

Note: Images are available in the [online media gallery](#).

## SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

2021

PRESS RELEASE

### Spoletto's Chamber Music Programming Will Be Available for Streaming During the Festival

For the first time, Spoleto is videotaping its famous Dock Street Theatre concerts.

Plus: Past choir members and musicians of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra to be featured in video profiles and three recorded performances.

**May 19, 2021 (Charleston, South Carolina)** – Throughout the 2021 season, concert highlights of Spoleto Festival USA's keystone programming, its chamber music series at the historic Dock Street Theatre, will be available to view on Spoleto's YouTube channel, website, and social media platforms. Each of the 11 programs will be video-recorded, with performance highlights and artist introductions posted for streaming at 5:00pm soon after the in-person concerts, beginning May 29. The videos will be available through June 18.

Says Festival Director of Chamber Music Geoff Nuttall: "It's incredibly special to play and hear chamber music in a venue as intimate as Dock Street Theatre. Yet due to physical distancing measures, only 116 people could be present at each performance—and that just wasn't going to be enough for what is planned." At the same time, he continues, "there's a tiredness from digital concerts. My goal is to give the flavor of Dock Street without requiring someone to sit in front of a computer for an hour." Videos will be roughly 15 to 20 minutes in length and feature two to three concert segments from the 11 programs, including the exciting new works by 2021 composer-in-residence Jessica Meyer, Osvaldo Golijov (in residence in 1998, 2002, 2011, and 2016), and Siegfried Thiele. (Brief descriptions are in the schedule below.)

Nuttall intends for the videos to accompany South Carolina Public Radio's broadcasts of the full-length concerts. "The radio station has aired each chamber music program for several decades, and the sound quality is impeccable," he says. "It is ideal listening." Broadcasts of full concerts from the 2021 season program begin Friday, June 4, with concerts airing weekdays at 11:00am ET on the show "Sonatas and Soundscapes." Listeners can stream the complete radio broadcasts online at [southcarolinapublicradio.org](http://southcarolinapublicradio.org) or through smart speakers.

Spoletto Festival USA will release three additional digital performances. On May 29 and June 4, Festival Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller presents two short choral concerts, repertoire to be announced. On June 5, Irish mezzo-soprano Naomi Louisa O'Connell (last at the Festival in 2017 in *Farnace*) performs a new site-specific work, *Arden*. This 6-minute digital performance was composed by Festival Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy and includes recorded sounds from the Irish town of Ballyvaughan in the Burren, where O'Connell has spent the last year.

A unique digital project will complement these performances: From May 28 to June 13, Spoleto will share 5- to 10-minute video profiles of individual Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and choir members from recent seasons. With an aim to showcase individual members of each ensemble (often seen as single entities), the 22 video profiles will discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on these young musicians. Speaking individually, each will share how their relationships to their art, instruments, and daily practice has changed in the past year and what their current career paths look like. To create the profiles, musicians were interviewed by Renate Rohlfing, a collaborative pianist at Spoleto and a practicing music therapist who received her master's in music psychotherapy from New York University this year. The videos will also include short solo performances.

All videos are free to view and will be available through June 18, 2021.

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## Program Schedule

All digital content will be posted to [YouTube at 5:00pm](#). They will remain available through June 18.

Specific repertoire noted below is subject to change.

### **May 29**

*Chamber Music – Program I, excerpts including:*

*Source of Joy* | Jessica Meyer

Jessica Meyer, *viola/loop pedal*

*Choir Concert*

Repertoire and performers TBA

### **May 31**

*Chamber Music – Program II, excerpts including:*

*She Sailed the Savage Seas*, premiere | Jessica Meyer

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Piano Quintet No. 2, op. 20; the third movement | Ludwig Thuille

St. Lawrence String Quartet; Gilles Vonsattel, *piano*

**About *She Sailed the Savage Seas*:** Jessica Meyer composed this work for the St. Lawrence String Quartet, celebrating their 25th season at Spoleto Festival USA. The piece was inspired by Anne Bonny, one of few female pirates who was said to have lived in Charleston in the early 17th century. Meyer became fascinated with the legend of Bonny's pirating career and eventual disappearance while researching Charleston's early history.

## June 1

*Chamber Music – Program III, excerpts including:*

*From Our Ashes*, premiere | Jessica Meyer

Livia Sohn, *violin*

String Quintet in C major, D. 956; the second movement | Franz Schubert

St. Lawrence String Quartet; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

**About *From Our Ashes*:** Jessica Meyer composed this work for violinist Livia Sohn. The two had first met as students at Juilliard; Meyer said she always admired Sohn's playing and powerful stage presence. Meyer writes: "When I heard Livia had taken a break from playing after struggling with focal dystonia, I offered to write a piece in a way that would be comfortable for her to play when she was ready to pick up her violin again. Earlier this year, we began the composition process by discussing which specific technical actions we should avoid, and I wrote the piece with those enabling constraints. I find many parallels between this piece and our collective pandemic experience. We have a new set of limitations, but we can still live well within them."

## June 3

*Chamber Music – Program IV, excerpts including:*

Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor, op. 105; the first movement | Robert Schumann

Geoff Nuttall, *violin*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

Trio in E-flat major, K. 498 "Kegelstatt;" the first movement | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*

## June 4

*Chamber Music – Program V, excerpts including:*

Oboe Concerto in G minor, HWV 287; third and fourth movements | George Frederic Handel

James Austin Smith, *oboe*; with Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord*; Geoff Nuttall and Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

*Choir Concert*

Repertoire and singers TBA

## **June 5**

### *Digital performance*

*Arden*, digital premiere | John Kennedy

Naomi Louisa O'Connell, *mezzo soprano*;

Renate Rolhfing, *piano*; Giancarlo Latta, *violin*; Celia Daggy, *viola*; Suebin Jin, *cello*

## **June 6**

### *Chamber Music – Program VI, excerpts including:*

*American Haiku* | Paul Wiancko

Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

Sextet in C major, op. 37; the first movement | Ernő Dohnányi

Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*; Jennifer Frautschi, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*;

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; David Byrd-Marrow, *horn*

## **June 7**

### *Chamber Music – Program VII, excerpts including:*

*Milonga*, live premiere | Osvaldo Golijov

Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

Septet in E-flat major, op. 20; the third movement | Ludwig van Beethoven

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Monica Ellis, *bassoon*; David Byrd-Marron, *horn*; Jennifer Frautschi, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

**About *Milonga*:** Osvaldo Golijov's recent work receives its live, in-person premiere at Spoleto on June 6, 2021. Written during the pandemic for cellist Alisa Weilerstein, the piece stems from a melody made famous by violinist Jascha Heifetz, which Golijov reimagined and reconfigured, using it as a basis for a milonga—an Argentinian ballroom dance, similar to the tango. Golijov says, "I imagine the cello and piano are dancers in motion, with fast rhapsodic legwork and calm upper bodies. I might describe it as a 'milonga fantasy' on a Jewish tune—though the original melody is hard to find."

## **June 9**

### *Chamber Music – Program VIII, excerpts including:*

"Pensieri, voi mi tormentate" from *Agrippina* | George Frederic Handel

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Geoff Nuttall, Livia Sohn, Jennifer Frautschi, Eva Dove, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord*

Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra, op. 88; the first movement | Max Bruch, arr. Todd Palmer

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola*; Jennifer Frautschi, Geoff Nuttall, Livia Sohn, Eva, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, Arlen Hlusko, Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Monica Ellis, *bassoon*; David Byrd-Marrow, *horn*

### **June 10**

*Chamber Music – Program IX, excerpts including:*

*Ballade für Oboe*, premiere | Siegfried Thiele

James Austin Smith, *oboe*

Nonet in F minor, op. 2; the first movement | Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*; Jennifer Frautschi, Geoff Nuttall, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; David Byrd-Marrow, *horn*; Monica Ellis, *bassoon*

**About *Ballade für Oboe*:** James Austin Smith will present this premiere, a gift to him from East German composer Siegfried Thiele. When in-person performances ceased in 2020, Smith rekindled a special research interest of his—music created in East Germany before the country’s reunification in 1990—and traveled to Berlin and Leipzig to meet composers of the time. While there, he spent an afternoon conversing with Thiele. Soon after the visit, Smith received a surprise package in the mail: the score for a new work for oboe, written for Smith himself. Through this piece and his research overall, Smith hopes to draw attention to the creativity and artistry from that 45-year period, often overlooked or disregarded due to the region’s affiliation with communism. Read more [here](#) (original German press [here](#)).

### **June 12**

*Chamber Music – Program X, excerpts including:*

Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat major, op. 97 “Archduke”; the first movement | Ludwig van Beethoven

Inon Barnatan, *piano*; Geoff Nuttall, *violin*; Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*

“Pie Jesu” from *Requiem in D minor* | Gabriel Fauré

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; Pedja Muzijevic, *organ*; Geoff Nuttall, Livia Sohn, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

### **June 13**

*Chamber Music – Program XI, excerpts including:*

Horn Concerto No. 1 in D major, K. 412; the first movement | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, arr. Ben Loeb

David Byrd-Marrow, *horn*; Geoff Nuttall, Jennifer Frautschi, Livia Sohn, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*

Violin Concerto in D minor, WoO 23 | Robert Schumann, arr. Benjamin Britten

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Geoff Nuttall, Jennifer Frautschi, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *violin*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33 | Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arr. Todd Palmer

Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*; Jennifer Frautschi, Geoff Nuttall, *violin*; Hsin-Yun Huang, *viola*; Arlen Hlusko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; David Byrd-Marrow, *horn*

## **May 28 – June 13, daily**

*Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra profiles, featuring:*

Najette Abouelhadi, *cello*; Omri Barak, *trumpet*; Viola Chan, *flute*; Andrew François, *viola*; Clifton Joey Guidry, *bassoon*; Israel Gutierrez, *trombone*; Sidney Hopson, *percussion*; Kayla Howell, *horn*; Abby Kent, *harp*; Austin Lewellen, *double bass*; Jarrett McCourt, *tuba*; Francesca McNeeley, *cello*; Aurora Mendez, *violin*; Alfonso Noriega, *viola*; Priscilla Rinehart, *horn*; Michelle Sung, *flute*; Tamara Winston, *oboe*

## **May 30, June 3, June 7, June 10, June 13**

*Vocalist profiles, featuring:*

Jennah Delp; Kyle VanSchoonhoven; Andrew Cooper; Madeline Healey; Vinroy Brown

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## **Spoletto Festival USA**

Founded in 1977, Spoleto Festival USA is an annual 17-day performing arts festival in Charleston, SC, that presents leading artists in classical and popular music, opera, jazz, dance, and theater. The 2021 season takes place May 28 to June 13 in various locations on the downtown peninsula. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Download the [Spoleto Festival USA press kit](#).

**Images:** A selection of high-resolution images can be found in Spoleto Festival USA's [online gallery](#).

For more information, visit the [press room](#).