

Amelia Island
chamber music festival

23rd Season
2023 - 2024

Tickets Available Now
aicmf.org

23rd Season

Sheku Kanneh-Mason Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello	November 5
Big Band Holidays Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis	November 30
Meet the Artistic Director William Ransom & Yinzi Kong	January 14
The Magic of Mozart The Dover Quartet, David Shifrin, & William Ransom	January 19
Family Concert Featuring the Amelia Island Dance Festival	February 3
Jerry Douglas Band Jerry Douglas Band	February 25
Sibling Rivalry Andrés & Roberto Díaz, Helen & Michael Kim, Kate & William Ransom	March 9
"Sonata Mulattica" - Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata Rita Dove, Njioma Grevious, William Ransom	April 6
Juilliard String Quartet Juilliard String Quartet	April 14
CelloBration! Featuring Zuill Bailey	April 28
Picnic Concert Jacksonville Brass Quintet	May 11
Beethoven & Beer The Ariel Quartet	May 29
Festival Finale: Christopher Rex String Seminar The Ariel Quartet & Beth Newdome Fellows	June 1

*Performance venues, programs, dates, and times are subject to change.
Visit us at aicmf.org for the latest information.*

 *All venues for AICMF events are wheelchair accessible.*

Welcome!

The world's greatest music, internationally-known performers, the magic of the Island, a variety of beautiful concert venues- we hope that you will join us for an unforgettable experience as we celebrate the 23rd season of the **Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival!**

We kick off the season with one of classical music's newest megastars, cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**, who became a household name in 2018 after his performance for the Royal wedding at Windsor Castle was watched by nearly two *billion* people. Jazz legend **Wynton Marsalis** returns with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra which will be a highlight of our season, and we welcome back the extraordinary **Dover Quartet** as well.

Concert offerings will also include bluegrass great **Jerry Douglas**, a 15-time Grammy Award winner, with his band; "**Sibling Rivalry**" featuring three pairs of musical siblings duking it out on stage; a "**CelloBration**" with eight cellists led by the electrifying **Zuill Bailey**; the legendary **Juilliard String Quartet** joins us; Pulitzer Prize-winner and former Poet Laureate of the US **Rita Dove** will give a special program in which she will read from her "Sonata Mulattica", the true story of Beethoven's great "Kreutzer" Sonata which will then be performed by violinist **Njioma Grevious**, recent winner of the Sphinx Competition; and I will introduce myself musically to the Festival with a recital featuring "**Rhapsody in Blue**", and also be joined by my wife, violist **Yinzi Kong** for the beautiful Franck Sonata.

We will also offer our annual **Family Concert**, welcoming pianist **Julie Coucheron** back for a fun program of "**Musical Stories**" narrated by Kevin Fitzgerald, Associate Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony; present a free "**Picnic Concert**" with the **Jacksonville Brass Quintet**; and the **Ariel Quartet** will make their Festival debut with an entertaining "**Beethoven & Beer**" program at Mocama Beer Company.

We close the season with our annual **Christopher Rex String Seminar**, welcoming two young rising star Quartets to coach with the Ariel for a week and present an exciting **Festival Finale** concert all together.

Many of our concerts will sell out, so take a look through this brochure and *make your plans now* to join us for another unforgettable Festival!

William Ransom

Artistic Director



Special Thanks



We are so grateful to Dr. Martha Wilkins for generously sharing the artwork for our 23rd Season. The cover art, entitled "Concert Dress" was created by Festival Founder Christopher Rex.



The Board of Directors of Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival want to thank Eric Sakurai for his dedicated service to this organization as our Executive Director. He held the position from January 2021 to February 2023, guiding us successfully through the disruption caused by COVID and search for a new Artistic Director. We are grateful for all his contributions as a former board member, board treasurer and then Executive Director.

We wish you all the best, Eric!!

Festival Support

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has been delivering world-class performances and providing music education for promising young students since our founding in 2001. We have been able to do this thanks to your generous financial support. The largest support of our annual budget comes from individual donors and corporate sponsors like you. Visit us at aicmf.org to learn about the many benefits that are available to you by contributing at our various donor levels. In addition, we are a volunteer-driven organization, and you can support us by putting your skills to work as a Festival volunteer. Our website provides complete information on volunteer opportunities and how you can sign up.

Ticketing Specials

Visitors to Amelia Island

If you are visiting Amelia Island you may be eligible to receive a 50% discount on Festival tickets by presenting a valid confirmation from any lodging establishment located on Amelia Island. To get the discount - check availability, make your lodging reservation, and then call the Festival office at 904-261-1779 to purchase your discounted tickets.

Students Tickets

We are thrilled to offer students under the age of 25 tickets to most events for \$15. Tickets are available for purchase on aicmf.org. Some exclusions apply.

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Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the hottest classical musician onstage today, makes his Festival debut. He became a household name in 2018 after performing at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Windsor Castle, his performance having been greeted with universal excitement after being watched by nearly two billion people globally.

Sunday, November 5, 2023, 5pm
Amelia Island Plantation Chapel

Program

Johan Sebastian Bach: Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor BWV1008

Gwilym Simcock: Prayer for the Senses

Benjamin Britten: Cello Suite No. 1 Op. 72

Intermission

Leo Brouwer: Sonata No. 2 for solo cello

Edmund Finnis: Preludes I-V

Gaspar Cassadó: Suite for solo cello

Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason's career and performances span the globe. Whether performing for children in a school hall, at an underground club or in the world's leading concert venues, Sheku's mission is to make music accessible to all. After winning the BBC Young Musician competition in 2016, Sheku's performance at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Windsor Castle in 2018 was watched by two billion people worldwide.

A Decca Classics recording artist, his 2022 album, *Song*, showcases his innately lyrical playing in a wide and varied range of arrangements and collaborations. Sheku's 2020 album *Elgar* reached No. 8 in the overall Official UK Album Chart, making him the first ever cellist to reach the UK Top 10. Sheet music collections of his performance repertoire along with his own arrangements and compositions are published by Faber.

Sheku is a graduate of London's Royal Academy of Music where he studied with Hannah Roberts and in May 2022 was appointed as the Academy's first Menuhin Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring. He is an ambassador for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Future Talent, and Music Masters. Sheku was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2020 New Year's Honours List. He plays a Matteo Goffriller cello from 1700 which is on indefinite loan to him.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason appears by arrangement with
Enticott Music Management

Big Band Holidays

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

With soulful big band arrangements of songs both sacred and secular, Big Band Holidays is an uplifting Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis tradition enjoyed by audiences of all ages and backgrounds. In addition to some swinging JLCO instrumentals, special guest vocalist Ashley Pezzotti joins the band for imaginative new versions of classic holiday tunes.

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 7pm
First Baptist Church

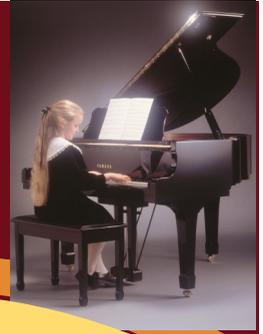
With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and guest artists spanning genres and generations, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of performances, education, and broadcast events each season in its home in New York City (Frederick P. Rose Hall, "The House of Swing") and around the world, for people of all ages. Jazz at Lincoln Center is led by Chairman Clarence Otis, Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl. Please visit us at jazz.org.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), comprising 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988 and spends over a third of the year on tour across the world. Featured in all aspects of Jazz at Lincoln Center's programming, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs and leads educational events in New York, across the U.S. and around the globe; in concert halls; dance venues; jazz clubs; public parks; and with symphony orchestras; ballet troupes; local students; and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and current and former Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra members Wynton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Ted Nash, Victor Goines, Sherman Irby, Chris Crenshaw, and Carlos Henriquez.

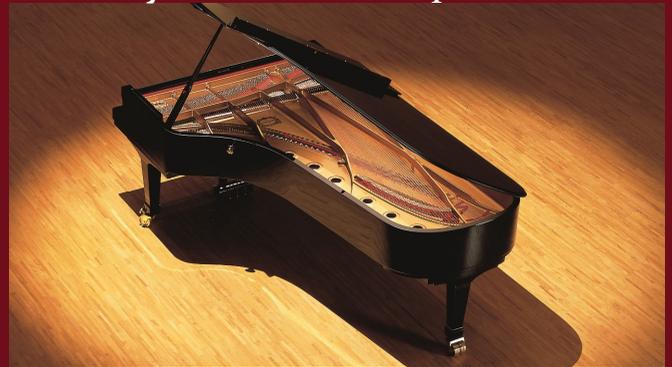
For more information on Jazz at Lincoln Center, please visit www.jazz.org.



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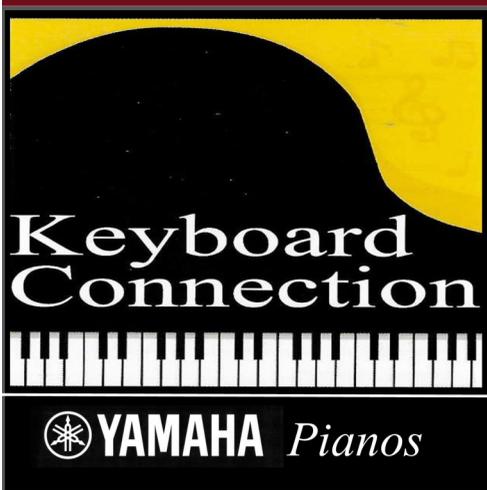
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Meet the Artistic Director

William Ransom & Yinzi Kong

Pianist William Ransom, AICMF's new Artistic Director, appears as a recitalist, soloist with orchestras, and chamber musician around the world. Come hear and meet him, along with his wife violist Yinzi Kong, a founding member of the international award-winning Vega Quartet, in music of Debussy, Franck, and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue in the original solo piano version.

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 5pm
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Program

Chopin: Ballade #1 in G Minor

Debussy: L'isle joyeuse

Franck: Sonata for Viola and Piano

Intermission

Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata for Viola and Piano

Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue

William Ransom

Pianist, Artistic Director, master teacher, editor, and judge for international competitions, William Ransom appears around the world as soloist with orchestras, recitalist, and chamber musician. He regularly collaborates with musicians including Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Stoltzman, William Preucil, Stephen Isserlis, Robert McDuffie, and members of the Emerson, Tokyo, Cleveland, Juilliard, American, St. Petersburg, Borromeo, Parker, Ariel and Lark String Quartets; the Empire Brass Quintet, Eroica Trio, and the percussion group Nexus among others. He has recorded for ACA Digital and Rising Star Records. Mr. Ransom is the Mary Emerson Professor of Piano at Emory University in Atlanta where he is founder and Artistic Director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. Mr. Ransom is Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina and for a decade was an artist faculty member at the Kamisaibara Pianists Camp in Japan. Recently, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.

Yinzi Kong

Violist Yinzi Kong, born and raised in Shanghai, China, was a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Vega String Quartet. Ms. Kong started her musical training at age five and gave her first public performances at seven. After moving to the United States in 1995, Ms. Kong received a bachelor's degree from the Harid Conservatory in Florida and a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music.



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THE RITZ-CARLTON

AMELIA ISLAND

The Magic of Mozart

The Dover Quartet, David Shifrin, & William Ransom

Festival Favorite the Dover Quartet is joined by master clarinetist David Shifrin (longtime Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Chamber Music Northwest) for Mozart's timeless Quintet as well as his dramatic Piano Quartet in G Minor with AICMF Artistic Director William Ransom.

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7pm

Ritz Carlton Amelia Island

Program

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, K. 478

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: String Quartet in E-Flat major, K. 428

Intermission

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581

The Dover Quartet

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by BBC Music Magazine, the two-time GRAMMY-nominated Dover Quartet is one of the world's most in-demand chamber ensembles. The Dover Quartet is the Penelope B. Watkins Ensemble in Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music and holds additional residencies at Northwestern University and the Artosphere festival. The group's awards include a stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, grand and first prizes at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. Its honors include the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award.

David Shifrin

Winner of both the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1987) and the Avery Fisher Prize (2000), David Shifrin is in constant demand as an orchestral soloist, recitalist and chamber music collaborator.

Mr. Shifrin has appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras and the Dallas, Seattle, Houston, Milwaukee, Detroit, Fort Worth, Hawaii and Phoenix Symphonies, among many others in the United States, as well as with orchestras in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan. He has also received critical acclaim as a recitalist, appearing at such venues as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie's Hall's Zankel Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York City, as well as the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. A much sought after chamber musician, he has collaborated frequently with such distinguished ensembles and artists as the Guarneri, Tokyo, Emerson, Orion, Dover and Miró String Quartets, as well as Wynton Marsalis, André Watts, Emanuel Ax and André Previn.



The Dover Quartet appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music, where it serves as the Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence.

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*Dover Quartet Photo: Roy Cox
David Shifrin Photo: Yuki Tei*



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Family Concert

Featuring The Amelia Island Dance Festival

Enjoy two Musical Stories- Paddington Bear's First Concert and The Emperor's New Clothes. Designed for young listeners but perfect for audiences of all ages, the dazzling Julie Coucheron, pianist, performs, and Susan Dodge's delightful Amelia Island Dance Festival dancers will add to the festivities.

Saturday, February 3, 2024, 3pm
Fernandina Beach Middle School

Featuring

Kevin Fitzgerald, narrator
Charae Kreuger, cello
Julie Coucheron, piano
Alexandra Shatalova Prior, oboe
Christopher Chappell, violin
Yinzi Kong, viola
Susan Dodge, choreographer Amelia Island Dance Festival

Julie Coucheron

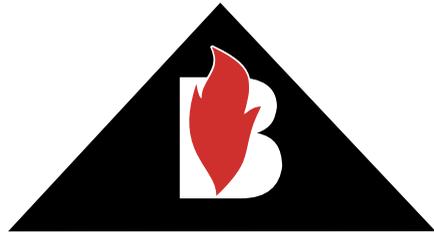
Born in Oslo, Norway, Ms. Coucheron began playing the piano at age four. She earned her Bachelor and Master's Degree with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At a young age, Ms. Coucheron had already established an international career, winning awards and prizes in Italy, Germany, UK and in the United States.

Ms. Coucheron has worked with musicians such as Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Chee-Yun Kim, Christopher O'Riley and Yo-Yo Ma and has toured Europe, America, South America and Asia, performing regularly in halls like Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Kevin Fitzgerald

Kevin Fitzgerald has been the Associate Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony since the 2022/23 Season, during which he conducted over 35 performances with the orchestra. In July 2023, he won the Special Prize for the Best Performance of the Contemporary Piece at the Mahler Competition, a prize sponsored by the Mahler Foundation. In 2021, he was a Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Fellow and, beginning in 2019, has been awarded Career Assistance Grants by the Solti Foundation U.S. for four consecutive years. In the 2023/24 Season, Fitzgerald is excited to lead a recording of Sean Shepherd's Concerto for Ensemble with the University of Chicago's Grossman Ensemble and to make his subscription debut with the Cape Symphony. Also this season, Fitzgerald will return to the New York Philharmonic as a cover conductor for three programs.





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Jerry Douglas Band

Jerry Douglas Band

Dobro master and 15-time GRAMMY winner Jerry Douglas is to the resonator guitar what Jimi Hendrix was to the electric guitar, elevating, transforming, and reinventing the instrument in countless ways. Additionally, Douglas is a freewheeling, forward-thinking recording and touring artist whose output incorporates elements of country, bluegrass, rock, jazz, blues, and Celtic into his distinctive musical vision.

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 5pm
Ritz Carlton Amelia Island

Dobro master and 14-time Grammy winner Jerry Douglas is a bandleader, producer, session musician, instructor, and a very funny guy! He's produced over a hundred albums and he's featured on over 1,600 studio albums. He's a member of Alison Krauss & Union Station, co-bandleader for Transatlantic Sessions in the United Kingdom, founder for the Grammy winner bluegrass super-group The Earls of Leicester, and he leads The Jerry Douglas Band.

Since 2017, The Jerry Douglas Band has been forging new paths into the musical horizon with deep roots in bluegrass and folk that spreads out into the Americana and jazz landscapes. In 2021, The Jerry Douglas Band released an album, *Leftover Feelings*, with legendary singersongwriter John Hiatt. The album was nominated for a 2022 Grammy for "Best Americana Album," and their previous record *What If* also received a Grammy nomination for "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album." They perform at some of the top US festivals such as Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Pilgrimage Music Festival, Big Ears Festival, DelFest, FreshGrass, Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, Merlefest, and many others. In addition to Douglas, The Jerry Douglas Band includes Daniel Kimbro on bass, Christian Sedelmyer on fiddle, and Mike Seal on guitar.



Photo: Patrick Sheehan

Daniel Kimbro

Raised on American Roots music in and around Appalachia, Daniel Kimbro is a multi Grammy-nominated bassist with numerous stage and studio appearances to his credit. Currently touring and recording with The Jerry Douglas Band, The Earls of Leicester, the Transatlantic Sessions and many others, Daniel utilizes his extensive experience within Jazz, Folk and Bluegrass genres to maintain a busy freelance career from his twin homes of Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee.

Christian Sedelmyer

Christian Sedelmyer is a daring and diversified musician who brings a 21st-century vision to the five-string violin. Raised in Erie, PA and based in Nashville since 2008, he's been a member of the Jerry Douglas Band since Summer of 2014. In addition, he's forged two successful bands (The Farewell Drifters and 10 String Symphony) and become a valued side musician and collaborator in contemporary string band music. Sedelmyer contributed to the IBMA Award winning 2018 Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year. He regularly collaborates and records with Andrew Marlin (Watchhouse), and his debut solo instrumental album, *Ravine Palace*, featuring Douglas, Marlin, Eli West (guitar) and Clint Mullican (bass) was released in 2020.

Mike Seal

Mike Seal is a twice grammy-nominated guitarist and composer based in Nashville, TN. Originally from Bridgewater, Virginia, Mike has been touring and recording with a wide variety of bands including: The Jerry Douglas Band, Sierra Hull, Bob Lanzetti, Viktor Kraus Band, Jeff Sipe Trio, Sarah Siskind, Danny Barnes, The Jeff Coffin Mu-tet, Ike Stubblefield, Yonrico Scott, Keith L. Brown, The Black Lillies, and many others. Mike's first solo EP, *Dogwoods*, released in 2018 and is available on Spotify and other streaming services.

Amelia Island Dance Festival



September 5 - 8, 2024



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Sibling Rivalry

*Andrés & Roberto Díaz, Helen & Michael Kim,
Kate & William Ransom*

Three pairs of extraordinary musical siblings- Andrés and Roberto Díaz; Helen and Michael Kim; and Kate and William Ransom showcase the special musical bond that siblings experience both on and off stage. Dvořák's sparkling Piano Quintet is featured.

Saturday, March 9, 2024, 5pm
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Program

Hindemith: Duo for Viola and Cello- the Díazes

Dvořák: Romance, Op. 11- the Ransoms

Kreisler: Liebeslied and Sarasate: Carmen Fantasy- the Kims

Intermission

Dvořák: Piano Quintet in A Major- all Siblings



Andrés Díaz



Roberto Díaz



Helen Kim



Michael Kim



Kate Ransom



William Ransom



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“Sonata Mulattica”

Beethoven’s Kreutzer Sonata

Rita Dove, Njioma Grevious, & William Ransom

Pulitzer Prize winner and former Poet Laureate of the United States, Rita Dove reads from her award-winning true tale of the volatile and dramatic relationship between the black violinist George Bridgetower and Beethoven which resulted in the composer’s iconic “Kreutzer” Sonata. Violinist Njioma Grevious, recent winner of both the Concert Artists Guild and Sphinx competitions, performs the Beethoven with pianist William Ransom.

Saturday, April 6, 2024, 5pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Program

Readings from “Sonata Mulattica”

Intermission

Beethoven: Sonata in A Major, Op. 47, “Kreutzer”

Njioma Grevious

Described as “superb” by the Chicago Classical Review, violinist Njioma Chinyere Grevious is an emerging, passionate and versatile solo, chamber and orchestral musician and performer. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a winner of its John Erskine Prize for scholastic and artistic achievement. In 2023, Njioma won both the Robert F. Smith First Prize and the Audience Choice awards in the Senior Division of the Sphinx Competition and joint prizes in the CAG/YCAT auditions. In 2022, she was the winner of concerto competitions at the University of Delaware and the Newark Symphony Orchestra. Njioma was also a winner of the Music Academy of the West Keston-Max Fellowship to study and perform in the London Symphony Orchestra in November 2022. She won First Prizes for Performance and Interpretation in the 2018 Prix Ravel in Fontainebleau, France.

Rita Dove

Rita Dove, former US Poet Laureate (1993–1995), won the Pulitzer Prize for her third book of poetry, *Thomas and Beulah*, in 1987; her latest poetry collection, *Playlist for the Apocalypse*, was published in 2021. She received the 1996 National Humanities Medal from President Clinton and the 2011 National Medal of Arts from President Obama. Recent honors include the 2019 Wallace Stevens Award, the American Academy of Arts & Letters’ 2021 Gold Medal in poetry, a 2022 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a 2022 Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress and the 2023 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation. Her song cycle *Seven for Luck*, with composer John Williams, premiered at Tanglewood in 1998, and her 2021 song cycle *A Standing Witness*, with music by Richard Danielpour, has been performed at the Kennedy Center and other venues. She also collaborated repeatedly with Cuban-American composer Tania Leon. A 2023 recipient of the National Book Foundation’s Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, Rita Dove teaches creative writing at the University of Virginia.



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Juilliard String Quartet

Juilliard String Quartet

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Sunday, April 14, 2024, 5pm

Amelia Plantation Chapel

Program

Beethoven: String Quartet in F major, Op. 135

Janacek: String Quartet No. 2 'Intimate Letters' (1928)

Intermission

Schubert: String Quartet No. 15 in G major, D. 887

Areta Zulla, violin

Ronald Copes, violin

Molly Carr, viola

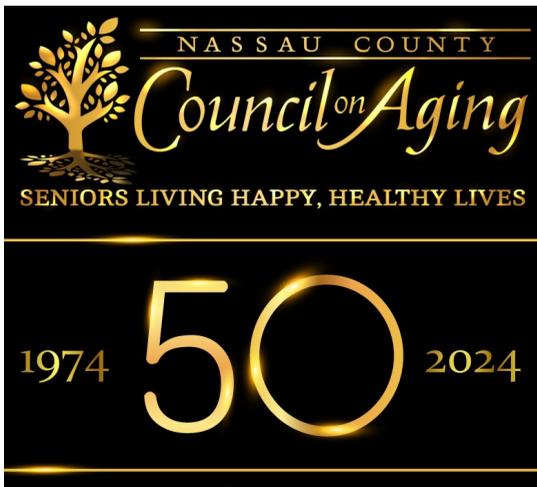
Astrid Schween, cello

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-The Boston Musical Intelligencer, January 14, 2020





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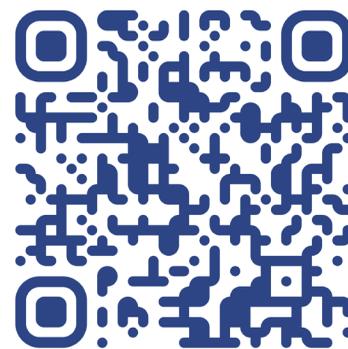
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CelloBration!

Featuring Zuill Bailey

Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey leads a crack ensemble of 8 cellists in a celebration of the life and work of Christopher Rex, beloved Founder of AICMF. A special transcription of Tchaikovsky's brilliant "Rococo Variations" is featured.

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 5pm

Amelia Plantation Chapel

Program

J. S. Bach: Suite in C Major

P. I. Tchaikovsky: Andante Cantabile

Carlos Gardel: Tango- Por una Cabeza

Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras #5

Intermission

Serge Rachmaninoff: Vocalise

Peter Tchaikovsky: Rococo Variations

Zuill Bailey

Zuill Bailey, widely considered one of the premiere cellists in the world, is a Grammy Award winning, internationally renowned soloist, recitalist, Artistic Director and teacher. His rare combination of celebrated artistry, technical wizardry and engaging personality has made him one of the most sought after and active cellists today.

Mr. Bailey has been featured with symphony orchestras and music festivals worldwide. He won the Best Solo Performance Grammy Award in 2017, for his recording of Michael Daugherty's "Tales of Hemingway," with the Nashville Symphony led by Giancarlo Guerrero. His extensive discography includes his newest release – the world premier recording of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's Cello Concerto with the Santa Rosa Symphony. In 2021, he released his second recording of the Bach Cello Suites for PS Audio's Octave Records label, recorded and mixed in stereo and multichannel sound.



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Picnic Concert in the Park

Jacksonville Brass Quintet

Bring a blanket and a picnic or enjoy a meal from one of the local Food Trucks as the Jacksonville Brass Quintet performs al fresco in the park for our annual free Community Concert.

Sunday, May 11, 2024, 5pm
Central Park

The Jacksonville Brass Quintet is a versatile ensemble performing a wide array of brass chamber music. Its members are artist educators who have served on the faculties of the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Columbus State University, Kennesaw State University, and the University of Georgia. They have performed with many professional orchestras, including the Jacksonville Symphony, U.S. Navy Fleet Bands, Oregon Ballet Theatre Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Iowa, Minnesota Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, the Florida Orchestra, and the Monterrey Symphony Orchestra of Mexico.



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Beethoven & Beer

The Ariel Quartet

The Ariel Quartet, winners of the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, makes their Festival debut in an entertaining program of duos, trios, and quartets by the Master, Ludwig van Beethoven, in a fun setting- the Mocama Beer Company. Enjoy a brew or other favorite beverage while the Ariel dazzle you with their virtuosity!

Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 5pm

Mocama Beer Company

Program

Eyeglasses Duo for Viola & Cello

String Trio for Violin, Viola & Cello

Favorite movements from Select String Quartets

Distinguished by its virtuosity, probing musical insight, and impassioned, fiery performances, the Ariel Quartet has garnered critical praise worldwide for more than twenty years. Formed when the members were just teenagers studying at the Jerusalem Academy Middle School of Music and Dance in Israel, the Ariel was named a recipient of the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, granted by Chamber Music America in recognition of artistic achievement and career support. The Quartet serves as the Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where they direct the chamber music program and present a concert series in addition to maintaining a busy touring schedule in the United States and abroad.

Recent highlights include the Ariel Quartet's Carnegie Hall debut, a series of performances at Lincoln Center together with pianist Inon Barnatan and the Mark Morris Dance Group, as well as the release of a Brahms and Bartók album for Avie Records. In 2020, the Ariel gave the U.S. premiere of the Quintet for Piano and Strings by Daniil Trifonov, with the composer as pianist for the Linton Chamber Music Series in Cincinnati.

In their 2023-24 season, the Ariel Quartet presents performances of an anniversary commission by Matan Porat. A longstanding friend of the Ariel Quartet, Matan Porat's new work is a universally relatable journey about the complexities of string-quartet-life over the years. Upcoming performances include ones for the Aspect Chamber Music Series, Perlman Music Program, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Charleston Chamber Music Society, and the Chamber Music Society of Central Kentucky.

The Quartet has dedicated much of its artistic energy and musical prowess to the groundbreaking Beethoven quartets and has performed the complete Beethoven cycle on five occasions throughout the United States and Europe. The Ariel Quartet regularly collaborates with today's eminent and rising young musicians and ensembles, including pianist Orion Weiss, cellist Paul Katz, and the American, Pacifica, and Jerusalem String Quartets. The Quartet has toured with cellist Alisa Weilerstein and performed frequently with pianists Jeremy Denk and Menahem Pressler. In addition, the Ariel served as Quartet-in-Residence for the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival, the Yellow Barn Music Festival, and the Perlman Music Program, as well as the Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Festival.



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Festival Finale

Christopher Rex String Seminar

The Ariel Quartet & Beth Newdome Fellows

Catch two rising star string quartets, the Festival's Beth Newdome Fellows, featured in concert along with the distinguished Ariel Quartet, culminating with all playing Mendelsohn's miraculous Octet for Strings together.

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 3pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Music education for concert audiences, students, and aspiring young musicians has been a core mission of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival since our founding in 2001. We are helping to build a new generation of passionate and educated music lovers who will cherish and support this great music and the musicians who dedicate their lives to it forever.

In 2019, the Festival added the Spring Institute to its educational outreach programs, and in 2023 it was renamed the Christopher Rex String Seminar. The Christopher Rex String Seminar is a significant part of fulfilling the Festival's mission of offering music education to concert attendees, students and aspiring young musicians.

Each year two emerging String Quartets are invited to have the extraordinary opportunity to work closely with a professional string quartet over several days. This year, we are thrilled to have the Ariel Quartet as our teaching quartet. The student quartets receive the Beth Newdome Fellowship having their tuition and lodging covered. The quartets are coached on prepared repertoire as well as rehearsing two movements each of the Mendelssohn Octet for Strings with the Ariel Quartet to be performed at the final concert on Saturday, June 1st.

This year, we are pleased to welcome the Rasa and Rose Quartets to participate in the Christopher Rex String Seminar. They will be coached by the award winning Ariel Quartet.

2024 Beth Newdome Fellows

Rasa Quartet



Rose Quartet



Education Initiatives



Over the past twenty-three years, AICMF has provided learning experiences for young musicians ranging from violin lessons for children to masterclasses to coaching and training for college-level musicians. Our programs include: The Christopher Rex String Seminar and a multigenerational strings class. In addition to these programs, we also provide outreach concerts to local schools and assisted living facilities in Nassau County. This season, we are thrilled to collaborate with Jacksonville University in a Master Class with the Dover Quartet in January 2024.

The Christopher Rex String Seminar



Beginning with our inaugural year, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival knew the importance of Music Education. Master Classes and tutoring for our Young Resident Artists program played an important role in our early seasons. Now in our 23rd season, our main education initiative has not only thrived, but expanded into annual The Christopher Rex String Seminar. We invite rising star string students to be our Beth Newdome Fellowship Artists. These students are on the cusp of their professional careers and hail from the nation's leading conservatories and universities. For a week in late May, they are mentored by professional musicians. This training program culminates in a series of public performances including outreach concerts in the community and our Festival Finale Concert in June.

Amelia Strings



In collaboration with Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA), the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has been thrilled to launch a multigenerational strings class. Participants meet each week to work in a fun and unique string orchestra ensemble. Participants include people of all ages who want to learn to play or already play violin, viola, cello, or double bass. We offer the class to people ages 11+ on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:45 pm at NCCOA's Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center in Fernandina Beach. The course is taught by AICMF Executive Director, Dr. Nina Knight.

Sponsors & Contributors

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival gratefully acknowledges our many contributors for their financial support. Without you, our Festival would not exist, and we sincerely thank you for your support. The following list presents contributions and pledges made from August 1, 2022, through October 1, 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed a name, we sincerely apologize and ask that you notify us at 904-261-1779 or email us for correction.

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