

For Immediate Release

## Announcing the program for Bank of America Chamber Music

Eleven programs feature an eclectic mix of contemporary and classical, with inspired connections to broader Festival programming

*May 26 to June 11; Dock Street Theatre; 11:00am and 1:00pm; tickets available now*

**March 14, 2023 (Charleston, SC)** — Spoleto Festival USA General Director and CEO Mena Mark Hanna today announced the full program for the 2023 Bank of America Chamber Music series at Dock Street Theatre. Tickets are available for purchase, online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or by calling 843.579.3100.

A bedrock of Spoleto since its inaugural season, the Bank of America Chamber Music series exemplifies the creative ethos upon which the Festival was built. Works appearing on the 11 programs reflect vibrant and wide-ranging perspectives, compositional styles, and historical periods—a dynamism represented across the multidisciplinary festival and championed by Geoff Nuttall, Spoleto’s late Director of Chamber Music. Said Nuttall in a 2019 statement: “I love combining the old with the new, the standards of the repertoire with rarely heard gems. I want to encourage audience members to open their ears, discover new things from a musical point of view, and think about possibilities for future listening.”

“The universal success of our chamber music programming was propelled by Geoff’s wild, electrifying curatorial style,” says Hanna. “This season is a continuation of his legacy that celebrates his dedication to interdisciplinary artistic creation and chamber music’s most promising talent.”

The series in 2023 bears Nuttall’s indelible influence; the programs, curated by several of Nuttall’s closest musical colleagues, are both informed and inspired by his omnivorous musical taste and insatiable curiosity. The 11 programs feature more than 35 pieces from the 1600s to 21st century. “Some of the composers, like Golijov and Haydn, as well as the arrangements of popular songs for chamber ensembles, are echoes of Geoff’s programmatic imprint, while other pieces feature their composers as players, too—a flexibility and virtuosity which Geoff passionately sought,” Hanna continues.

The chamber music series has long featured a wide range of composers on each program, in which both Nuttall and his predecessor, Charles Wadsworth, promoted new compositional voices alongside stalwarts of the classical canon. “This season expands that tent even further,” notes Hanna. “In that 400-year span—say, from Biber and Handel to Judd Greenstein, Gabriella Smith, and Reena Esmail—no composer is represented more than once.”

Works also resonate with programming for the wider Festival. Selections from Samuel Barber’s song cycle, *Hermit Songs*, on Program XI, complement the Festival’s mainstage opera, *Vanessa*, for which Barber received the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1958. On Program IX, pianists Inon Barnatan and Pedja Muzijevic perform György Ligeti’s *Pieces for Piano Four Hands*, a stark contrast to Ligeti’s *Poème symphonique for 100 Metronomes* featured on the Music in Time concert in honor of the composer’s centennial. And countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, who also presents his hybrid theatrical work *Only an Octave Apart* at the Dock Street Theatre June 7 to 11, reprises the main aria from Vivaldi’s *Farnace*, which he debuted at Spoleto Festival USA in 2017.

Throughout the series, concerts feature Nuttall’s long-time collaborators to recent protégés, with some of his closest musical colleagues sharing the emcee role. On Program III, pianist Stephen Prutsman presents his original scoring of Buster Keaton’s *7 Chances*, performed with a screening of the silent film by Prutsman, Tara Helen O’Connor, Owen Dalby, Lesley Robertson, Christopher Costanza, and Anthony Manzo; this is presented alongside a work for saxophone by composer Charles Koechlin, performed by Steven Banks, whom Nuttall introduced to Spoleto audiences in 2022. On Program IV, violinist Alexi Kenney makes his Spoleto debut, performing works by Biber, Handel, and Paul Wiancko (a 2019 composer-in-residence), alongside artists James Austin Smith, Ayane Kozasa, Masumi Per Rostad, and Todd Palmer, among others. Renowned Festival favorites, including cellist Alisa Weilerstein; violinists Benjamin Beilman and Livia Sohn; violist Gabriela Diaz; and cellist Nina Lee, also return.

On May 26, a constellation of these chamber music stars join in a rollicking gala concert celebrating Nuttall’s enduring impact on Spoleto. Also featured will be the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, under the baton of acclaimed conductor Robert Spano, and tenor Paul Groves. Following the performance, Spoleto will host a special benefit for the Geoff Nuttall Legacy Fund, established to honor and advance Nuttall’s vision for excellence in chamber music, educational engagement through the arts, and interdisciplinary artistic creativity. Details can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Bank of America Chamber Music full roster and program details follow. Tickets to the series can be purchased online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or by calling the Spoleto box office at 843.579.3100.

## BANK OF AMERICA CHAMBER MUSIC - 2023

## ARTISTS

Violin	Owen Dalby Livia Sohn Alexi Kenney
Viola	Benjamin Beilman Lesley Robertson Ayane Kozasa Masumi Per Rostad
Cello	Gabriela Diaz Paul Wiancko Christopher Costanza Alisa Weilerstein Nina Lee
Double Bass	Anthony Manzo
Piano	Stephen Prutsman Inon Barnatan
Piano/ Harpsichord	Pedja Muzijevic
Saxophones	Steven Banks
Flute/Piccolo	Tara Helen O'Connor
Oboe	James Austin Smith
Clarinet	Todd Palmer
Countertenor	Anthony Roth Costanzo

## PROGRAM

**PROGRAM I** May 26, 1:00pm; May 27, 11:00am & 1:00pm

**Flute Concerto in A Minor, WQ166 H431\***

C. P. E. Bach (1714–1788)

Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; with Owen Dalby, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Lesley Robertson, *viola*; Christopher Costanza, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord*

**Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, K 493**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*; Owen Dalby, *violin*; Lesley Robertson, *cello*; Christopher Costanza, *cello*

**Tenebrae for String Quartet**

Osvaldo Golijov (b. 1960)

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Owen Dalby, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

**PROGRAM II** May 28, 11:00am & 1:00pm; May 29, 11:00am

***Phantasy Quartet*** Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Steven Banks, *saxophone*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Christopher Costanza, *cello*

***Remember*** Eleanor Alberga (b. 1949)

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Owen Dalby, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

***Piano Quintet in C Minor*** Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Stephen Prutsman, *piano*; Owen Dalby, *violin*; Lesley Robertson, *viola*; Christopher Costanza, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

**PROGRAM III** May 29, 1:00pm; May 30, 11:00am & 1:00pm

***Épitaphe de Jean Harlow*** Charles Koechlin (1867–1950)

Steven Banks, *saxophone*; Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

***Buster Keaton's 7 Chances Original Soundtrack*** Stephen Prutsman (b. 1960)

Stephen Prutsman, *piano*; Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Owen Dalby, *violin*; Lesley Robertson, *viola*; Christopher Costanza, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

**PROGRAM IV** May 31, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 1, 11:00am

***8 Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano*** Max Bruch (1838–1920)

II. Allegro con moto

VII. Allegro vivace

VI. Nachtgesang (Nocturne)

IV. Allegra agitato

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

***Passacaglia for solo violin*** Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644–1704)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*

***Cities of Air*** Paul Wiancko (b. 1983)

Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

***“Quella Fiamma, ch’il petto m’accende” from Arminio*** George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord*

**PROGRAM V** June 1, 1:00pm; June 2, 11:00am & 1:00pm**“Gelido in ogni vena” (Winter) from *Farnace*** Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord*

***Come As You Are*** Steven Banks (b. 1993)

Steven Banks, *saxophone*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

**Fantasia in C Major, D. 934** Franz Schubert (1797–1828)  
transcribed for cello by Alisa Weilerstein

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

**PROGRAM VI** June 3, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 4, 11:00am**“Pas de Deux” from *Les Deux Pigeons*** André Messager (1853–1929) arr. Todd Palmer

Tara Helen O’Connor, *flute*; James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

**Gershwin Song Set** George Gershwin (1898–1937) arr. Todd Palmer

featuring Anthony Roth Costanzo

**Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, op. 8** Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Inon Barnatan, *piano*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Nina Lee, *cello*

**PROGRAM VII** June 4, 1:00pm; June 5, 11:00am & 1:00pm**Violin Sonata in A Minor, “Torso”** George Enescu (1881–1955)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

**Scene Andalouse, op. 7, for Solo Viola and Piano Quintet** Joaquín Turina (1882–1949)

Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

**Clarinet Quintet, “Lullaby for the Transient”** Michi Wiancko (b. 1976)

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

**Piano Trio in G major, “Gypsy,” Hob. XV/25** Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Nina Lee, *cello*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

**PROGRAM VIII** June 6, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 7, 11:00am

***K'Zohar Harakia***

Judd Greenstein (b. 1979)

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

***Incantation & Dance for Oboe and Piano***

William Grant Still (1895–1978)

James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Inon Barnatan, *piano*

***Bach to Blues***

John Clayton (b. 1952)

Anthony Manzo, *double bass*

***Viola Quintet No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 87***

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Gabriela Diaz, *viola*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello*

**PROGRAM IX** June 7, 1:00pm; June 8, 11:00am & 1:00pm

***Pieces for Piano Four Hands***

György Ligeti (1923–2006)

- 4. Sonatina
- 5. Allegro
- 1. Induló (March)
- 3. Három lakodalmi tánc (Three Wedding Dances)

Inon Barnatan, *piano*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

***Lamento sopra la morte Ferdinandi III***

Johann Henrich Schmelzer (ca. 1623–1680)

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

***Saans for Piano Trio***

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*

***Clarinet Quintet in F-sharp Minor, op. 10***

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912)

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Gabriela Diaz, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello*

**PROGRAM X** June 9, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 10, 11:00am

***Prelude, Allegro, and Pastorale for Clarinet and Viola***

Rebecca Clarke (1886–1979)

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*

***Sanguineum for solo violin***

Gabriella Smith (b. 1991)

Benjamin Beilman, *violin*

**Niobe for oboe and tape**

Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)

James Austin Smith, *oboe***Piano Quintet, op. 67**

Amy Beach (1867–1944)

Pedja Muzijevic, *piano*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Gabriela Diaz, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello***PROGRAM XI** June 10, 1:00pm; June 11, 11:00am & 1:00pm**Oboe Concerto in E Minor, TMV 51:e1**

G. P. Telemann (1681–1767)

James Austin Smith, *oboe*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Nina Lee, *cello*;Anthony Manzo, *double bass*; Pedja Muzijevic, *harpsichord***Hermit Songs, selections**

Samuel Barber (1910–1981) arr. Todd Palmer

“The Monk and his Cat”

“Sea Snatch”

“The Heavenly Banquet” “The Desire for Hermitage”

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Inon Barnatan, *piano***String Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 127**

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Benjamin Beilman, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

---

**SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA**

Spoletto Festival USA was founded in 1977 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who sought to create an American counterpart to the annual Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, that he had founded in 1958. Now in its 47th year, Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America’s premier performing arts festival. For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston’s historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. Spoleto’s mission is to present programs of the highest artistic caliber while maintaining a dedication to young artists, a commitment to all forms of the performing arts, a passion for contemporary innovation, and an enthusiasm for providing unique performance opportunities for established artists. Beyond its role as a launching pad for young talent, Spoleto also serves as a catalyst for cultural change and has aided in Charleston’s rise as a global arts and culture destination. With General Director & CEO Mena Mark Hanna at its helm, the 2023 season takes place May 26 to June 11 in various locations on the downtown peninsula. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

**IMAGES:** Visit the [online gallery](#).**MORE:** Visit the [virtual press room](#).