

# Join us this summer as we celebrate 30 years of musical excellence

Like a string of pearls befitting a 30th anniversary, the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, under the leadership of its dedicated **Artistic Director Natalie Zhu**, has assembled a garland of gems for its 30th season.

Zhu's exciting programming incorporates works for grand ensembles including quintets, octets, pieces for two pianos, and in the finale, a full chamber orchestra. The Festival is also sponsoring premieres of compositions commissioned for Festival artists. In all, more than 45 artists will take to the Kingston stage over a period of two weeks, including many long-time Festival favorites.

Zhu, who debuted at the Festival in 2004 and has served as artistic director since 2009, stresses the Festival's commitment to building community, "KCMF was created to bring audiences together to share in the transportive experience of live music-making."

That mission was at the heart of founding director **David Kim's** dream: "I knew South County would be a perfect location for a chamber music Festival," he said recently. "It didn't take long for music lovers to



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NATALIE ZHU

jump on our bandwagon... and stay on. I always had faith that the Festival would thrive; I'm shaking my head in wonder that we have already reached 30 seasons." This year, **David Kim** will be performing in three of seven concerts.

Kim reflects that "Natalie Zhu has created a memorable and exciting season of repertoire. The roster of artists she has assembled is, simply put, an awesome display of musicians who perform around the world in the most renowned concert halls. This summer, they will all gather on the Kingston stage."

As to Zhu's magical leadership and programming, Kim points out that "when serving as an artistic director, one has to juggle one's roles as a performer, a CEO, and a manager of a complex organization. I hope Natalie and the Board will continue doing what they already do so well and so tirelessly: cook up innovative ideas, passionately promote those ideas, and execute them flawlessly. I am beyond optimistic for the future of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival!"

■ BY **JOHNETTE RODRIGUEZ** PHOTO BY **SETH JACOBSON**

## OPENING NIGHT PRE-CONCERT RECEPTION: PLEASE JOIN US!

On the first night of the Festival, **Wednesday, July 25**, we invite you to join **Natalie Zhu, David Kim**, and the **Kingston Chamber Music Festival Board of Directors** as we kick off our anniversary season with an opening reception from 6 to 7 p.m. at the **URI Fine Arts Center**. It's our way of saying "thank you" to the village of Kingston and the University of Rhode Island for celebrating 30 incredible years with us.

## VISIT OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL EXHIBIT

An exhibit about the history of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, *Celebrating the Spirit Con Brio*, curated by KCMF Board member **Susan Marcus**, will be unveiled on opening night of the Festival in the **URI Fine Arts Center gallery**, and will remain open before each concert and during intermissions. Witness how the joy and enthusiasm people experience when playing and listening to music together has allowed the Festival to flourish.

## AMERICAN COMPOSERS HIGHLIGHT THE FESTIVAL

# Carl Schimmel and David Ludwig honor the Festival with new compositions

In 2011, National Public Radio named **Carl Schimmel** and **David Ludwig** as two of the world's top 100 composers under the age of 40. In a nod to KCMF's growing stature, the two artists accepted commissions to write new works for KCMF's 2018 season.

On July 29, Festival artists will present the premiere of a composition by Festival alumnus David Ludwig. *Paganiniana, Concerto for Violin and Chamber Ensemble*, is written for a virtuosic solo violinist with accompanying flute, clarinet, violin, cello,

Carl Schimmel's *Vasilissa the Invincible* is scheduled for world premiere by the **Clarosa Piano Quartet** on August 3. Schimmel's two-movement quartet narrates an iconic Russian fairy tale, *Vasilissa the Most Lovely*. It recounts the story of a girl whose small doll, "a gift and blessing from her dying mother," helps her safely through encounters with an evil stepmother and a famously evil Russian witch, Baba Yaga. Schimmel attests that "this tale functions as an allegory about how a parent's love can cultivate in a child the resilience and integrity needed to overcome even the most daunting obstacles." Schimmel considers this folk tale's theme of resilience in young children relevant for his new work because he himself is a parent of two and because the Clarosa Piano Quartet is named for the children of its founding players.

Schimmel was named a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow in the Creative Arts, a top honor in the nation's pantheon of awards for scholastic and creative genius. *The New York Times* has praised Schimmel for his "vivid and dramatic compositions." His music, often humorous, is alive with literary and musical references that draw from poetry, art and linguistics.

Raised in Wakefield, where he graduated valedictorian of South Kingstown High School in 1993, Schimmel has received high honors from leading arts organizations. He is associate professor of music theory and composition at Illinois State University and is based in both Illinois and Iowa.

Two other composers with Rhode Island connections will be featured at the Festival this year. **Eliane Aberdam's** *Grisailles Vaporeuses* for violin, cello and piano is on the program for July 27. Aberdam is a professor of music at the University of Rhode Island. **Zach Friedland**, a graduate of the URI music program and now a doctoral student in composition at The Ohio State University, has composed a duet for violin and piano in honor of David Kim and Natalie Zhu, which they will play on July 25, the first night of the Festival. Zach, a native of Richmond, R.I., worked for the Festival while a student at URI.

BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN-GARBER, BOARD MEMBER



THE CLAROSA PIANO QUARTET



CARL SCHIMMEL



DAVID LUDWIG

piano, and percussion. In a novel partnership, KCMF has joined with three other music festivals to underwrite Ludwig's work. The piece will be played this summer at the Kingston, Lake Champlain, Portland, and Lake George Chamber Music Festivals.

Ludwig serves as chair of the composition faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music. He is also the artistic advisor and director of the 20/21 Contemporary Music Ensemble. He is a prolific composer of solo, choral and chamber music literature, for which he has won wide acclaim, and an accomplished film composer. *The New York Times* described his work as "arresting and dramatically hued."

## TALKS WITH OUR COMPOSERS

We invite you to deepen your musical experience at the Festival by joining us for special pre-concert talks with our featured composers who will introduce their works and provide information for listeners. The 30-minute talks will take place in the concert hall one hour prior to the start of the concert. **Eliane Aberdam** will speak Friday, July 27, 6:30 to 7 p.m.; **David Ludwig** on Sunday, July 29, 3:30 to 4 p.m.; and **Carl Schimmel** on Friday, August 3, 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Concertgoers who choose not to attend the composer talks will be admitted to the hall for general concert seating 30 minutes before the concert's start.

# Hilary Hahn and full chamber orchestra to perform with maestro Kensho Watanabe



The Festival finale on August 5 ushers in a new KCMF experience with the inclusion of a 22-member chamber orchestra and the Festival debut of world-renowned violinist **Hilary Hahn** under the baton of **Kensho Watanabe**, the exciting young assistant conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. The program will include Mozart's Rondo for Piano and Orchestra in A Major with **Reiko Uchida** as pianist; Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, Op 48; and two works by Bach, the Concerto in E Major featuring Hahn and the Double Violin Concerto in D Minor with Hahn and **Juliette Kang**, first associate concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Natalie Zhu chose to close the 30th celebration with a chamber orchestra because "this program will bring out our Festival's special vision and talent. The concert is a big 'thank you' to our devoted audiences and everyone in the Rhode Island community for their continuing involvement and support." Conductor Watanabe is in his second year at the Philadelphia Orchestra. David Kim describes Watanabe as "a tremendous young talent. Ever since he stepped on the podium, I have been a fan. I look forward to watching his career ride to the upper echelon of the music industry."

Watanabe, an accomplished violinist, was born in Japan and came to the States when he was five. Comfortable in both symphonic and operatic conducting roles, Watanabe is a graduate of the Yale School of Music. His rise is of the storybook type — when Philadelphia Orchestra conductor Yannick Nezet-Seguin took ill, Watanabe had to step in at the last minute to conduct a concert that included a modern electronic composition. Tremendous acclaim for his performance followed.

Last fall Watanabe conducted the Dvořák Violin Concerto in A Minor with Hahn; it was such a success that Hahn asked him to join her at the Kingston Festival. The Dvořák concerto, he says, "is how this conversation started. Hilary was nice enough to ask me if I was available, and I am thankful and appreciative to work on this project in Kingston."

The Tchaikovsky serenade is the most familiar piece on the program, and it is one of Watanabe's favorite compositions. "It's got everything. The finale has so much energy, and the beginning is my all-time favorite with that beautiful string sound."

■ BY RUDI HEMPE, FORMER KCMF PRESIDENT

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## RONALDO ROLIM PERFORMS IN SOLO PIANO RECITAL

Philadelphia-based Brazilian pianist **Ronaldo Rolim**, an Astral Artists prize winner, gets around. He has performed on four continents, from London to Budapest to Beijing, drawing reviews citing his "consummate elegance" and "a special capacity of moving an audience." You won't have to travel far to appreciate him when he presents a solo piano recital at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Saturday, July 28. It is in music, Rolim feels, where "I find the energy that gives true meaning to life." He will perform Granados' *Goyescas*, *Los Majos Enamorados*, *Op.11* and the first book of the Debussy Preludes. He points out that both pieces were written around the same time, ca.1909–1910, and "both composers knew each other fairly well." Rolim, 31, recently completed the doctor of Music Arts program at the Yale School of Music. His interest in music began at a young age — he gave his first public performance at age four. "My mother always pushed me hard when I was a child," he notes. "Back then I didn't really take things too seriously. Eventually I realized that she was right: it is impossible to achieve excellence without discipline." ■ BY BILL RODRIGUEZ



## ENSURING THE FUTURE OF THE FESTIVAL

Ticket sales account for one-third of the KCMF annual budget. Patron donations, grants, and corporate sponsorships make up the difference. Filling the funding gap is an annual challenge. In honor of our 30th anniversary, several friends of the Festival have provided funds to establish an endowment to help move the Festival away from year-to-year funding to a more secure and predictable future.

Our goal is to raise \$350,000 by our 35th anniversary in 2023. Growing this fund alongside our annual fundraising responsibilities will be a challenge, but it is essential for ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same remarkable music we all are fortunate to experience each summer.

Please share your generosity with the Festival by utilizing the enclosed donor envelope or make a donation online at [kingstonchambermusic.org](http://kingstonchambermusic.org). If you wish to confer with an individual about a gift, please contact Betsy Marcotte, Board President, or Winifred Brownell, Chair of the Individual Donor Committee at [giving@kingstonchambermusic.org](mailto:giving@kingstonchambermusic.org).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

■ **WISH TO CONTACT US?** We have a new phone number! Call 401-308-3614 for information or questions about the Festival, or email [info@kingstonchambermusic.org](mailto:info@kingstonchambermusic.org) for general inquiries.

■ **LOOKING FOR TICKETS?** Tickets can be purchased online at [kingstonchambermusic.org](http://kingstonchambermusic.org), or by calling the Box Office at 401-308-3614, or in person at our seasonal Box Office, Monday through Friday, June 4 through August 3, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Box Office is located near the back entrance to the URI Fine Arts Center.

■ **NEED ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED?** The URI Fine Arts Concert Hall is now equipped with a state-of-the-art assisted listening system. Patrons can take advantage of electronic sound amplifiers free of charge by requesting an individual unit at the box office prior to each concert.

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■ CONCERT 4: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

■ CONCERT 3: SUNDAY, JULY 29

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JOIN US FOR OUR 30TH SEASON!

EDITION OF Festival Notes  
SPRING/SUMMER 2018

P.O. BOX 1733, KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02881

Kingston Chamber Music festival