

Contact:

Pedro DeJesus 847-266-5018

Pdejesus@ravinia.org

Nick Pullia 847-266-5012

NPullia@ravinia.org

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

RAVINIA ANNOUNCES 2014 “SUMMER OF LOVE, SEASON OF STARS”

MORE THAN 130 EVENTS JUNE 5 – SEPT. 14, INCLUDING FOUR PREMIERES AND 47 ARTIST DEBUTS THAT RANGE FROM CONDUCTOR SUSANNA MÄLKKI TO ZZ TOP

- James Conlon conducts three operas, including Patricia Racette starring for the first time as *Salome*, one of seven evenings celebrating 150th birthday Richard Strauss
- Joshua Bell headlines annual Gala Benefit with Conlon conducting the CSO
- Direct from *Downton Abbey*, Kiri Te Kanawa celebrates 70th with premiere
- Itzhak Perlman and Cantor Helfgot bring best-selling *Eternal Echoes* to stage
- Midori joins Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute (RSMI) faculty, gives two concerts and master class
- The Knights team with Yo-Yo Ma and Dawn Upshaw, who will sing Maria Schneider’s jazz-influenced 2014 Grammy-winner *Winter Morning Walks*
- Ravinia favorites Carrie Underwood; James Taylor; Train; John Legend; Heart; Crosby, Stills & Nash; Darius Rucker; Earth, Wind & Fire; Sarah McLachlan; Buddy Guy; Hall & Oates; Counting Crows; and Five for Fighting return
- First-time pairings include Jeff Beck/ZZ Top, Matt Nathanson/Gavin DeGraw, OneRepublic/The Script, Rufus Wainwright/Cat Power, Bebel Gilberto/Chucho Valdés, Beach Boys/Temptations, Toto/Michael McDonald, Willie Nelson/Alison Krauss, Bob Weir and RatDog/Dwight Yoakam, and Howard Jones/Tom Bailey

- Martin Theatre highlights include world-premiere staging of *The Devil's Tale*
- New 10-punch pass means reserved seats can be just \$8 each for the \$10 BGH series including such programs as a tribute to Oscar Brown Jr., *Sondheim Reimagined* and Rachel Barton Pine's complete Bach Sonatas and Partitas
- Ravinia Associates Board celebrates 25th anniversary with a call for members born in 1989 and with special events at CSO concerts

Ravinia's 2014 season, dubbed "Summer of Love/Season of Stars," was announced today by Ravinia President and CEO Welz Kauffman. Brimming with talent and romance, the festival's 2014 schedule brings some the biggest names in the world of music as well as repertoire that explores the theme of great love in its various manifestations. No fewer than three musical incarnations of the most famous love story of all time, Romeo and Juliet, will be featured, with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** performing Tchaikovsky's Overture-Fantasy (July 27), a suite from Prokofiev's ballet setting of the story (July 16) and the score of *West Side Story* as the classic film is shown (July 17–18). In other examples of love, soprano **Deborah Voigt** describes it as "Something Wonderful" on a Broadway evening (July 13), the legendary Broadway team of Lerner and Loewe will be celebrated (July 20), and **Chanticleer** even jabs at the battle of the sexes in an evening titled "She Said/He Said" (July 6). In fact, love lurks, longs and lingers across genres in most of the more than 130 events that Ravinia will present in 2014, its 110th year and its 78th as the summer residence of the CSO.

Most Pavilion tickets to all CSO concerts are only \$25. Lawn tickets for most classical concerts are only \$10. Children and students through college are admitted free to all classical performances. Tickets to all events go on sale to Ravinia donors on March 5 and to the general public on April 24, exclusively at Ravinia.org.

"Over the centuries love and music have always been intertwined, with that indefinable subject matter center stage in grand opera, symphonic classics, movie scores, Broadway standards and top-40 radio hits," Kauffman said. "So whether a piece has Wagner serenading his wife on her birthday or Carrie Underwood seeking revenge against a cheater's car, what's not to love?"

SEASON OF STARS

Whether in the heavens or on stage, Ravinia has a close association with stars, and this summer continues that tradition. Among the classical superstars appearing this summer are:

- Flutist **James Galway** performs the U.S. premiere of *Riverdance* composer Bill Whelan's

(more)

Flute Concerto, which was written for him. Opening the CSO residency on July 8, this concert conducted by Miguel Harth-Bedoya also features Lady Jeanne Galway on a program with Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Philip Hammond's *Carolan Variations* for Two Flutes and Piano.

- Violinist **Joshua Bell** headlines Ravinia's annual Gala, benefiting the not-for-profit festival and its REACH*TEACH*PLAY education programs, with the CSO on a program that features Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, conducted by James Conlon (July 26, Pavilion).
- Violinist **Midori** joins Ravinia's Steans Music Institute (RSMI) faculty this summer, which puts her on stage with other faculty members for a piano and strings concert that features Mozart's String Quintet No. 1, Schnittke's String Trio and Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 3 (July 9, Martin). She then performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the CSO conducted by **Susanna Mälkki** in her Ravinia debut (July 16, Pavilion).
- Direct from her appearance on *Downton Abbey*, soprano **Kiri Te Kanawa** celebrates her 70th birthday with a program that includes a world premiere commissioned for the occasion by Ravinia from Jake Heggie (Aug. 12, Martin).
- Perhaps the world's best-loved violinist, **Itzhak Perlman** joins forces with **Yitzhak Meir Helfgot**, chief cantor of the Park East Synagogue, to recreate their best-selling album *Eternal Echoes*, celebrating traditional music with the **Klezmer Conservatory Band** and the **Chicago Philharmonic** (Aug. 18, Pavilion).
- Celebrated opera baritone **Nathan Gunn** and star of stage, screen and recordings **Mandy Patinkin** reunite for an evening of arias, standards and not-so-standards. (July 6, Pavilion).
- Ravinia-favorite baritone **Matthias Goerne** sings Selections from Eisler's *Hollywood Songbook* and Wolf's "Harfenspieler" I-III and *Three Poems from Michelangelo* (July 31, Martin).
- Soprano **Dawn Upshaw** showcases her Grammy-winning performance of Maria Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks* with the inventive orchestra **The Knights** on a program that also features Ives's *Three Places in New England*, two laments by Dowland and Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks" (Aug. 20, Martin).
- Superstar cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** joins frequent collaborators The Knights on a program that includes both Ravel's and R. Strauss's takes on Don Quixote along with works by Glass, Stockhausen and Milhaud (Aug. 21, Pavilion).
- Jazz pianist **Chucho Valdés** performs Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the CSO on a program that features short, popular works such as J. Strauss Jr.'s Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

(more)

and *Chit-Chat* and *Thunder and Lightning* polkas and Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* Overture (July 29).

- Pianist **Denis Matsuev** joins Ravinia's "Tchaikovsky Spectacular" with the CSO, performing the Piano Concerto No. 1 on the annual program that famously features live cannons in the "1812" Overture (July 27, Pavilion). Matsuev returns the next day for an all-Russian evening in the Martin Theatre (July 28, Martin).
- Conductor **Paavo Järvi** returns at the helm of the **Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen**, for which he serves as artistic director, for an evening of Brahms featuring Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3 (Aug. 4).

THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF R. STRAUSS/*SALOME*

Love is perhaps at its darkest in the opera *Salome*, which quakes with Herod's misbegotten infatuation with his daughter, and her unquenchable passion for John the Baptist. Ravinia will celebrate the sesquicentennial of its composer, R. Strauss, with its first complete presentation of *Salome*. **Patricia Racette** (who thrilled Ravinia audiences in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*) stars for the first time in the title role with James Conlon leading the CSO. Other Strauss evenings sample the tone poems, chamber music and opera from daring to the beautiful. The CSO performs the opening of what is perhaps the composer's most famous piece, *Also sprach Zarathustra* (July 11), and *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite (Aug. 10). The inventive orchestra **The Knights** re-teams with **Yo-Yo Ma** on a program that includes *Don Quixote* (Aug. 21). Ravinia favorites **The Lincoln Trio** pays tribute with an All-Strauss evening (Aug. 21). **RSMI** artists will perform the *Capriccio* Sextet (July 14) and various songs as coached by one of the great Strauss singers of all time, **Kiri Te Kanawa** (Aug. 11).

MOZART OPERAS IN THE MARTIN

Strauss himself lionized Mozart, and he handpicked *Don Giovanni* to conduct in the work's first Salzburg Festival performance. *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* round out this year's trio of operas at Ravinia. These Mozart masterpieces will be performed in repertory in the 850-seat Martin Theatre, the size of hall in which Mozart would have led them. Conlon conducts the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus** in one evening and one matinée performance of each (Aug. 14–17) with a company that features **John Relyea**, **Tamara Wilson**, **Christopher Maltman**, **Lisette Oropesa**, **Kristinn Sigmundsson** and other top singers.

(more)

RAVINIA GOES TO THE MOVIES

Ravinia goes to the movies this summer with four nights of the giant LED screen on the lawn and in the Pavilion. The CSO will perform Leonard Bernstein's score to *West Side Story*, conducted by **David Newman**, during two screenings of the Academy Award-winning film with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Arthur Laurents and choreography by Jerome Robbins (July 17–18). Ravinia will also conclude its popular presentations of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy with the CSO playing the score live as *The Return of the King* is shown on video screens in the Pavilion and on the lawn (Aug. 7–8). *The Return of the King* is this year's *One Score, One Chicago* selection, and additional resources will be available at Ravinia.org.

On July 11 conductor **Robert Moody** leads the CSO in classical pieces that over the years have doubled as film scores, such as Barber's *Adagio for Strings* (as heard in *The Elephant Man*) and the opening to R. Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (2001), selections from Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* (*Somewhere in Time*), along with Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. Acclaimed guitarist **Miloš Karadaglic** makes his Ravinia debut with Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. (Note: no film will be shown at this concert.)

NON-CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Ravinia's non-classical acts include an array of festival favorites, debuts, classic rockers and today's chart-toppers. The lineup, chronologically, features **John Legend's** acoustic "All of Me" Tour, June 16; **OneRepublic** and **The Script**, June 18–19; **Garrison Keillor** with a live broadcast of his national radio phenomenon *A Prairie Home Companion*, June 21; **Daryl Hall & John Oates**, June 22; Ravinia's Artistic Director of Jazz **Ramsey Lewis** "In Performance and Conversation, June 24; **Rufus Wainwright** and **Cat Power**, June 25; **James Taylor and His All-Star Band**, June 26–27; 2013 country Grammy-winner **Darius Rucker and Friends**, June 28; **Earth, Wind & Fire**, July 3; **Dave Koz and Friends** covering big, brassy hits, July 4; **Sarah McLachlan**, July 5; **Willie Nelson & Family** and **Alison Krauss & Union Station** featuring **Jerry Douglas**, July 12; **Counting Crows** performing their greatest hits, July 14; **Crosby, Stills & Nash**, July 19; **Gavin DeGraw** and **Matt Nathanson**, July 21; **Umphrey's McGee**, July 25; **Bebel Gilberto** and **Chucho Valdés** in a Latin night, July 30; **Lyle Lovett** and **Jake Shimabukuro**, Aug. 1; **Heart**, Aug. 3; **Tony Bennett**, Aug. 16; the music of **ABBA** performed by **Arrival from Sweden**, Aug. 17; **Buddy Guy**, Aug. 19; **Train**, Aug. 22–23; Summer '80s New Wave Tour featuring **Tom Bailey** from the Thompson Twins and **Howard Jones**, Aug. 27; **Jeff Beck** and **ZZ Top**, Aug. 28; **Toto** and **Michael McDonald**, Aug. 29; **Bob Weir and RatDog** and **Dwight Yoakam**, Aug. 31; **The Moody Blues**, Sept. 4–5; **Carrie**

(more)

Underwood with the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Sept. 6–7; **Poi Dog Pondering**, Sept. 12, **Classic Albums Live** performing The Beatles' *Abbey Road*, Sept. 13; and **Five for Fighting** with the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Sept. 14.

RECITALS AND CHAMBER MUSIC

Ravinia regularly presents the most extensive chamber music and recital series in the United States in its historic and beautifully restored 850-seat Martin Theatre and state-of-the-art 450-seat Bennett Gordon Hall, including these events (in chronological order):

- In addition to his performance with the CSO, *Gramophone* magazine's Young Artist of the Year, guitarist **Miloš Karadaglic**, gives his first Martin Theatre recital July 15 with a program that includes works by Bach, Granados, Rodrigo and Falla (Martin).
- James Conlon conducts **Soloists from the CSO** in Wagner at his most romantic, the *Siegfried Idyll*, which the composer wrote as a birthday gift for his wife. The program also includes Eisler's *Fourteen Ways of Describing the Rain* (performed with the silent short film *Regen*), Hindemith's *Overture to The Flying Dutchman as Sight-read by a Bad Spa Orchestra at 7 a.m. by the Well* and Korngold's String Sextet in D Major (July 22, Martin).
- Ravinia-favorite baritone **Matthias Goerne** sings Selections from Eisler's *Hollywood Songbook* and Wolf's "Harfenspieler" I–III and *Three Poems from Michelangelo* accompanied by pianist **Alexander Schmalcz** (July 31, Martin).
- The world-premiere staging of *The Devil's Tale*, composer James Stephenson's sequel to Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, which will also receive its first staged performance at Ravinia on the same program, both performed by the **Chicago Pro Musica** with stage direction by **Hershey Felder** (Aug. 5, Martin).
- Baritone **Stéphane Degout** performs works by Liszt, Wolf, Weill, Schumann, Schubert, Loewe and Fauré, accompanied by **Simon Lepper**, official pianist of the Cardiff Singer of the World competition (Aug. 6, Martin).
- **Takács String Quartet** presents two programs of Janáček and Beethoven. On Aug. 11 they'll perform Janáček's Quartet No. 2 ("Intimate Letters") and Beethoven's Quartet No. 15 in A Minor along with Barber's *Adagio for Strings* in its original form. On Aug. 13 they return with Janáček's Quartet No. 1 ("The Kreutzer Sonata") and Beethoven's Quartet No. 8 in E Minor along with Smetana's Quartet No. 1 ("From My Life"). A discount will be offered to guests purchasing Martin Theatre tickets to both evenings.

(more)

- One of opera's great singers, soprano **Kiri Te Kanawa** celebrates her 70th birthday with a program that includes a world premiere commissioned for the occasion by Ravinia from Jake Heggie, one of the composers the festival commissioned to celebrate last season's silver anniversary of RSMI (Aug. 12, Martin). Te Kanawa will give an RSMI master class that is free and open to the public (Aug. 10, BGH).
- Pianist **Denis Kozhukhin**, who just played Carnegie Hall with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and will be seen at Symphony Center next season, performs works by Haydn, Brahms, Schubert and Prokofiev in his Ravinia debut (Aug. 19, BGH).
- Violinist **Rachel Barton Pine** returns for a mini-festival of three performances. She covers all of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas over two concerts, a matinée and an evening performance, on Aug. 23. Each concert also samples works by Bach's predecessors, respectively, Baltzar and Pisendel (2 p.m.) and Biber and Westhoff (8 p.m.). She returns Aug. 24 with cellist **Mike Block** on a program entitled *Old World, New World* (BGH).
- Pianist **Anthony de Mare** returns with *Sondheim Reimagined, Part 2*, sampled from his *Liaisons* project, in which he commissioned 36 composers—ranging from William Bolcom to Nico Muhly to Mark-Anthony Turnage—to arrange the immortal music of Stephen Sondheim for piano. Last year's presentation of Part 1 sold out (Aug. 27, BGH).
- Since winning BBC television's *Last Choir Standing* competition in 2008, **Only Men Aloud** has topped England's classical charts, won a Classical Brit award and performed during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic Games. The group has now become an eight-voice ensemble as it mounts its first world tour this year that includes a matinee and evening performance at Ravinia on Aug. 29 (BGH).
- A Cole Porter Fellow and first-prize winner at the Montreux Jazz Festival, pianist **Dan Tepfer** performs his new take on the "Goldberg" Variations in an Aug. 30 matinee and returns that evening for a piano jazz concert (BGH)
- Pianist **Alexey Zuev**, top prize-winner at the third International Prokofiev Competition, performs works by Mozart, Schubert and Prokofiev in his Ravinia debut (Sept. 2).
- Martin Theatre artists also include the **Zukerman ChamberPlayers**; the **Juilliard, Emerson and Orion** string quartets; and pianists **Peter Serkin, Garrick Ohlsson, Alain Lefèvre** and **Misha and Cipa Dichter**.

Ravinia has just introduced the "BGH Big Deal" 10-punch pass that offers a 20 percent discount off the 23 concerts in the BGH \$10 Classics series, which means reserved seats are just \$8 each. The series also A Tribute to Oscar Brown Jr. by his daughter, vocalist **Maggie Brown; Concert Dance,**

(more)

Inc.; cellist **Nicolas Altstaedt**; saxophonist **Ashu**; pianists **David Fung**, **Andrew von Oeyen** and **Zhang Zuo**; and many more.

CHORAL MASTERWORKS AT TRINITY CHURCH

When the music calls for it, Ravinia presents concerts at other venues, and this year will deliver an evening of choral masterworks at Trinity Episcopal Church in Highland Park, site of last year's acclaimed performance of Rachmaninoff's "Vespers." **The Singers**, conducted by **Matthew Cullton**, return for two performances, June 18–19, that features Poulenc's Mass in G Minor, Durufle's *Four Motets on Gregorian Themes*, Taverner's *Village Wedding* and *Funeral Ikos*, and Morten Lauridsen's *Les Chansons de Roses* and *O Magnum Mysterium*.

RAVINIA'S STEANS MUSIC INSTITUTE (RSMI)

Each year Ravinia awards the best young professionals from around the world fully paid fellowships to study at its on-campus summer conservatory with a faculty led by **Miriam Fried** (piano and strings), **Kevin Murphy** (singers) and **David Baker** (jazz). These artists give free preview concerts and participate in public master classes with such artists as Midori and Kiri Te Kanawa. They also headline five concerts on the \$10 BGH Series: Jazz Grandstand, June 20; a strings celebration of R. Strauss and the work of RSMI resident composer Shulamit Ran, July 14; Bernard Rands's String Quartet No. 3 in celebration of the 80th birthday of the composer, who will coach the work, July 21; songs by R. Strauss and friends, Aug. 11; and Music Theater, Aug. 18.

RAVINIA ASSOCIATES BOARD ANNIVERSARY AND EVENTS

The season also marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Ravinia Associates Board, an organization of young business leaders from the Chicago area that supports the not-for-profit festival and its REACH*TEACH*PLAY education programs. To celebrate, the Associates Board is seeking new members born in 1989, the year of its founding. The group will also host three concert events (lawn party and concert ticket) to help introduce their peers to the CSO: "Classical Strings and Chicken Wings" for the July 11 performance of classical themes that have a second life as spectacular film scores, featuring Spanish guitarist Miloš Karadaglic; "Beer, Brats and Beethoven" for the July 24 all-Beethoven evening featuring **Jonathan Biss** performing the Piano Concerto No. 4; and "A Hobbit Happening" for the Aug. 7 finale of *The Lord of the Rings—The Return of the King*.

(more)

###

FOR THE COMPLETE SEASON LINEUP SEE THE 2014 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

All programs and artists are subject to change. Images available upon request or at Ravinia.org.

NATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVE:

LOIS COHN

212-874-7624

lcohn@cohnpr.com