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WCM BRINGS CHAOS, COLOR & CONTRAST TO THE CATSKILLS

“Chaos, Color & Contrast” marks the Weekend of Chamber Music’s 17th summer in the Catskills, and in the rural New York countryside, this extraordinary music festival is an unexpected treasure. WCM’s world-class musicians arrive **July 11 to 24** to perform concerts, engage audiences with interactive and up-close rehearsals, and inspire the Festival high school student interns with intensive hands-on coaching sessions. New events at this year’s Festival are the pre-concert talks an hour before each Saturday concert, and WCM collaborates for the first time with North Branch Inn for its informal, popular MusicTalks! event.

A free outdoor concert of Gershwin, Porter and Barber kicks off the Summer Festival at 3pm Sunday **July 11** in downtown Jeffersonville, and WCM moves the music to the beautiful Eddie Adams Farm on North Branch Road for two more events in the first week. “At Work & Play Behind the Notes” at 7pm Friday **July 16**, and the Tea Time Concert at 5pm Saturday **July 17**, bring music by Bartók, DeFalla, Haydn & Rebel to center stage in the historic, renovated barn. Tea & coffee are served at intermission.

In the second week, WCM teams up with North Branch Inn on Thursday **July 22** for some virtuoso fiddling in “MusicTalks!” at 7:30pm; “At Work & Play Behind the Notes” is back at the barn at 7pm Friday **July 23** with another free open rehearsal and a chance to see WCM artists in action coaching with the student interns. The Grand Finale Saturday **July 24** at 8pm features the music of Debussy, Haydn, Bartók, Dutilleux & Fauré, and a Meet-the-Artist Reception caps the evening on the barn porch.

At the core of WCM is a flexible company of musicians led by flutist Judith Pearce, WCM’s founder and artistic director. Ms. Pearce draws on a long career of performing and teaching in Europe and America to plan the programs, including her long tenure with the distinguished Nash Ensemble and work with musicians such as Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Among the 13 friends and colleagues joining her this summer are audience favorites pianist Tannis Gibson, formerly of the Monticello Trio, and award-winning harpsichordist Kenneth Hamrick; violinist Sunghae Anna Lim of the Richardson Chamber Players; cellist Caroline Stinson; oboist Matt Sullivan, and bassoonist Leonard Hindell, who recently retired from the New York Philharmonic. Masters of their instruments all, WCM’s globetrotting musicians have earned national and international recognition. They are also a group of colleagues and friends whose sheer delight in playing together creates an exhilarating atmosphere for listeners.

Tickets range from free to \$30; always free for students 18 & under. The online box office at WCMconcerts.org, and the Festival Hotline at 845-887-5803, opens Memorial Day Weekend. Meanwhile, visit WCM’s web site – WCMconcerts.org – or email info@WCMconcerts.org for more information.

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Media Contact: Ms. Terry Schommer
845-782-7015 / WeekendofChamberMusic@gmail.com (Not for publication)



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