all new "Classicalpalooza" mash-up by composer and conductor Steve Hackman as well as the return of the string trio Time for Three." Commented CMF Marketing Director Brandi Numedahl.

The Colorado Music Festival runs for six weeks from June 29 through August 4, 2017. Performances are held at Boulder's own historic Chautauqua Auditorium with concerts on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Friday night Fresh Fridays concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. All other concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Season highlights include:

- Colorado Music Festival's 40th Anniversary Season starts in high gear with the return of the "immensely talented" (Washington Post) **pianist Olga Kern** to perform music by her countrymen— **Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1** and **Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini**. The orchestra rounds out this evening of Russian music with **Shostakovich's Festive Overture** and **Rachmaninoff's romantic Second Symphony**. (June 29)
- Guest artist recitals and Chamber Music on Saturday nights including performances by pianists Olga Kern (July 1) and Benedetto Lupo (July 22), as well as featured CMF Chamber Players on Saturday July 8 and July 29.

- **Colorado Music Festival founder and conductor Giora Bernstein returns** to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Festival with a magnificent evening of Mozart including the composer's beloved "Prague" Symphony. (July 5)
- Dynamic Finnish **violin sensation Elina Vähälä makes her Boulder debut** with John Corigliano's cinematic "Red Violin" concerto. This ode-to-America program also features Three Dance Episodes from Leonard Bernstein's 1944 musical, 'On the Town,' and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 "From the New World." (July 6)
- **"Happy Hour @Chautauqua" series.** Three concerts that are designed to transform the symphonic experience by bridging the gap between classical and popular music. This three-concert series features performances of popular classical and contemporary works in a casual, intermission-free concert that is preceded by a happy-hour with complimentary food and drinks. (**Two to Tango with Christopher O'Riley, Pablo Ziegler and members of the CMF Orchestra on July 11; Time for Three with the CMF Orchestra on July 18; and "Classicalpalooza" with conductor and composer Steve Hackman and the CMF Orchestra**)
- Jean-Marie Zeitouni conducts **Beethoven's grand Ninth Symphony**, with its iconic finale, "Ode to Joy" featuring nationally acclaimed opera singers, including **Grammy-winning mezzo soprano Michelle DeYoung**, soprano Mary Wilson, tenor Jason Baldwin, and **former University of Colorado football player/Metropolitan Opera singer Keith Miller, bass-baritone**. It's perfectly paired with Mahler's vocally thrilling Songs of a Wayfarer, as well as the North American Premiere of Betsy Jolas' A Little Summer Suite. (July 13)
- All-new **"Fresh Fridays"** Series, a fresh approach to Friday Nights! It's a concert experience - reimaged. Start at 6:30pm with a short, hour-long concert featuring highlights from the Thursday night Festival Orchestra concert and still have time for post-concert dinner and drinks. (**Beethoven's 9 on July 14, music by French composers on July 21, and Holst's The Planets on July 28**)
- **Stewart Goodyear**, one of the leading pianists of his generation, performs **Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 for Piano, Trumpet and Strings**, a piece that is full of humorous twists and playful parodies. Also on the program, Vaughan-Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Tallis, Britten's dramatic and energetic Young Apollo, and Richard Strauss' epic and profound Metamorphosen for 23 Strings. (July 16)
- The popular mini-festival returns with a **"French Mini-Fest,"** four breathtaking concerts featuring **Van Cliburn competition medalist Benedetto Lupo** and works by beloved French composers including Debussy, Ravel, Faure and more. (July 20-23)

- Experience a profound new approach to **Gustav Holst's symphonic powerhouse: The Planets**. The CMF Orchestra presents a magical, awe-inspiring and timeless musical portrait brought to life with choreographed, visual animation on the big screen! Also on this program is the **world premiere by the 2017 Click! Commissioning club composer Julian Wachner**, and Alexander Scriabin's "The Poem of Ecstasy." (July 27)
- It's an evening of Jazz inspired classics including Stravinsky's bluesy Ebony Concerto, and Darius Milhaud's Creation of the World. Plus, former CMF principal clarinet (current LA Philharmonic principal clarinet) **Boris Allakhverdyan** stars in Copland's lyrical and jazz-influenced Clarinet Concerto and Bernstein's funky, jazzy Prelude, Fugue and Riffs. (July 30)
- **Mahler's Ninth Symphony** has been called "music coming from another world" and "his greatest achievement." On the boundary between the Romantic and the modern eras, it is doubtless one of the most beautiful symphonies in the literature. Experience the masterpiece with the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra led by Jean-Marie Zeitouni! (Aug. 3)
- The 2017 CMF Season comes to a close with the extraordinary **Gil Shaham, one of the foremost violinists of our time**. His flawless technique and his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit have solidified his renown as an American Master. His astonishing command of the violin is on display during this special one-night only performance with the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra! Rounding out the evening is Beethoven's glorious Symphony, No. 7 - a triumphant end to a triumphant season! (August 4)

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*Founded in 1976, the **Colorado Music Festival (CMF)** presents a summer season of classical music concerts performed by professional musicians from around the world at the historic Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder. Emerging talent from Europe, Asia, South America and the U.S. join CMF musicians in performances that inspire and engage concertgoers of all ages. Under the skilled baton of Music Director Jean-Marie Zeitouni, the CMF thrills audiences of more than 20,000 each season with programming that embraces the most beloved classical music repertoire, while integrating world music and the works of exciting modern composers. In October of 2009 the Colorado Music Festival merged with Rocky Mountain Center for Musical Arts, an organization founded in 1995, fulfilling the vision of Music for all...for life![™] by providing quality, creative music-making experiences for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and financial circumstances. In 2013 the new name, **Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts (CMF & CMA)** was chosen. The **Center for Musical Arts** serves between 600-700 students weekly, ages six months through 80 years, through a variety of programs, and has a highly-skilled faculty of 40 professional teaching artists. In addition to educational offerings, hundreds of community audience members are served annually through a number of guest artist and faculty performances. The CMA's Heartstrings Program of need-based tuition assistance and a 200-piece "bank" of string and wind instruments for area school children assure that no one is turned away.*