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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
WITH MUSIC

P. O. Box 34 | Great Barrington, MA 01230

Close Encounters With Music

2017-2018

26th
Season
in the
Berkshires

"Great music
played with great
heart..."

There's a palpable
mystique about
Close Encounters
concerts.

The evening never
failed to
fascinate!..."

—BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Yehuda Hanani

—ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

800.843.0778
www.cewm.org

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Close Encounters With Music

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS and patrons as we celebrate our 26th season of bringing together sublime chamber music, distinguished performers, and musical commentary, all in convivial settings.

Whether it is commissions of major works by famous composers, children's educational projects, an international festival in the mountains, a weekly radio show on WAMC-FM designed to attract new listeners for classical music, collaborations with prominent arts organizations including Jacob's Pillow, the Norman Rockwell Museum, The Mount, the Carey Institute for Global Good, Olana, The Frick, The Clark, Hudson Opera House and many more, we look back at past accomplishments with pride and pleasure and forward to the next round of cultural adventures.

With cultural legacy all around us in the beautiful Berkshires, we don't have to look far to find cause for celebration: This year, our Gala concert is dedicated to the remarkable conductor/pianist/composer/artistic dynamo **Leonard Bernstein**, who taught and performed for fifty years at Tanglewood, forging important friendships with fellow composers Lukas Foss, Aaron Copland and others. Their music will be performed alongside Bernstein's own—songs from his operas and musicals, piano works, and chamber music.

Bringing to life the works selected this season are the **Amernet** and **Ariel Quartets**, Metropolitan Opera soprano **Danielle Talamantes**, who dazzled us last season; and Met Opera National Council Audition winner, our discovery of the season—the superb countertenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen**, now taking the opera world by storm. Pianists **Roman Rabinovich**, **Michael Chertock** and **Soyeon Kate Lee** return as does the outstanding **ACRONYM** baroque ensemble along with many more CEWM favorites and brilliant performers making their debuts. From October to June, it's a season you cannot miss!



Mahaiwe

Close Encounters With Music presents six concerts this season at the landmark Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington and a seventh at the newly renovated Saint James Place.

Join the growing number of culture enthusiasts who converge from the Berkshires, Hudson Valley, Northwest Connecticut, New York City, and Boston for each Close Encounters event! We are pleased to invite all ticket holders to an "Afterglow" reception following each performance October through May, and all season subscribers to a special winter "Fireside Concert."

Contributing patrons are invited to a special Gala reception following the June concert (see Ticket Order Form).

CONVERSATIONS WITH... Intimate & Stimulating Conversations about Music & Ideas

Sunday **November 12** 3 PM
Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA

Author and Scholar Mitchell Cohen on The Politics of Opera

TO WHAT EXTENT DO OPERAS express the political and cultural ideas of their age? How do story lines, harmonies and musical motifs reflect the composer's view of the changing relations among art, politics, and society?

Mitchell Cohen, who combines his academic expertise in political science and lifelong interest in the spectacle of opera in his new book (*The Politics of Opera—A History from Monteverdi to Mozart*, Princeton Press), will underscore the political dimensions of libretti and ideological elements of opera, which absorbs and mirrors currents of the day in dramatic dress-up.

Professor of political science at Baruch College and the Graduate School of CUNY, he has written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement* (London), *Les Temps Modernes* (Paris), and edited *Princeton Readings in Political Thought* (1995) and *Rebels and Reactionaries: An Anthology of Great Political Stories* (1992). Your next night at the opera won't be the same!

\$20 includes light refreshment



Cohen



Hanani

"Soulful, fiery performance"

—The New York Times

Sunday **April 22** 3 PM
The Mount, Lenox, MA

Russian and Soviet Film Music: A Tuneful Survey

IN A LECTURE illustrated with film clips, Professor **Timothy Sergay** of UAlbany will present an overview of Russian and Soviet film music, focusing not only on the famous contributions of Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich, but also on such lesser known masters as Georgi Sviridov, the Soviet adoption of the Hollywood musical genre in the 1930s, the cultural role of songs created for Soviet films, and the influence of Russian music on Hollywood film scores.

The talk will conclude with a review of the conventions of Hollywood's musical representation of Russia and the world beyond the Iron Curtain.

Sergay is a scholar and translator of Russian with multiple MA degrees in Russian language and literature—from the University of Michigan, Middlebury College Russian School, the Pushkin Institute of Russian Language in Moscow, and Yale University. His Yale doctoral dissertation was on the Christian sensibility of the Russian novelist Boris Pasternak.

\$20 includes light refreshment

For further information and to make reservations:
800.843.0778 or cewmusic@aol.com.



Close Encounters
at the Mahaiwe

"To experience
the finest
music
presented by
the leading
musicians of

our day, in the inviting atmosphere of the Berkshires, is the best of all possible worlds. . .The quality of Lincoln Center with an intimacy that exceeds it."

—YEHUDA HANANI | Artistic Director



Nevsky

Saturday **October 21** 6 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

THE TITANS

Schumann and Brahms Piano Quintets

THE SEASON OPENS with two works that take us to the pinnacle of chamber music in a pairing of Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34 with that of his champion, and



Lee

and originator of the new genre, Robert Schumann's breakthrough Piano Quintet. Combining the piano and the string quartet had never been tried, but in the space of only a few weeks in 1842, Schumann wrote the legendary piece that influenced countless followers. Both quintets are on the short list of masterwork symphonic in scale, potent, flashy, and bursting with harmonic and melodic opulence and rhythmic variety. Other common denominators: A sense of inspiration is embedded in each, as is a sense of the ever-present Clara, to whom Schumann's work is dedicated. These genre-bending works alternate between quasi-symphonic and more properly chamber-like elements to keep you captivated from start to finish...as will the all-star cast of performers.

Soyeon Kate Lee, piano; Irina Muresanu and Peter Zazofsky, violin; Michael Strauss, viola; Yehuda Hanani, cello

Saturday **December 9** 6 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

SOUVENIR DE FLORENCE

An Italian Holiday Celebration

AN ITALIAN FIXATION runs deep in the collective artistic psyche. It was de rigueur for 19th century painters, musicians and literary types—Byron, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn—to make the Grand Tour to Rome and Florence, imbibe the classicism, passion, bel canto, and expressivity that are hallmarks of Italian art, and bring them home to their studios where memories of the sunshine sustained them in chilly northern Europe. The



Amenet String Quartet

centerpiece of the program is Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, written as he recovered from a disastrous marriage and developed an infatuation with the city that spawned the Renaissance. This Italian showcase includes *Chrysanthemums*, the only chamber music Puccini ever wrote; works by the Venetian Vivaldi; Hugo Wolf's *Italian Serenade*, and a Verdi string quartet. Bellissimo!

The Amernet String Quartet: Misha Vitenson, violin; Franz Felkl, violin; Michael Klotz, viola; Jason Calloway, cello; with Xiao-Dong Wang, viola; Yehuda Hanani, cello

Saturday **February 24** 6 PM
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington

MID-WINTER FIRESIDE CONCERT
VOICE OF THE BAROQUE

A Close Encounter!

SCHELDOM HAS THERE BEEN such a merging of intellectual rigor and emotion as in Johann Sebastian Bach's Gamba Sonatas. The slow movements reach remarkable spiritual height and the outer movements are bursting with joy. **Yehuda Hanani's** legendary musicianship and artistic probing will enrich these challenging sonatas. We also introduce American counter-



Nussbaum Cohen

tenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen** in selections of English song from Dowland, Purcell and Handel. Identified as one of opera's most promising rising stars, in 2017 he received a Richard Tucker Music Foundation grant, made his European debut at the Theater an der Wien and was named a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition.

"...There was only one complete artist. At just 23, he already possesses a remarkable gift for intimate communication...Expressive yet dignified, his phrasing confident and his ornamentation stylishly discreet, he brought tears to my eyes."

—The New York Times

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor; **Michele Levin**, piano; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello

SAINT JAMES PLACE

Saturday **March 17** 6 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

ARIEL STRING QUARTET

Tchaikovsky, Arensky, Shostakovich

THREE 19TH AND 20TH century Russian works create a trajectory through recent Russian history. Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 is the first notable work of Russian chamber music, said to have moved Tolstoy to tears. Mystical, monastic, with two-cello richness that conjures a Russian Orthodox choir, Anton Arensky's homage to Tchaikovsky, the Quartet Op. 35, stands between Tsarist pre-Revolution and post-Revolution dictatorships. In



Ariel String Quartet

Shostakovich's Quartet No. 3, he is composing with Stalin looking over his shoulder and the movements have seemingly coded titles such as "Blithe ignorance of the future cataclysm" and "The eternal question: Why? And for what?" **The Ariel Quartet** presents a program rich in Russian lore, Slavic emotionalism, sparkling wit, Soviet-era sarcasm, and dazzling virtuosity.

The Ariel String Quartet: Gershon Gerchikov, violin; Alexandra Kazovsky, violin; Jan Grüning, viola; Amit Even-Tov, cello; with Yehuda Hanani, cello

Sunday **April 29** 3 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

GRAND PIANO TRIOS

Felix Mendelssohn and Bedřich Smetana

THE REMARKABLY versatile composer -pianist-conductor-painter Felix Mendelssohn personifies genius and musical prodigy and his second Piano Trio in C minor (1845) is a true expression of the exquisite sensibility of his life and art. The profoundly moving Piano Trio in G minor of 1855 was composed after the death of Smetana's daughter; its style is close to that of Robert Schumann, with hints of Liszt, Wagner and Berlioz. Two of today's brightest young performers join cellist **Yehuda Hanani** for a juxtaposition of these passionate works, written in classic mid-19th-century style, full of beauty and riveting melodies. Winner of the Paganini Competition, **Soovin Kim** makes his area debut along with Uzbekistan-born **Roman Rabinovich**, first-prize winner in the Arthur Rubinstein International Competition in 2008.



Kim

"**Soovin Kim** was the highlight of the evening, a patrician virtuoso on the solo part of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto... He drew a golden tone from his 1709 'ex-Kempner' Stradivarius."

—Washington Post

Roman Rabinovich, piano; **Soovin Kim**, violin; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello

Sunday **May 6** 12 PM
The Lenox Club, Lenox, MA

Annual Luncheon Musicale Benfit

CELEBRATE THE SALON in the Gilded Age elegance of the Lenox Club, a venerable Berkshire presence since 1864! The scintillating atmosphere of the 19th century institution that helped promote artists, painters and musicians as the intelligentsia gathered to exchange ideas, enhanced by gaiety and ambience. Savor a superb lunch and support Close Encounters With Music. La vie est belle!!!



"...A stunning, majestic resolution, a brilliant ending to an unforgettable encounter with music. Bravi!"

—The Berkshire Edge



Close Encounters With Music is a non-profit organization. Partial funding provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Saturday **May 12** 6 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

ACRONYM BAROQUE

The Faux and the Fabulous

PERHAPS because it is so distant and the style so ingratiating and universally pleasing, the Baroque period inspired many imposters. Leaving the baby on the doorstep of a good family to give him a better chance in life, many composers attributed their works to a more famous composer. Fakes unveiled will include Frescobaldi's *Toccata* (by Cassado), Couperin's *Five Concert Pieces* (by Bazelere) and C.P.E. Bach's *Andante* (by Cassadeseus). In addition to these gems (rhinestones), **ACRONYM**, the 12-member string band, will



ACRONYM Baroque String Band

take us back further in time and introduce some authentic forgotten masterpieces of the pre-Baroque and Baroque eras, by Viennese and German composers. Much of their programming is devoted to modern premieres of works newly transcribed from manuscript, previously unpublished, unrecorded and unheard since the early 17th century. Neo, quasi, retro, faux—never mind, this is the real thing!

ACRONYM Baroque String Band; Kivie Cahn-Lipman, director; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello

Saturday **June 9** 6 PM
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Ctr.

GALA: LENNY AT 100

Feel the BERNstein!

ACKNOWLEDGED as possibly the greatest conductor the U.S. has ever produced, Leonard Bernstein was dashing, brilliant and eloquent; a dazzling pianist, lecturer and cultural figure who redefined the word "charisma." Equally at home on the concert stage and Broadway, when summer came, he headed to the Berkshires, where important friendships were forged with Aaron Copland, Marc Blitzstein, Lukas Foss, and other legendary musicians. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth, we present a musical portrait of a versatile career, with his vocal and piano music and that of composers he championed—Mahler (Bernstein held a Mahler Festival to mark the centenary of that composer's birth!) Sondheim and Ives; selections from Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, Foss's cowboy piece *Capriccio*, and Copland's *El Salón México*. A delightful romp through the music scene circa 1950 as barriers began to come down among genres. Glitter and be gay and experience the Bernstein phenomenon!



Talamantes



Chertock

Michael Chertock, piano; **Danielle Talamantes**, soprano; **Kerry Wilkerson**, baritone; **Rachel Lee Priday**, violin; **Yehuda Hanani**, cello

All Close Encounters With Music events are wheelchair accessible.

Ticket Order Form

Subscribe now at a 30% savings and enjoy guaranteed Orchestra seating at the Mahaiwe and St. James Place. (If you must miss a concert, tickets make a perfect gift.)

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Subscriptions

	# Season Seats	This level includes...	Priority Seating	Rate (\$)	# Subscr.	Mahaiwe Fee	Add Ticket(s) to June Gala for \$60/ea	Total (\$)
Senior (65+)	1	Orchestra seating		\$225		Add \$12		
Regular	1	Orchestra seating		\$250		Add \$12		
Sponsor	1	Gift CD & recognition in program	Yes	\$375		Included		
Patron	2	All of the above	Yes	\$750		Included		
Benefactor	4	Invitation to June Gala Reception & all of the above	Yes	\$1,000		Included	Included	
Endower	4	Invitation to Endowers-only event & all above	Yes	\$2,000 & above		Included	Included	
Total (\$):								_____

Individual Tickets

	Date/Time	# Tickets Orch & Mezz (\$48)	# Tickets Balcony (\$25)	Add \$2 Mahaiwe Fee per Ticket	Total (\$)
The Titans	Sat, Oct 21, 6 PM				
Souvenir de Florence	Sat, Dec 9, 6 PM				
Fireside	Sat, Feb 24, 6 PM (\$38)		NA	NA	
Ariel String Quartet	Sat, Mar 17, 6 PM				
Grand Piano Trios	Sun, Apr 29, 3 PM				
ACRONYM	Sat, May 12, 6 PM				
Feel the BERNstein!	Sat, Jun 9, 6 PM				
I would like to further support Close Encounters with a tax-deductible contribution:					_____
Total :					_____

STUDENT TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR FOR \$15

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