

Newport Music Festival Announces 50th Anniversary Schedule July 4-22

Joshua Bell, Imani Winds, Jake Heggie, Charlie Albright and Frederica von Stade among the performers featured during the 19-day 42-concert festival

NEWPORT, R.I. — When you have 49 seasons featuring over 2,500 performances in your storied past, curating a 50th anniversary festival that celebrates both the past and the present can be a daunting task. However, that is exactly what [Newport Music Festival](#) Executive Director [Pamela A. Pantos](#) and her team have done. From July 4-22, this golden anniversary season of the Newport Music Festival will feature [Joshua Bell](#), [A Far Cry](#), [Imani Winds](#), [Jake Heggie](#), [Charlie Albright](#) and [Frederica von Stade](#), to name just a few artists who will perform in the 40-plus concert festival. Concerts will take place in the renowned Newport Mansions, including The Breakers, The Elms, The Chinese Tea House and Belcourt Castle as well as other nearby locations. Tickets are now on sale for all concerts and can be purchased at www.NewportMusic.org.

Highlights of the 50th anniversary festival include:

- **Fourth of July** Opening Festival Concert Celebration with [Boston Brass](#)
- **Sunrise Concerts** at the **Chinese Tea House** on July 6, 13 and 20
- An evening with **legendary mezzo soprano Frederica von Stade** and **composer and pianist Jake Heggie** on July 7
- The highly anticipated return of **A Far Cry**, who will perform Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and Philip Glass' Symphony No. 3 on July 8
- **Free "From the Porch" concerts** at the Newport Art Museum on July 10 and 17
- [Bernstein Centennial Concert](#) with excerpts from "West Side Story" and "Anniversaries" and featuring pianist Jeffrey Siegel on July 12
- The Newport debut of South Korean pianist [Yekwon Sunwoo](#), the gold medalist of the **2017 Van Cliburn Competition**, on July 12
- Grammy-nominated **Imani Winds** make their Newport debut at The Breakers on July 13
- [Young Persons' Concert](#) featuring pianist Jeffrey Siegel on July 14
- **Joshua Bell** headlines the [Newport Music Festival Gala](#) on July 15
- Festival Ensemble-in-Residence [Summer Strings](#) performs everything from Led Zeppelin to Michael Jackson to Brahms at **Newport Vineyards** on July 19
- The Newport debut of pianist, composer and improviser **Charlie Albright** on July 21

"In looking through 49 years of programming, we have discovered fascinating information on programming, events, artists and the trends of the festival over time," said Pantos. "For the Newport Music Festival devotee and for those who have yet to join us, our festival will feature revelations, not only on the genesis and forgotten history of the festival, but where we are headed as an organization."

Staying true to the roots

Over the decades the festival has gained a loyal fan base that journeys to Newport each July from around the globe to take in the sights and sounds. For those who love the festival, they will be delighted with the return of many past performers, including legendary mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade who performed during the festival's second season, directly before her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1970. The festival will also feature many internationally renowned resident festival artists, some of whom have been performing at the festival for decades, such as cellist [Sergey Antonov](#), flautist [Göran Marcusson](#), and violinist [Irina Muresanu](#).

Historic venues like The Breakers and The Elms that have played an equally important role in making the festival a must-attend event will host dozens of concerts throughout the 2 1/2 weeks. Other venues such as The Chinese Tea House at the Marble House will continue to host the in-demand sunrise concerts, which have been expanded from one concert to three concerts this season. Belcourt Castle will also make a long-awaited return as a festival venue, including hosting a Friday the 13th themed cocktail party.

The festival will continue to present the Mark P. Malkovich III Memorial Concert, a concert that reasserts the festival's commitment to bringing emerging artists to Newport. This year the evening will feature the Newport debut of **Yekwon Sunwoo**, the gold medalist of the **2017 Van Cliburn Competition**.

Looking forward to the future

The 50th anniversary festival will reflect a new commitment to expand the festival's programming to celebrate music of the 20th and 21st centuries and living composers. Two concerts will feature renowned pianist and composer Jack Heggie. On July 7 Heggie will perform with American opera legend Frederica von Stade. On July 8 he will perform a solo concert featuring excerpts from "Rise & Fall" (for soprano and piano) and "A Question of Light" (for baritone and piano), which were created in collaboration with librettist Gene Scheer.

This festival also marks a renewed commitment to feature emerging artists and to reach out to younger audiences with special events that move away from the traditional concert format. Newport Music Festival's resident artist program will expand to feature vocalists, such as Soprano Alexandra Batsios, Mezzo-Soprano Renée Rapier and Baritone Trevor Neal. The festival will also feature a free concert series on the Newport Art Museum lawn and a free fourth of July kick-off celebration with Boston Brass at King Park as a prelude to the fireworks.

For tickets and more information, please visit www.NewportMusic.org.

About the Newport Music Festival

Since 1969 the Newport Music Festival has presented world-renowned and emerging classical music artists. In its 49 seasons, the Rhode Island festival has hosted over 2,500 concerts featuring 130 artists making their American debuts, leaving an indelible mark in classical music history.

The upcoming 50th anniversary season (July 4-22, 2018) will feature a broadening of the festival's musical landscape — celebrating the anniversaries of Rossini, Debussy and Bernstein — and will include works by living composers. The festival will continue to honor its legacy by presenting the Mark P. Malkovich III Memorial Concert, the highly regarded French Opera Night and three Sunrise Concerts at the Chinese Tea House. It will also renew its pledge to the local community and visitors to Newport by presenting free public concerts and strengthening its commitment to local artists and music programs.

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Newport Music Festival
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