March 15, 2019

Dear Friends,

Congratulations! Salt Bay Chamberfest has reached its 25th season, and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been a part of making our organization a success over the many years. We have achieved so much together, including newly commissioned music, world premieres, and performances of exceptional artistry.

The landscape of Maine has played a vital role in defining who we are by creating a sense of place and a space in which to absorb and reflect on the music we hear. In this special 25th anniversary season, *Music of Our Common Earth*, we seek to connect our local selves with global others through music as it relates to our environment. The programs study human nature, use nature as metaphor, explore ancient myths, uncover current global issues, and celebrate our shared landscape. To honor our rich history of presenting new music and new concepts in music, we will feature some of today’s foremost musical innovators: from living composers Vijay Iyer, Derek Bermel, and Nate Smith, to performers who have inspired new works such as flutist Claire Chase, violinist Jennifer Koh, and the Brentano String Quartet. As a special celebration of our own rich Maine musical heritage, we welcome the Burnurwurbsek Singers and flutist Hawk Henries as they join our SBC musicians in two outdoor settings celebrating our shared planet.

Whether this is your first or your 25th summer at Salt Bay Chamberfest, we welcome you to this very special celebration marking a significant milestone in our history. Please accept our gratitude for all that you do to make this exceptional festival possible from year to year.

Here’s to 25 more!

Wilhelmina Smith, Artistic & Executive Director

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**Committed to Our Mission**

Producing chamber music performances of the top artistic quality, Salt Bay Chamberfest broadens the horizons of its audience and the community we serve in Midcoast Maine with profound programming and the highest-caliber musicians.

The interior of DRA’s Darrows Barn at Round Top Farm, built in 1929.
Pan — A Unique Musical Drama

Salt Bay Chamberfest is thrilled to present Pan, a musical drama for solo flute, live electronics, and an ensemble of community musicians written by Marcos Balter for flutist Claire Chase. Claire will join us on August 8 and 9, both at Darrows Barn and at the Lincoln Theater, in a new suite version of the work. As Alex Ross described in The New Yorker, “Pan is an ambivalent paean to the Greek goat god, depicting his capacities for creation and destruction. Chase not only plays but sings, speaks, and acts; the work feels like an extension of her torrential spirit.”

The following is an excerpt from a program note entitled “Pan: A Meditation on Unease” by musicologist and philosopher Jennifer Judge:

Over a series of tableaux, Pan asks: how should we understand the destruction of a flawed god? If we hesitate to mourn Pan himself, we should surely lament the vanishing of his enchanted Arcadia. We should grieve for the demonization of creativity and the vilification of difference; we should weep for the silencing of Pan’s unique music. But if his melodies were bewitching, they were also darkly manipulative. Should we not also rejoice, then, that Pan’s crimes are finally being avenged, and that the voices of his victims are resounding at last? And if we are no mere witnesses to the demise of our gods, but accomplices in their slaying, does that make us just as bloodthirsty and vicious as the figures we condemn?

The genesis of Pan amounts to the creation not just of a work of art, but of a community. Pan attempts to actually demonstrate, rather than to speculate about, how music-making creates spaces for societies to come together in times of uncertainty. The work is an exploration of the void between grief and anger, between retribution and forgiveness; it sketches the movement from innocence to experience, and struggles to find the way back.

In marshalling myth to articulate the tensions of our contemporary world, Pan strives to demonstrate how art can help us not simply to resolve our unease, or to eradicate it, but to look it steadily in the eye.

—By Jennifer Judge

Needed: 20 community volunteers to participate in the August 8 and 9 performances of Pan. No musical experience necessary! Please contact us at contact@saltbaychamberfest.org if interested.

An Evening with Vijay Iyer

Join us for two special events on August 1, featuring composer and pianist Vijay Iyer. To celebrate the opening of SBC’s anniversary season, he will give an exclusive one-hour solo Champagne Concert. Later that evening he will be joined by other SBC musicians at Darrows Barn for a full performance featuring his music alongside that of Ravel and Beethoven.

Like Claire Chase, Vijay is also the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. In addition, he has received a Grammy nomination among numerous other awards for his albums. His compositions have been commissioned and premiered by the Brentano String Quartet, Jennifer Koh, and the International Contemporary Ensemble (co-founded by Claire Chase), as well as other ensembles such as Bang on a Can All-Stars and the Silk Road Ensemble.
An Interview with Derek Bermel

Long-time SBC audiences will recognize the composer and clarinetist Derek Bermel from his several appearances at the Barn on clarinet, and from the 2013 performance of his composition Half & Half featuring 50%. We are excited that he and Nate Smith, drummer and co-composer, will be returning this summer with a longer reworking of the piece, commissioned by SBC. The composition uses rap music, along with other popular genres, in a highly sophisticated rhythmic structure with a political bent. Looking forward to the updated and expanded version, we had the chance to catch up with Derek about his past and his work.

Which came first, being an instrumentalist or a composer?
Both; I began writing short compositions when I was about eight years old, the year after I started learning clarinet.

How did your interest in rap develop?
When I was a kid, hip-hop was the freshest and most creative music happening; it was born in the Bronx, just a few miles away from where I lived. I was a sprinter on the high school track team, and we all memorized all the latest rhymes by Run-DMC, Kurtis Blow, the Beastie Boys, UTFO. Of course, we listened to other pop music too—Prince, Blondie, Michael Jackson—but hip-hop’s rebelliousness and political consciousness was more akin to the spirit of the punk and new wave movements happening at the same time.

What are your thoughts about the rap and hip-hop music of today?
Like any genre, it continues to evolve and experience growing pains. It was exciting to grow up during the “golden age” of rap music, hearing tracks for the first time by great innovators in the style: Boogie Down Productions, Public Enemy, and—for me, the most revolutionary hip-hop act of all time—Eric B. and Rakim. However wide the appeal and sophisticated the production has become today, I think hip-hop is still at its best when it conjures the raw and gritty sound of that era.

How did you begin collaborating with Nate Smith?
We first worked together on a collaborative project involving the hip-hop artist Mos Def and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. My buddy Craig Taborn had recommended Nate as someone who could anchor the rhythm section, bridging the chasm between rapper and orchestral musicians. Nate has a wide breadth of stylistic experience, and he is a profound musical and intellectual thinker. One day we were goofing around, and I showed him some of my odd-metered rhymes. He was intrigued and created some beats, and before too long we had decided to lay down some tracks in his studio with saxophonist Marcus Strickland and bassist Fima Ephron.

Who is 50%?
Nate dreamed up Fifty while we were working in the studio. His inspiration was a character from the movie Office Space, who works in a cubicle and is frustrated with the direction his life has taken. Maybe when he was young, Fifty wanted to be in the 1%, but instead he’s ended up in the middle of the 99%, and the only outlet for his rage—at injustice, at politics, and at his own mediocre situation—is his rhymes.

Tell us about your premiere at this summer’s Salt Bay Chamberfest.
We had been planning to expand our first show, Half & Half featuring 50%, so this summer will give us the opportunity to extend it to a full set-length piece. It really comes alive during the collaborative process, and I love the idea of juxtaposing Half & Half with a concert music program before intermission.

Join us for the world premiere of Derek Bermel & Nate Smith’s new version of Half & Half featuring 50% on Tuesday, August 6.
Salt Bay Chamberfest Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary!

“When you learn something from people, or from a culture, you accept it as a gift, and it is your lifelong commitment to preserve it and build on it.”
—Yo-Yo Ma

From the humble beginnings of a group of friends newly out of school playing in a cow barn, to an internationally recognized festival for the creative and performing arts, Salt Bay Chamberfest proudly celebrates its 25th season this August. SBC regularly boasts musicians in the top echelon of performers today, such as Jennifer Koh, Alan Gilbert, and the Brentano String Quartet. Under the artistic leadership of Wilhelmina Smith, the festival has grown from a modest place where musicians can come together and rejuvenate themselves and the art form, to a place of daring, bold artistic initiatives, founded on the principle that all music has the potential to elevate and connect us to each other. By presenting thematically inspired programs that often venture far outside the norms of classical music concerts, SBC has created a place that fosters musical creativity through highly distinctive performances, creating an intriguing and welcoming artistic space for musicians and audiences alike. Over the years, SBC has played host to performers of the erhu, accordion, African drums, and Arab drums; Native American singers, a cantor, a poet, an actor, and a dancer. SBC has also consistently supported composers of our time, commissioning works annually and regularly giving world premieres.

Salt Bay Chamberfest:

- Creates a place for culture and creativity
- Develops and fosters the art form by supporting the creation of new music
- Supports musicians
- Gives community access to high-level arts

We are building a team to help SBC chart a course far into the future!

The Board of Salt Bay Chamberfest is unanimous in its resolve to help the Festival live on indefinitely. The 25th anniversary season is being used as the kick-off to a major fundraising campaign to secure SBC’s future. At a recent retreat, the Board committed to finding ways to help the Festival live a long and healthy life; and with a generous matching gift from a board member, together we have already raised $50,000 as seed money. But before we can successfully launch the campaign, we need to find a few more generous patrons to join us in this worthy endeavor. If you are interested in helping to secure the future of SBC and joining our team of leadership givers, please reach out to us at contact@saltbaychamberfest.org or (207) 522-3749.

We are honored to announce that our 25th anniversary season is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. We have been approved to receive a $15,000 grant from the NEA’s Art Works program for the 2019 season.

Submit a recollection or favorite memory from SBC to contact@saltbaychamberfest.org, and it will be included in our anniversary program book!
Testimonials

From Serena Canin, second violinist of the Brentano String Quartet: Congratulations to the Salt Bay Chamberfest for 25 years of fantastic music! After coming to the Festival with the Brentano Quartet and my family for nearly as many years, I can attest that our time with you is one of the highlights of the year. Not only are the concerts interesting and varied, and the historic venue acoustically marvelous, but Salt Bay has also become a watering hole for so many wonderful musicians and we always look forward to crossing paths and collaborating with whoever happens to be performing. Seeing the Festival develop under Mina’s visionary leadership from a small, family-run concert series with a few friends to the international festival it is today, is exciting and heartening, and we are thrilled to have been a part of it for so long.

Concerts aside, and on a more personal note, it is always people who make a place. I can’t think of Salt Bay without thinking of our beloved host families and our many friends in the community. Because we have come so many times, these relationships have deepened and have come to include our whole families. Our lives are richer because of you! Salt Bay Chamberfest may have grown into a big and exciting music festival, but it hasn’t lost its heart.

Mina asked me to share a favorite SBC memory, which happens to be a family memory. Our son Eric’s first birthday party was held in Darrows Barn with all the musicians and their families in attendance. After withholding sweets for Eric’s entire first year, we decided to celebrate the occasion with Round Top ice cream. So, with cameras rolling, little Eric was presented with a glorious cup of vanilla ice cream—and he promptly spat it out!

May the wonderful tradition of music, friends, and family continue! Carry on, Salt Bay Chamberfest, carry on!

From David & Judy Falk, audience members since 1995: “Wow! These kids are really good!” So we said to ourselves while listening to our first chamber music concert in Darrows Barn 25 years ago. In the years since, we have celebrated with the Salt Bay Chamberfest musicians and their families as their careers flourished, but always counting on their return to Darrows Barn for two weeks of challenging and inspiring music-making in August, a high point of every summer.

Board Updates

Welcome Our Newest Board Members

DIANA MORRIS is the director of Open Society Institute-Baltimore, the sole field office of the Open Society Foundations in the United States. The office supports efforts to reform policies that prevent residents from participating fully in the civic, economic, and social life of the region. Diana also directs Open Places, an Open Society Foundations initiative that is making long-term investments in Buffalo, San Diego, and Puerto Rico. Previously, Diana was the director of the Blaustein Philanthropic Group and a program officer at the Ford Foundation, working on refugee and migrant rights globally and on social justice issues in Eastern and Southern Africa. She began her career as Attorney-Adviser for Human Rights and Refugee Matters in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the Department of State. Diana holds an A.B. from Smith College and a J.D. from Boston University, and is a member of the New York State Bar.

DR. RUSS ZAJTCHUK trained as a cardiovascular surgeon at the University of Chicago and joined the U.S. Army in 1970. He is a Vietnam veteran and held numerous academic, administrative, and command positions over his 28-year career in the Army. He served as Commanding General of Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, from 1991 to 1993, later retiring from the Army in 1998 as Commanding General of the Army Medical Research and Logistics Command in Frederick, Maryland. He then worked at Rush University Medical Center as Senior Vice President of Advanced Technology and International Health.

Russ and his wife, Joan, spend summers at their cottage at Pemaquid Point. They have always been interested in the arts and support arts institutions in their hometown of Chicago. Joan is a Board member of the Ryan Opera Center, a young artist opera training program at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and they have sponsored several of these young artists. Russ is a founding member of the Rostropovich Vishnevskaya Foundation Board of Directors. “Slava” Rostropovich was a personal friend.

A heartfelt and special THANK YOU to Michael Acton, Ari Solotoff, and Ronald Schiller for all they have done for the Festival as they conclude their terms as Board Members.
Salt Bay Chamberfest Supporters

We Need Your Support!

Did you know:

- Ticket revenue only covers about 17% of our operating budget?
- It costs approximately $2,500 to bring each festival musician to Maine?

We rely on your generous support to continue presenting the world’s finest musicians in Midcoast Maine each summer. Every gift is greatly appreciated and helps sustain the festival. If you are able, we invite you to join the **Sostenuto Circle with a gift of $1,000 or more**, with a variety of special benefits. Salt Bay Chamberfest welcomes gifts of cash, checks, and credit cards; gifts of stock, bequests, and other planned gifts; and in-kind gifts such as providing housing for musicians during the festival. We greatly appreciate all contributions made to Salt Bay Chamberfest. Please contact General Manager Miriam Fogel at contact@saltbaychamberfest.org with any questions.

HELP WITH HOUSING

If you own a private guest house or apartment near Damariscotta that you could make available during the festival to visiting musicians or staff, please consider donating your space. As Salt Bay Chamberfest is a nonprofit organization, the rental value of your housing donation is always tax-deductible.

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS

SBC is grateful for the many contributions our team of volunteers makes! If you are looking for a way to join our team, please consider donating your time. We need volunteers for a variety of tasks that are fun and engaging, and you can serve as much or as little as suits your schedule. We have need for volunteers:

- during the festival for ushering, ticket taking, baking or serving at the Moo Café, and more
- in the off-season for appeal mailings and other odd jobs

For more information, contact General Manager Miriam Fogel at contact@saltbaychamberfest.org.

Thank You!

Salt Bay Chamberfest deeply appreciates the contributions received from all of our patrons. With your support, we continue to bring world-class musicians and profound programming to the heart of Midcoast Maine.

**Donations made between January 1, 2018 and February 12, 2019.**

**Encore Society**

Members of the Encore Society have made legacy gifts and have included Salt Bay Chamberfest as a beneficiary in their wills.

- Peter Felsenthal & Jennifer Litchfield
- Phillip & Jane Johnston
- Anton & Allison Lahnston
- Martha G. Mason
- Phoebe Nichols
- Ronald J. Schiller & Alan Fletcher

**Benefactor**

Donations of $10,000 or more

- The Acton Family
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We warmly welcome you into the Sostenuto Circle for an annual gift of $1,000 or more. All members of the Sostenuto Circle receive a variety of sponsorship opportunities that connect donors with our artists, concerts, and education and community engagement programs; and are also invited to an invitation-only event hosted by the Salt Bay Chamberfest board.

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Look for our ticketing brochure in early May with full information about the season. Below are ways to purchase Season Subscriptions in advance and support SBC now.

☑ Yes, I would like to purchase _____ (qty) Season Subscriptions. ($150 each—includes admission to five evening concerts and pre-concert lectures)

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