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Colorado Music Festival Announces 2015 Season ***Includes orchestral series, a new recital series, expanded chamber music and*** ***educational activities and a collaboration with photographer John Fielder***

(Boulder, Colo.) – Feb. 27, 2015 – The Colorado Music Festival (CMF) is proud to announce its 38th season, the first under Music Director Jean-Marie Zeitouni. The season, which runs Friday, June 26, through Sunday, Aug. 9, will include both festival and chamber orchestra series, the popular *Music Mash-Up* series, two *Young People's Concerts*, a new recital series and an expanded, five-concert chamber music series. Performances take place at Chautauqua Auditorium and First Congregational Church in Boulder.



Jean-Marie Zeitouni, Music Director

"I am looking forward to honoring the Colorado Music Festival's audience and talented orchestra," says Zeitouni. "This season's program respects the strong history of the festival, offers the audience the opportunity to enjoy favorites as well as to explore new works and allows the orchestra and our guest artists to shine."

Throughout the festival, concert-goers will come to know Zeitouni's personal affinity for vocal music. Opening night features leading contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux in works by Ravel and Rossini. Later in the season, the festival presents Bartók's masterful one-act opera, "Bluebeard's Castle," featuring Metropolitan Opera regular, Hungarian bass-baritone Gábor Bretz and Canadian-Hungarian soprano Krisztina Szabo, described as "perfect and captivating" (The Toronto Star). Closing the season will be an evening of choral works by Mozart and Handel featuring "sensational" (The Baltimore Sun) soprano Sarah Coburn and the CMF Chorus.

Other highlights include:

- One-night-only special performances by pianist and Van Cliburn Competition Gold Medalist Olga Kern and "funny...hypnotic...jaw-dropping" (New York Times) classical music/comedy duo Igudesman & Joo.
- An exciting Music Mash-Up series including the world premiere of *Bartók + Bjork* from composer/conductor Steven Hackman, the Colorado premiere of *Copland + Bon Iver* featuring *SHEL* and an evening with singer/actress Storm Large and her band, Le Bonheur.
- The Colorado premiere of American composer Michael Daugherty's 2011 Grammy Award-winning piano concerto "Deus ex Machina" and the North American premiere of "Festive Overture" by Spanish composer Benet Casablancas.

- *Cellobration*, a week-long cello mini-festival with performances of the complete Bach Suites and Beethoven Sonatas for piano and cello, as well as two cello-centric orchestral programs.
- A focus on nature in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park. Programs include two concerts in collaboration with Colorado photographer John Fielder featuring images from his photo collections choreographed with Sibelius' Symphony No. 5 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral" as well as a concert featuring Charles Ives' Pulitzer Prize-winning Symphony No. 3.



Pianist Olga Kern. Photo: © Chris Lee.

- Launch of a new iteration of *Click!*, the CMF's crowd-sourced commissioning program featuring American composers Pierre Jalbert, Hannah Lash and Daniel Wohl. The program will include a week-long residency during the 2016 festival for the winning composer featuring the world premiere performance of the commissioned work and educational and outreach activities.

The 2015 season will also include a partnership between CMF & CMA and the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras (GBYO). The partnership will include solo and side-by-side performance opportunities at the CMF's Young People's Concerts, free admission to select performances and educational opportunities for the GBYO's more than one hundred young musicians.

"As a young musician growing up in Montréal, I was profoundly affected by opportunities to hear world-class symphony orchestras and interact with outstanding musicians performing in the city," notes Zeitouni. "To be able to give back to the Boulder community in the same way by offering these opportunities to the talented young musicians of GBYO is very rewarding for me."

CMF & CMA Executive Director, Andrew Bradford, adds, "The Colorado Music Festival prides itself on being a leader in the area of music education. Through this partnership, we look forward to continuing our commitment to education in the community."

Individual tickets start at \$12 and go on sale to the public on April 1. Tickets can be purchased online at www.comusic.org or www.chautauqua.com, in person at the Colorado Chautauqua Association box office or over the phone by calling 303-440-7666.

CMF is grateful to season sponsors Gordon and Grace Gamm, the citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and other individuals, corporations and foundations whose support makes the 2015 season possible.

Media Resources:

Website: comusic.org | Media Kit: comusic.org/2015-festival-mediakit | Facebook: facebook.com/comusic

Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts (CMF & CMA) combines a world-class summer music festival and a community music school under one organizational umbrella. CMF & CMA enriches the lives of tens of thousands of individuals annually through access to the best of the world's music through performance and education.

Founded in 1976 by renowned Viennese conductor and violinist, Giora Bernstein, the Colorado Music Festival (CMF) is one of the foremost summer music festivals in the world, drawing musicians from many of North America's finest symphony orchestras. CMF & CMA is a member of the League of American Orchestras and the National Guild for Community Arts Education.

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