



LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF VERDI  
CONVERSATIONS WITH...AUGUST VENTURA  
SUNDAY APRIL 6, 3 PM AT THE LENOX CLUB



Close Encounters With Music presents "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Verdi" the second installment in this season's "Conversations With..." series Sunday, April 6, 3 PM at the historic Lenox Club. Lifelong opera-lover, author, architect and film-maker August Venutra has written extensively on Giuseppe Verdi for *Il Giornalino di Parma Lirica* and *Opera News*, focusing on the relationship Verdi's home town of Parma maintains with the maestro's legacy.

For the past several years Ventura has been producing and directing an independent, feature-length documentary on this subject entitled "27," in which Parma's legendary Teatro Regio and the "Club of 27" (representing Verdi's twenty-seven operas and limited exclusively to twenty-seven members at any given time!) figure prominently. Marking the Verdi bicentennial, the talk and film sequences capture his political and cultural relevance, shedding light on how the operas promoted the notion of a unified Italy and helped define her national character.

Parenthetically, Ventura could star in his own film as Verdi, as he is his virtual look-alike, which perhaps ignited his passionate pursuit of all things Verdi! The Gilded Age-era Lenox Club is located at 111 Yokun Avenue in Lenox, MA.

**"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Verdi" is part of a series of intimate and stimulating conversations about music and ideas, an intrinsic part of the Close Encounters With Music season. "Conversations With..."** has presented such notable speakers as writer, editor and Bob Dylan biographer Seth Rogovoy; composer, National Endowment grantee and Guggenheim fellow Judith Zaimont; pianist-authors Walter Ponce and Adam Neiman; Emmy Award-winning animator, illustrator, cartoonist and children's book author R.O. Blechman; art restorer David Bull; Academy Award nominee Daniel Anker; scholar, performer and multimedia artist Robert Winter; former Yankee, author and sportscaster Jim Bouton; and award-winning poet Charles Coe.

**Ticket Information for "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Verdi:"**

Admission is \$15 and includes light refreshment. Payment can be made through the [CEWM web site](#); by phone at 800-843-0778; by emailing [cewmusic@aol.com](mailto:cewmusic@aol.com); or at the door beginning at 2 PM.

***Tune In!*** Sunday March 30 at 6 PM  
when WMHT will broadcast  
the Close Encounters With Music concert  
"The Miraculous Violin"  
with Vadim Guzman and Angela Yoffe.

**Sunday April 27, 3 PM**  
**at the MAHAIWE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON**



Erin Keefe, violin; Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet; Yehuda Hanani, cello; Lydia Artymiw, piano

Musical fireworks, passion, and vertiginous speed are hallmarks of Hungarian and Gypsy music. From the cimbalom, the national folk instrument of Hungary, to the sophistication of Liszt's fiery "Rhapsody" and Brahms's majestic Piano Trio No. 3 in C Major, selections on the April 27 Close Encounters With Music concert reflect the cadences and rhythm of Hungarian speech--and the paprika that spices up its cuisine.

The stage is set with a bravura performance on the folk hammered dulcimer (cimbalom) by Hungarian-trained Cosmo Gorsci. Béla Bartók's 1938 "Contrasts for Clarinet, Violin and Piano," commissioned by jazz legend Benny Goodman, is an amalgam of abstracted Hungarian folk music combined with Romanian dance melodies. It's a study in contrasts: the tone and color of the three different instruments, different musical idioms, and jazz and classical modes. Both violist and clarinetist require two instruments apiece to capture the dual character and the



Cosmo Gorsci, cimbalom

disparate tunings--gritty country fiddle--atmosphere with barbaric energy, dances, and syncopations, and the concert-worthy brilliant passage work and polish. Also on the program is another Hungarian "Rhapsody," a virtuosic work for cello and piano by David Popper, a famous 19th century cellist. It concludes with Brahms's torrentially romantic piano trio with its Magyar themes.

Roma performer Cosmo Gorsci will demonstrate the expressive and haunting qualities of the cimbalom in traditional Magyar melodies, as well as its visual beauty. With its horizontal strings, two beaters, and tremolo sound, the cimbalom's special effect--familiar to concert audiences from Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály's opera *Háry János*--is used in film to evoke mystery and intrigue.

Tickets: \$45 (Orchestra and Mezzanine) and \$25 (Balcony), are available at The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center box office, 413.528.0100 or [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**The new date and time for  
Antonin Dvořák--A Bohemian Idyll  
at Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood is**

**SUNDAY JUNE 15 AT 2 PM**



Grammy award winner  
Kelley O'Connor, mezzo soprano

Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood

**Tickets:** \$50/\$40 balcony

The Patron Package (preferred seating and patrons' reception) \$125

Seat selection and online purchase is available on the [CEWM web site](#).

For more information or to purchase through our office:

800.843.0778 | [cewmusic@aol.com](mailto:cewmusic@aol.com)

## ABOUT CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC

**Close Encounters With Music** stands at the intersection of music, art and the vast richness of Western culture. Entertaining, erudite and lively commentary from founder and Artistic director Yehuda Hanani puts composers and their times in perspective to enrich the concert experience. A core of brilliant performers includes pianists James Tocco, Adam Neiman, Walter Ponce and Jeffrey Swann; violinists Shmuel Ashkenasi, Yehonatan Berick, Vadim Gluzman and Toby Appel; harpsichordist Lionel Party; clarinetists Alexander Fiterstein, Charles Neidich; vocalists Dawn Upshaw, Amy Burton, Jennifer Aylmer, Robert White, Lucille Beer and William Sharp; the Vermeer, Amernet, Muir, Manhattan, Avalon, Hugo Wolf quartets, and Cuarteto Latinoamericano; and guitarist Eliot Fisk. Choreographer David Parsons and actors Richard Chamberlain, Jane Alexander and Sigourney Weaver have also appeared as guests, weaving narration and dance into the fabric of the programs. [cewm.org](http://cewm.org)

Performances are supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



[cewm.org](http://cewm.org)



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