

KNEISEL HALL NEWS

KNEISEL HALL · CHAMBER MUSIC · BLUE HILL MAINE · FALL 2018

The Concert Season 2018

In late June, I heard my first concerts of the season at Kneisel Hall. The first was the "Continuum Concert," a collaboration of two members of the continuing faculty, Laurie Smukler and Qing Jiang, with three former Young Artists: Michelle Ross, Jesse Yakimura and Sæunn Thorsteinsdottir. Their fine work together augured very well for the coming season. The second, the next afternoon, was the concert at the end of the Maine students' week. To be honest, I wasn't expecting much, since these students are all much younger than the Young Artists (who have to be 18). But I was constantly surprised to discover how well they played and how important the music seemed to be to these young musicians. Their spirit and enthusiasm was infectious. The whole weekend was a demonstration of Kneisel Hall's determination to bring the joys of classical music to all ages, from the very youngest players to both young and seasoned professionals. (This summer's Young Artists were arriving as the young Mainers were playing.)

This weekend proved to be a harbinger of wonderful things to come. The faculty concerts throughout the summer featured varied programs and a fine combination of old favorites and newer works. For example, one concert featured Beethoven's F-major sonata for cello and piano, a string quartet by Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1959), Lei Liang's recent "Gobi Canticle" for violin and cello and the Fauré piano trio in D minor. Many audience members commented on the excitement the concerts generated over the summer.



Laurie Smukler, Michelle Ross, Qing Jiang, Sæunn Thorsteinsdottir, Jesse Yakimura

This year was no exception. One group—Rebecca Benjamin, violin; Frankie Carr, cello; and Anna Han, piano—played the Beethoven Trio Op. 70, No. 2 flawlessly from memory in July, after only a little more than three weeks rehearsal time. Nikki Pet, a clarinetist who was a Young Artist this season, played pieces by Mozart, Golijov and Messaien, expanding the usual repertoire. The Elision Quartet, a group of KH Young Artists—Rebecca Benjamin, Carter Coleman, Rosemary Nelis and Clara Abel—the quartet-in-residence for the summer in the new "Next Step" program, played part of the Beethoven Opus 132 in July, and the whole quartet in August. (They also played

These days the Young Artist concerts in mid-July and early August tend to be very well attended and much anticipated. They never disappoint and usually astonish.



Rebecca Benjamin, Frankie Carr, Anna Han

2018 Outreach

Kneisel Hall Young Artists play in a variety of outreach concerts during the season, bringing their music to our neighbors in eastern Maine. Every week a quartet plays at Parker Ridge to a large and appreciative audience. Over the course of the summer the audience and quartet become friends; this year the musicians were invited for dinner after the final concert. Another quartet presents children's concerts at the Blue Hill Library. The Library has a



Outreach in Deer Isle

summer reading theme for young readers; the quartet fashions their concerts to the theme. Parker Ridge and the Library offer opportunities for the Young Artists to program concerts and work with different types of audiences, invaluable skills as they move into the professional world.

At the end of the first session the Young Artists go on the road, taking their music to neighbors in Bangor, Castine, Deer Isle and Southwest Harbor. These concerts differ from the Parker Ridge and Library

concerts in that the programs are set by the faculty and feature as many Young Artists ensembles from the first session as possible.

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Kneisel Hall Program for Maine Students, 2018

The Kneisel Hall Program for Maine Students is a one-week chamber music intensive for Maine string and piano students in June. Students must play at an intermediate or advanced level, well enough to play in a group with others. There are two sessions; both sessions—the first for 9- to 12-year-olds and the second for 13- to 19-year-olds—share the major feature of playing in an ensemble with a Kneisel Hall Young Artist mentor. Imagine how this elevates each ensemble! Moreover, the inspiration feeds off these college students who already love chamber music and want their students to appreciate it, too. The infectious enthusiasm motivates students to practice and play their absolute best.

This year the Program for Maine Students faculty welcomed violinist Katherine Liccardo to join Dr. Patricia Stowell, piano; Marisa Solomon, cello and Scott Woolweaver, viola, who coached the eleven ensembles.

During the June 2018 program, the forty plus Maine students prepared extra music and worked more diligently than ever before. In several instances, they learned additional movements, which they prepared for performance. The program's importance to these students cannot be overestimated. As one violinist expressed: *I love Kneisel! I get to play amazing chamber music ... with student musicians I know from around the state. Our mentors come from the best music schools in the country and inspire us to play better. And the heads of the program are great people who truly care about developing our musical talents and motivating us to succeed.*

Through the years we have seen young students mature into fine teen musicians who continue to pursue music in college as an elective or as a major, often pursuing a double major. If we add up those who have come through our program, we count a minimum of twelve who are



presently involved professionally in music. A graduating senior wrote: *Playing the Dvořák's piano quintet with my group this year was a wonderful experience, and although I'm sad it was my last summer, I'm happy to have been able to make so much amazing music over the years.*

After several years at the KH Maine Student Program, students have a strong exposure to several fundamentals of music: ear training, sight singing, music history and a smidgeon of conducting. Whenever they are in their musical training, we give them the "next chapters" of materials they will need, or at least show them the direction. By the time teens are graduating from high school, many of them have enough music theory knowledge to test out of freshman theory in college.

From one parent: *It's clear you did a fantastic job of creating balanced groups, finding appropriate music ... I'm sure it took a great deal of time, but it was a huge part of the program's success. Second, you were unfailingly positive and supportive, even as the kids were pushed to grow and achieve.*

The fact that my son was swept up in the spirit of music making and total immersion, despite his occasional insecurities, is a testimony to your collective skills. Thanks so much for a truly transformative experience. 'I'm definitely coming back next year'—I think that says it all. As a musician and a parent, it just couldn't have been better.

Whether planning a career in music or not, these students will have the ability to pursue music with future circles of friends. They will make music a permanent feature of their lives and carry on a 200-year tradition. The final concert was described by a very good adult amateur cellist as: *All of your hard work came together in a memorable concert that was exciting for the musicians, their families, and friends. The repertoire, the proficiency, the enthusiasm—also knowing the kids were there for just one week... knowing how much effort many people have made to get the young musicians where they are—these added up to a heady experience for everyone. Music is something they can do throughout their lives, regardless of what profession they pursue. I think the experience you provided for these musicians will ensure that music remains an integral part of their lives.*

Dr. Patricia Stowell
Director Program for
ME Students



ACMI

Beethoven's Archduke Trio, Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D minor, Haydn String Quartet in G Major, Beethoven's String Trio in E-flat Major, Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor and Bruch's Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano are a sampling of the pieces studied and performed at this year's ACMI. Rehearsing, sight reading, master classes, concerts, discussions, cocktails on the patio and the extraordinary meals from chef Zach make ACMI the participants' favorite week of the year. Mark these dates on your calendar—August 11-18, 2019. Applications will be open January 1 on www.getaccepted.com.



ACMI score studying

Composer Now 2018

Mario Davidovsky and Lei Liang were the composers-in-residence for the 2018 season (or almost). Mario Davidovsky was scheduled to visit in the first session but ill health prevented his traveling. We missed him. His piece *Synchronisms No. 9* for violin and computer was performed by Laurie Smukler, Friday, July 13 and Sunday, July 15. A Young Artist quartet studied and performed his *String Quartet No. 5* ("Dank an Opus 132").

Lei Liang was on campus the last of July. His piece "Gobi Canticle for Violin and Cello" was performed by David Bowlin and Natasha Brofsky August 3 and 5 and "Song Recollections" was performed by the Formosa Quartet September 2. Verge Quartet was studied and performed by the Young Artists second session. Mr. Liang gave a master class and discussed his work after the Festival Concerts.

"The goal of Composers NOW (initiated in 2016) is to integrate contemporary music,



Joel Krosnick, Lei Liang, Takae Ohnishi

music written today, into the fabric of the music-making at Kneisel Hall," Artistic Director Laurie Smukler explained. "We feel that working in depth on a composition by, and in the presence of, a living composer; bringing it to life as is done with the pieces of the great masters of the past, is important and appropriate training for our Young Artists. The study and performance of contemporary



Lei Liang

music should be (and now will be) a piece of their experience readying them to be the performers of the future. To do this is truly to become involved, articulate and invested in the music of their time."

We are deeply grateful to Bitsy and Denny Bacon for their extreme generosity and support of this important program.

Kneisel Hall / Tree of Life



Tree of Life President Ray Manyak, Ellen Werner

In July, Kneisel Hall Young Artists gave a concert for the Blue Hill food pantry, the Tree of Life. Admission was a donation.

Kneisel Hall and Tree of Life supporters raised \$2,000! It was such a success that we decided it will become an annual concert.

Mark your calendars—the 2019 concert is Tuesday, July 23.

Kneisel Hall 2019:

CHAMBER MUSIC PROGRAM: June 23–August 11
Carroll Young Artist Concerts: July 13, 15, 16; August 7, 8, 10

FESTIVAL CONCERTS: June 21 – September 1

KHBH–Together in Music: May and September TBA

Program for Maine Students: June 15–June 22

Master Classes: July 3, 8, 10, 29, 31; August 5

ACMI: August 11 – August 18

Applications:
Chamber Music Program
Program for Maine Students
ACMI

<https://app.getacceptd.com/kneisel>

2018 Faculty



SESSION ONE: Axel Strauss, Jane Coop, Doris Lederer, Laurie Smukler, Qing Jiang, Joel Krosnick, Ronald Copes, Barbara Mallow, Dmitry Kouzov



SESSION TWO:

Back: Robert McDonald, Joel Smirnoff, David Bowlin, Katherine Murdock, Jerry Grossman

Front: Laurie Smukler, Ira Weller, Roger Tapping, Natasha Brofsky, Barbara Mallow, Qing Jiang

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The Ensemble Program / The Next Step

Kneisel Hall's alumni often go on to successful careers as chamber musicians. In some cases they perform in groups that were



Elision Quartet: Carter Coleman, Rebecca Benjamin, Rosemary Nelis, Clara Abel

either formed on campus when they were students or subsequently with other Kneisel Hall alumni. In their pre-professional form such groups sometimes returned to Kneisel Hall where they spent a summer studying and

honing their chamber music skills before launching their professional careers together. This summer we formalized the process of supporting a pre-formed group, with the inauguration of The Ensemble Program / The Next Step.

It is simply logical that Kneisel Hall should be a place known for offering a "next step" retreat for nurturing gifted young groups on the cusp of their careers; a place where the groups have the

time and space to work together and be coached on repertoire important for their future as an ensemble. It is in our mission "to enrich the artistic skills of our students."

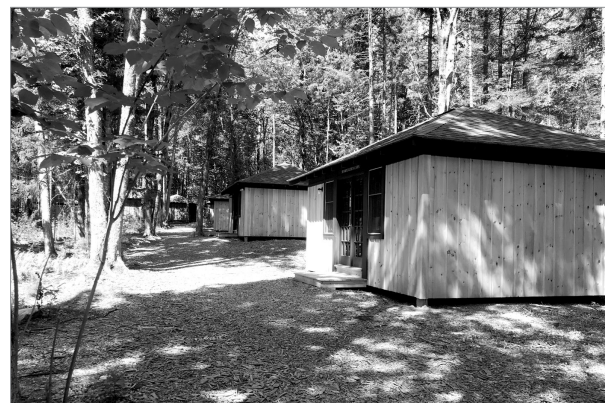
The Elision String Quartet (Rebecca Benjamin and Carter Coleman, violins; Rosemary Nelis, viola; Clara Abel, cello) was the initial ensemble. Clara described her experience, "The Kneisel Hall Ensemble Program was an amazing opportunity to work and grow together with colleagues who have a shared passion for chamber music—especially for quartet playing. The time we spent together at Kneisel taught me so much about the kind of chamber musician I want to become! Kneisel is a place that has always encouraged deep thought and reflection, and being there gave our quartet a unique opportunity for exploration that will remain in our minds and hearts for the rest of our musical lives. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for Kneisel, my coaches and teachers there, and everything that this wondrous place has taught me."

If your ensemble wishes to spend a summer of study at Kneisel Hall each musician must apply and be accepted separately. All groups, string quartets, piano trios and piano quartets are invited. The Kneisel Hall application may be found at www.getaccptd.com.

Cabins

The cabins that were a dream reported in last year's newsletter were a dream come true this summer! Four new rehearsal spaces were available to the Young Artists and faculty and what a difference they made. There was always space to rehearse—three of the new spaces could accommodate large ensembles—sextets and piano quintets.

THANK YOU Jose Soriano, the entire 2018 board (who donated a cabin in honor of Robin Clements' presidency), two anonymous donors, the designer Steve Shea and builders EL Shea.



Dorms—the good and the bad

In 2007 Kneisel Hall built a much-needed new dormitory (Lipkin/Werner) and partially renovated an existing dorm (Stern). Stern got new bathrooms, floors and an outside makeover but the rooms were not touched. Stern rooms have bunk beds, awkward closets, one bureau to share and a dismal common room.

In the eleven years since the renovation it is apparent that the inequality between the Lipkin/Werner and Stern rooms is "just not fair." There is definitely the good and the bad (and yes, the ugly) that makes assigning rooms difficult. We priced building a new dormitory and the rough estimate was north of one million dollars. We hemmed,

we hawed and we kept pushing the decision out one more year (every year). We reached a point where we can't push any more. We needed to do something.

Contractor/designer Steve Shea designed a renovation that will mimic the rooms in Lipkin/Werner, plus a new laundry. We are raising \$390,000 for the renovation. The work will be finished by June 1, 2019. Young Artists will move in June 15, 2019.

One hundred percent of the Kneisel Hall Trustees has pledged to the project. To date we have \$199,000. Please think of what you can donate to this important project (while still keeping your annual gift at

your customary level).

Our talented Young Artists deserve the best—they give us their best efforts, we need to give them ours.



If you would like to call us or have us call you to discuss this project let us know (our number is 207 374 2811).

KHBH

Kneisel Hall / Blue Hill: Together in Music celebrated its fourth year of programs. With the support of the Britton Fund, it was launched to foster a creative dialogue and invite everyone in the Blue Hill community to participate in music making at the Hall. The residencies are designed to extend Kneisel Hall's physical and musical resources beyond the summer programs in order to connect and support the vital work of local arts and other organizations in Blue Hill.

Each residency has been inclusive, imaginative and intelligent. The artists have played at painting classes at Parker Ridge, had a pajama party for young children at the Library, worked with the bands in both the grammar and high schools, included young Maine composers and performed their compositions and had full concerts in the Hall for the community.

The program directors, violinist Clara Lyon and cellist Hannah Collins, have done/are doing an exemplary job. They conducted the first residencies and once the model was set, they invited other alumni to join, giving younger alumni opportunities to plan and execute the programming.

Clara and Hannah, with violist Jen Chang and pianist Solon Gordon were the musicians for the May residency. Violinists Karen Dekker and Katherine Liccardo, violist Rose Hashimoto and cellist Ana Kim were in Blue Hill in September. Rose wrote of their time: "We recently returned from an inspiring residency with Kneisel Hall/Blue Hill: Together in Music. During our visit, we gave 11 performances around the community, all based around the theme of 'Interpretation: Bringing Music to Life.' Some of the highlights included a concert for a warm and attentive audience at Parker Ridge, two programs at the Blue Hill Library and a pop-up performance outside my favorite local seafood joint, The Fish Net!

"At the library, we explored musical and literary interpretation with the help of some very talented actors from the New Surry Theatre and the wonderful librarian Hannah Cyrus. It was emotional to hear the tomb scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet read so beautifully right before the slow movement of Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 18, No. 1 (a piece inspired by that very scene).



At the Blue Hill Consolidated School



At the Blue Hill Consolidated School



At the Bay School



At the Blue Hill Library with actors from the New Surry Theatre

"We felt privileged to work with many bright and musical local kids at Blue Hill Consolidated School, George Stevens Academy and the Bay School. With the kids, we explored and celebrated the diverse ways that individuals can respond to the same piece of music. Students reacted to music by Bartók and other composers by selecting emoji, writing stories and making up titles. We delved into the performer's role in interpreting a written score, and we even got the kids composing their own music through graphic notation!

After making the graphic scores, we searched for sounds that would best convey the shapes that we had drawn and the kids gave performances of their own scores. (Memorably, one student discovered that the buzzer from the game Taboo created the perfect sound for a giant orange circle!) We were so impressed by the incredibly dedicated music teachers whom we worked with: thank you, Steve Orlofsky, Audrey Means, Bill Schubeck and Meg Chittenden! Your students are very lucky indeed.

"Blue Hill is a place very dear to my heart, and my experiences there as a

young college student were incredibly formative. It was wonderful to be back, and it was especially great to get a chance to work closely with the community outside of Kneisel Hall. My colleagues and I were inspired by the heart and intelligence of the people we encountered and by their deep appreciation for music. There is so much potential for fruitful collaborations and meaningful interactions between Kneisel Hall musicians and the Blue Hill community, and I look forward to seeing all that will come out of this great partnership in the future!"

In Perpetuity

In February Kneisel Hall received notice of a bequest: "The funds shall be used to establish a scholarship fund in Settlor's names to support the summer program." Agnes and Kurt Guen had included Kneisel Hall in their estate. Sometime, years ago the Young Artists and the music touched the Guens. We were surprised and are extremely grateful. If Kneisel Hall music is important to you, a simple sentence in your will "I bequeath Kneisel Hall endowment \$____" will ensure that Kneisel Hall Young Artists have your support in perpetuity. How simple is that?

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it at the annual Quarry Concert sponsored by Neil and Trudy Prior.) The last piece in the last concert—the Schubert Trio in B-flat Major, played by Juliette Greer, violin; Madelyn Kowalski, cello; and Anna Han, piano—was more than worth staying up late for.

The guest performances in late August and September brought more excitement. The Chicago-based Spektral Quartet (including two alumnae, Clara Lyon and Maeve Feinberg) played quartets by Brahms, Schönberg and Eliza Brown (commissioned by the quartet). “Shattered Glass,” a conductorless string orchestra with many former Kneisel students in its ranks, played pieces ranging from the 17th century composer Heinrich von Biber to “Hide and Seek” by Imogen Heap, composed in 2005. The Formosa Quartet—three Kneisel alumni/ae of the four—played Schubert’s “Quartettsatz” and Bartók’s fourth quartet, but also recent pieces by Lei Liang and Dana Wilson commissioned for and by them. Like the Continuum Concert, these concerts show the versatility and dedication of our Young Artists as they have moved into the professional world.



Braden McConnell, Chener Yuan, Ann Yu, Serena Hsu



Schubert Trio: Juliette Greer, Anna Han, Madelyn Kowalski



Faculty discussion



Roger Tapping Master Class



Weinberg Quartet: Joel Krosnick, Katherine Murdock, Joel Smirnoff, Laurie Smukler

But these concerts are only a few of the many concerts you can hear over summer at the Hall and elsewhere. The master classes, taught by long-time faculty members like Jane Coop and Dmitri Kousov and

newcomers like Natasha Brofsky and Roger Tapping, as well as this year’s composer, Lei Liang, give audiences some sense of what goes on in coaching sessions. The outreach concerts in Castine, Southwest Harbor, Bangor and Deer Isle as well as the new benefit for the Blue Hill Food Pantry “Music for Food,” all feature Young Artists playing at their best. And KHBH continues to feature alumni/ae who return to Blue Hill in May and September to engage students in the schools and at the Library, retirees at Parker Ridge and many members of the Blue Hill community. It’s getting hard to find a day without a concert.

*Elizabeth Harries
(alumna, Trustee, Friday subscriber)*

2019 Faculty

Artistic Director Laurie Smukler announces the faculty and guests for next season—we can’t wait!

Violin: David Bowlin, Ronald Copes, Joel Smirnoff, Laurie Smukler, Axel Strauss

Viola: Doris Lederer, Katherine Murdock, Ira Weller

Cello: Jerry Grossman, Dmitry Kousov, Gwen Krosnick, Joel Krosnick, Barbara Stein Mallow

Piano: Jane Coop, Qing Jiang, Ieva Jokubaviciute, Roberto Plano

Continuum Alumni: Rebecca Anderson, violin; Frank Shaw, viola; Julio Elizalde, piano

Guests: Darrett Adkins, cello
Eduardo Leandro, percussion
Ann Rodiger, Alexander Technique
Calidore Quartet



Isabella Bignasca, Yeim Lee, Yan Li

Kneisel Hall Store

Kneisel Hall Sweat Pants \$40 + \$7 shipping
Black with white KNEISEL HALL up a leg
Adult S, M, L

Kneisel Hall Sweat Shirt \$40 + \$7 shipping
Black or dark green with block KNEISEL on the front
Adult S, M, L, XL

Kneisel Hall Fleece Vest \$40 + \$7 shipping
Black with white block KNEISEL on the chest
Men S, M, L, XL; Women XS, S, M, L

Kneisel Hall

PO Box 648 Blue Hill, ME 04614

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Here is my/our donation in honor of
the terrific 2018 season! \$ _____

Here is my/our donation for
the Dormitory Renovation Project \$ _____

Please contact me for ways to sponsor
the Young Artists and music in 2019. _____

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Kneisel Hall Sweat Shirt: qty: _____ size: _____

Kneisel Hall Fleece Vest: qty: _____ size: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Board News

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in August, Ellen Harris and Jeffrey Kehl were voted in as co-presidents, Marge Irvine as secretary-clerk and Susan Richardson as treasurer. Julia Cluett and Ken Kleeman were voted in as new Trustees. Trustees Amy Britton, Libbie Cluett and Nancy Hoppin retired; they were warmly thanked for their years of service (23 years between them!). The 2018/19 board: Norman Alt, Bitsy Bacon, Eric Chase. Julia Cluett, Judith Dullnig, Ellen Harris, Betsey Harries, Howard Harrison, Marilyn Heineman, Charles O Holland, Margery Irvine, Jeff Kehl, Kenneth Kleeman, Jae Lee Cosmos Lee, Deborah Little, Dr. Charlotte Podolsky, Susan Richardson.



Yeim Lee, Seho Young, Samuel DeCaprio

Thank You *to ALL our friends and supporters who make the season possible:*

- Drivers (rides to and from the airport and bus stations for the Young Artists: **Marilyn Heineman, Mollie Heron, Deborah Little, Susan Richardson, Betsey Harries, Ellen Harris, Eric Chase, Judith and Jon Dullnig.**
- After the season ushering and parking: **Susan Richardson, Kathleen Caldwell** and **Matt Freeman, Deborah Riley, Lee Lehto, Charles Guilford.**
- Flowers (every week!) for the stage: **Marcia Thompson.**
- Housing our guests: **Amy and Terry Britton, Libbie and Mark Cluett, Charlie and Nancy Hoppin.**
- The **Blue Hill Fire Department** and **David Rackliffe**, the fire safety officer, for running our yearly fire drill.
- and special thanks to the Kneisel Hall support team; they make Kneisel Hall so the musicians can make music: **Danielle Sargent**, business manager; **Wilt Jones**, building and grounds manager; **Susan Guilford**, ticket manager; **Zach and Jean Macarrone**, chef and crew; and **Ed Power**, librarian.



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KNEISEL HALL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018



LAURIE SMUKLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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