

# How are we doing? How are we doing?

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## FANS ARE TALKING

"The Weekend of Chamber Music is both more than a weekend and more than a chamber music festival. What makes WCM particularly special to us is that we feel so included and immersed in the musical events. We are treated to composers explaining the music they have written and that we are hearing for the first time: or listen to classical music improvisation: hear student interns play the piece they composed during the festival. Whether it is traditional repertoire brilliantly played or more contemporary music we get to share our thoughts with the superb musicians. The Weekend of Chamber Music is always so alive!"

**Carol and Rick Cherry**

"The Week-end Chamber Music Festival is now the center piece of our summer vacation. From its founding by Judith Pearce, Andrew Waggoner and Caroline Stinson have taken this unique concert series to greater heights of original programming and listener participation. In a variety of settings--a century old converted barn, a beautifully designed and funky local brewery, a charming local Inn, WCM continues to surprise and experiment with new ways of engaging the audience. Renowned contemporary composers--John Harbison and Shulamit Ran--and young chamber players are brought together around the great classics, new compositions, and improvisation. The works themselves and their authors dialogue with the audience. Composer and performers talk to the audience and audience speak to composer and performers. And it works magnificently! Definitely the high point of our summer!"

**John and Elaine Frank**

## COMPOSERS HAVE A WORD



"We had such a wonderful time with you and the amazing group of artists that you have assembled, and who are clearly drawn to your unique and beautifully conceived and inspired festival."

**Shulamit Ran**

Pulitzer Prize-winner Shulamit Ran listens to a rehearsal of her sextet, "Lyre of Orpheus" at CROSSINGS 2014.  
Photo by Tom Bushey.

"Weekend of Chamber Music, reached by winding hill encased roads which seem to lead to Washington Irving's phantom bowling matches, thronged by listeners who seem to know and love the performers, played by people that chose the music they really want to know, seemed like the kind of small festive event in which music lives and has always lived."

**John Harbison**

*John Harbison & Andy don WCM caps for a pre-concert talk at The Great Conversation 2013.*



## INAUGURAL IMMERSION

In our first Chamber Music Immersion Fellowship Program last summer, WCM hosted two young artists - a cellist and a composer - who shadowed our musicians, immersed themselves in the Festival programs and management, and created a work of their own. Here's what they thought of their experience.

"Interning for two weeks with the Weekend of Chamber Music was truly a mind-broadening experience. The staff cultivated an atmosphere of intense focus and diligence, all the while instilling a strong sense of creative and artistic commitment. I was offered the rare and invaluable experience of working closely with a composer in the process of creating a piece tailored to our unique experience in the Catskills. Furthermore, I was able to participate in individual lessons with various experts, not only regarding my own instrument but also grant writing, arts administration, and the future of classical music."

**Lydia Parkington, Cellist**

"The WCM Festival provides an atmosphere where education and creativity coexist. It is an environment of balance for someone already dedicated to their craft as a musician—with allotted time for workshops and rehearsals, meetings about professional development, practice and writing, and even a dip in a local swimming hole, the graduate student internship is both developmental and just plain relaxing. I was able to create a piece of music in two weeks time that came from a meaningful experience of that place. It was a wonderful time!"

**Branic Howard, Composer/Recording Engineer**



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