

2012 Spring Newsletter

Dear friends,

I write to you on a mid-winter's day, thinking about our time in August together when we will gather in the warm Darrows Barn, as the sun retreats, to hear glorious music.

I am so pleased that we have joined Carnegie Hall and other esteemed venues to commission the Brentano String Quartet's new project, *Fragments*, which is inspired by the concept of the "unfinished". Taking its cue from *Fragments*, the theme of our 2012 Festival will be "*Time Passing*", an exploration of time in music. Wide ranging, it will encompass last works, unfinished pieces, and music that contemplates the essence of time, its meaning and its passage. Late works by Brahms, Strauss, and Chausson will share programs with modern interpretations of time such as Lukas Foss' "*Time Cycle*", and Sebastian Currier's "*Static*". We will also welcome our young composer-in-residence Roger Zare, who will be writing a work just for us to be given its world premiere on Aug 24!

Many of our favorite musicians will be returning, including Burt Hara, principal clarinet of the Minnesota Orchestra, pianist Pedja Muzijevic, violinist Jonathan Crow, concertmaster of Toronto Symphony and violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama and we give a warm welcome to some of our new musicians, including Swedish cellist Kajsa William-Olsson, American soprano Susan Narucki, and Alan Gilbert, violinist/conductor and music director of the New York Philharmonic.

I am very excited about our educational initiatives this year, which include "*Sound Investment*"; a micro commissioning adventure involving three engaging visits to Damariscotta by our young composer Roger Zare, as well as a 3-way collaboration with two other local organizations; the Damariscotta River Association and the Lincoln Theatre, to produce a 2 week one-of-a-kind "*Music and Nature*" camp for children! (See more details in this issue)

I hope you can join us for an enriching 2 weeks of music in August.

May time pass quickly until then!

Mina



Wilhelmina Smith, Artistic Director



Joseph Zizzo, Photographer



SALT BAY
CHAMBERFEST
Wilhelmina Smith, Artistic Director

2012 FESTIVAL *Time Passing*

FOUR CONCERTS

Tuesday, Friday, Sunday, Friday
August 14, 17, 19 & 24
7:30 PM

Pre-concert talks at 6:30 PM
Moo Cafe opens at 6:15 PM
Darrows Barn, Round Top Farm,
Damariscotta

TWO MASTERCLASSES

Friday, August 17, 1:00 PM
for young Maine composers
Darrows Barn, Round Top Farm,
Damariscotta

Friday, August 24, 3:00 PM
for young Maine musicians
Schooner Cove Retirement
Community, Damariscotta

FREE FAMILY CONCERT

Premieres of Student Work
from Music & Nature Camp
Saturday, August 18
10:00 -11:00 AM
Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta

ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

Help support Salt Bay Chamberfest!
Sunday, July 8
3:00 to 5:00 PM
Home of Lisa & Brian Garrison
South Bristol

Composer Profile

Roger Zare Commissioned for Final 2012 Concert

by Kay Liss

Salt Bay Chamberfest prides itself in mixing it up, the old with the new, the classical repertoire with the modern. And what could be more “new” than a piece commissioned by SBC to have its premier during the summer festival?

Roger Zare, a composer who at the youthful age of 26 has already amassed an impressive array of awards and commissions, was chosen for this year’s honor. As SBC managing director Kit Pfeiffer felicitously phrases it: “The idea is for us to ‘adopt’ him and support his emerging career.” The financial support will come in the form of 25 SBC enthusiasts donating \$100 each toward the cost of Roger composing a short work.

In addition to working on his piece for the Chamberfest, Roger is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Michigan. In mid-May he’ll be coming to Damariscotta to meet his commissioners and the public, which he says he’s much looking forward to, especially since it will be his first trip to Maine. The Sarasota, Florida native said he’s visited 40 states, “but never Maine.”

In fact, when he was young, his family liked to take road trips, he said, and one of his first compositions (he began composing at the age of 14) is a string quartet called “*Road Trip*”. Roger’s pieces are atmospheric and wonderfully evocative of their subjects. “*Road Trip*”, for example, has a sort of driving, slightly repetitious narrative rhythm and sound that exactly reminds one of being on a road trip.

His primary source of inspiration comes from the sights and sounds of nature, he says, reflected in the names of his compositions. “*Green Flash*”,

an orchestral work of flutes, horns, harp, piano and strings, in 2007 won a BMI student composer award, in 2008 the American Composers Orchestra Underwood Commission, and in 2009 an ASCAP Foundation Rudolf Nissim Prize. An earlier orchestral work, “*The Other Rainbow*”, premiered at Carnegie Hall in February 2006. Another of Roger’s orchestral works, “*Aerodynamics*”, received a 2009 BMI student composer award and was premiered by the Minnesota Orchestra as part of the 2009 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute. In this highly atmospheric work featuring flutes and other wind instruments, his lifelong interest in astronomy is given majestic musical form.

A recent clarinet concerto, “*Bennu’s Fire*”, was written for and premiered by Alexander Fiterstein at the 2010 International Clarinet Association’s ClarinetFest. Again, much of the inspiration comes from nature, the work being based on the Firebird of Egyptian mythology. Other awards and recognition include a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and fellowships to the 2010 Aspen Composition Masterclass and the 2010 Cabrillo Festival of New Music Composer-Conductor workshop. He’s been composer in residence of the Chamber Music Festival of Lexington (2010) and the SONAR new music ensemble (2008-present).

Because his compositions tend to the abstract and atmospheric, Roger should feel perfectly in his element creating a work to fit in with the Chamberfest’s 2012 theme of the passage of time.



Alexandra Dee, Photographer

continued

"It's a wide-open theme. I'm really excited about it," he offered, though didn't want to divulge much more other than the piece will probably be for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and maybe viola.

With the predominance of wind instruments in many of his works, one would think he perhaps played those instruments, but he actually grew up playing the piano, starting at the age of five, and the violin, at 11. However, he says he likes writing for all instruments, including the voice. "Usually when I write a piece, I have specific performers in mind: I know who will be playing it." This is one of the many advantages of being in an academic environment, he says. "There are opportunities to have your work performed and you make lots of connections. Here in Michigan I've also met great conductors."

"A lot of composers don't have advanced degrees," he continued, "but in addition to the advantages I mentioned, there are new perspectives in composition to learn and then I'll also have the academic credentials to be a professor of musical composition, which I'd love to be." Prior to enrolling at Michigan, Roger received a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from the University of Southern California and a Master of Music degree in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

Among the accolades he's garnered in the press, the New York Times said his music shows an "enviable grasp of orchestration" with "formal clarity and an alluringly mercurial surface."

We all can't wait to experience Roger's music ourselves, written just for us. His work will open the final concert on August 24. To be a commissioner of Roger Zare and have your name printed on the score, call 207-522-3749.

About the Author: Kay Liss is a long-time journalist for newspapers, including the New York Times, and various magazines specializing in fine art and architecture. She moved from New York to mid-coast Maine in 2002.

Fragments: Connecting Past and Present



Peter Schaaf, Photographer

Thanks to the generosity of Judy and David Falk, Salt Bay Chamberfest is a co-commissioner of this national project of the Bretano String Quartet. You can hear the full-length concert "Fragments" on Friday night, August 17. Here are some musings on the project by the Bretano String Quartet's first violinist Mark Steinberg.

How fascinating it is to get a glimpse into promising beginnings of historic works that never grew into their full selves, marble blocks that are half statue, half stone. And how intriguing to have composers of our day reach back and hold hands with some of the great composers of the past. In "Fragments" we are exploring the idea of this linkage.

Incomplete works by Mozart, Schubert, Bach, Haydn and Schoenberg are paired with new compositions by some of our most thoughtful and imaginative composers—Charles Wuorinen, Bruce Adolphe, Sophia Gubaidulina, John Harbison, Stephen Hartke, and Vijay Iyer. Some of the composers used snippets of the original fragments as building blocks. And some absorbed the musical spirit of the earlier fragment to write a new piece imbued with its spirit.

The new pieces give you a particular perspective on the musical fragment you have just heard. It's music "speaking" about music. Just as audience members will have very different reactions to a single piece, so do these composers, each of whom has a very distinct personality and point of view.

Welcome

New Board Member Alison Lahnston

A cum laude graduate of Radcliffe College, Alison Lahnston holds an MBA in Finance and Investments from George Washington University and a Master's degree from Simmons School of Library Science.



Anton Lahnston, Photographer

Alison Lahnston began her fundraising career in 1983 after extensive experience in business, trust and financial planning and educational administration. In her second year as Director of Planned Giving at Wheaton College, the program was awarded a silver medal for most improvement by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). She then was appointed Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship in Boston University's \$200 million campaign. From 1988 to 1996 Ms. Lahnston served as a Major Gifts Officer and Director of Major Gifts at Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences where she participated in the planning and implementation of Harvard's \$2.1 billion campaign. After a move to New Jersey, she served as the Director of Planned Giving for the Peddie School (1997 -2007).

Alison served as an elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association, for two terms as a Trustee of Radcliffe College and as President of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association. She has served on the boards of the Cambridge (Massachusetts) Historical Society, the Planned Giving Group of New England, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She has also served on the Board of the Princeton Public Library Foundation, as Vice President of the Historical Society of Princeton, and President of the New Jersey Gift Planning Council. She is currently a Trustee of the Princeton Public Library, Co-Chair of the Public Library Endowment Campaign, a Trustee of the Historical Society of Princeton and the first woman President of the Nassau Club.

Welcome, Alison!

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Sostenuto: a musical term meaning “performed in a smooth and sustained manner”

In the fall of 2010, the Board of Salt Bay Chamberfest formed the Sostenuto Circle to recognize donors whose significant gifts, totaling \$1,000 or more a year, will sustain our Festival. Hearty thanks to the following loyal friends who are this year's members of Sostenuto:

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Our gratitude to the following friends of Salt Bay Chamberfest who have made gifts between January 1, 2011 and March 15, 2012. We always try to have a complete list; however, if your name is missing or listed incorrectly, please let us know!

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Musician Profile

Kajsa William-Olsson, cellist

by Peter Felsenthal

New to Salt Bay Chamberfest this year is cellist Kajsa William-Olsson. Kajsa, currently a resident of both New York City and Stockholm, Sweden, came to live in this country several years ago but still maintains her strong Swedish roots. Now she feels so at home in each country that she misses the other no matter where she is!

Kajsa grew up in Gothenburg, Sweden, the daughter of a journalist mother and a violinist/physician father. Her original desire was to play the harp, but, after her father talked to a local harpist and determined what was involved, he convinced her to take up the cello instead, which she did at age 10. Kajsa's brother and sister are also musicians (violinists). She remembers coming back from family skiing trips and instead of collapsing, practicing with her siblings! She studied first at the Music Academy in Gothenburg and then at the Edsburgs Music Institute, a small, 25 student music school that teaches only piano, violin, viola and cello. As a result, Kajsa has an excellent grounding in solo and chamber music performance.

She was a founding member of the VITALIS and the Hanna string quartets, and joined the Royal Stockholm Symphony in 1995. She continues her tenure with this orchestra, with whom she performs on her return trips to Sweden. This summer, she will perform at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival before coming to Salt Bay Chamberfest, and after her visit to Maine she will travel to Sweden with her family for a well earned vacation!

Kajsa is the mother of three children ages 2, 7 and 8. Her oldest is studying the violin, and since the youngest always wants to imitate her older sister, she, too, has a tiny violin! Kajsa herself, while running the household, still manages to practice 2-3 hours each day.



Living in NYC, Kajsa gets plenty of exercise by delivering her kids to school by bicycle. This also gives her a chance

to be in nature (Central Park) and participate in all the seasonal changes. When I spoke with her in early February, she remarked on the daffodils already blooming along the Park pathways. She uses the bike even if it is raining but draws the line for snow and ice. When this happens she will utilize the bus or taxi to get the kids to school.

Besides being a wonderful cellist and a mom of three, Kajsa loves to cook. She shares this passion with her husband, Alan Gilbert, who also prepares meals. Because they live in New York City they have an abundance of places to shop and support their desire to consume sustainably-grown produce. She uses the local farmers markets when possible. Meals are often planned after breakfast so shopping trips can be integrated with taking the children to school.

Kajsa plans to return to Sweden for Easter this year. She will perform chamber music with friends at a nature conservancy property before the Symphony concerts. This group of friends has been meeting and performing together since she was a child. Now she can watch her oldest child perform while she participates in the adult concerts!

Kajsa will take part in Salt Bay's concert on Sunday, August 19, playing in Samuel Barber's "Dover Beach" and Richard Strauss' "Metamorphosen". She plays a Giovanni Grancino cello dated 1709.

About the Author: Peter Felsenthal is an avid audience member at Salt Bay Chamberfest and serves as President of the Board. He began his love for writing as the editor of his high school newspaper.

New Music & Nature Camp

Creating Young Composers

by Kit Pfeiffer

Salt Bay Chamberfest is delighted to announce a new partnership with the Damariscotta River Association (DRA) and Lincoln Theater to inaugurate the Music & Nature Camp and Concert in August. We have booked nationally renowned composer and music educator Jon Deak; James Blachly, composer and founder of the Sheep Island Ensemble; and the internationally renowned Brentano String Quartet to partner with us to create a unique music and nature experience. Deak and Blachly will work with DRA's Education Coordinator, Sarah Gladu, to blend the curriculum Deak has used successfully for over 15 years in the Very Young Composers project of the New York Philharmonic with the popular Camp Mummichog curriculum, which Gladu developed and has directed since 2006.

The resulting Music & Nature Camp and Concert will be a two-week session from August 6 to 17, with a concert on August 18, open to ten children aged 9 to 12. Deak and Blachly will introduce different musical instruments and beginning concepts of musical composition; Gladu will teach the children to be aware of the natural world around them with diverse hands-on activities at the DRA property, a visit to Big Huckleberry Island for a day, and a kayak adventure on Great Salt Bay. Together, the three educators of the Music & Nature Camp and Concert will help the children to express the connections between nature and music. By the end of the session, each camper will complete an original piece of music.

On Saturday morning, August 18, the young composers and the community will hear the world-premier of their new works played by the Brentano String Quartet. This Free Family Concert will take place at the Lincoln Theater in downtown Damariscotta. Executive Director Andrew



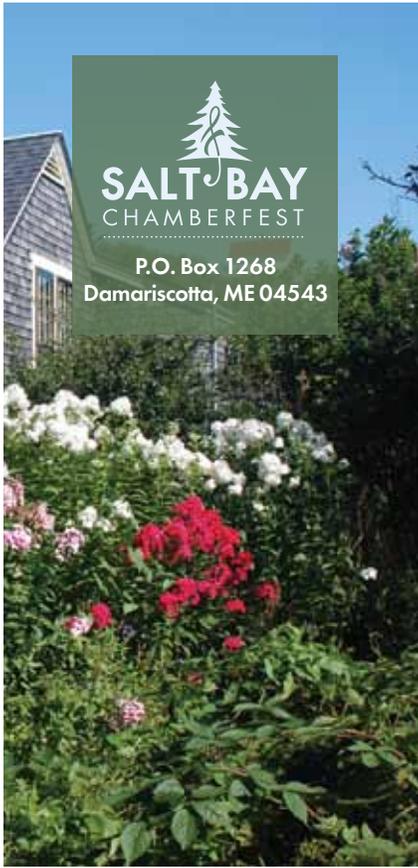
Composer Jon Deak teaching in Very Young Composers program in New York City.



Sarah Gladu, DRA Education Coordinator, teaching a lobster biology class during Camp Mummichog, with a lobster in hand.

Fenniman will produce the concert, with Salt Bay's music commentator and educator, Mark Mandarano, as emcee.

To register a lucky 9-12 year old for the Music & Nature Camp at the DRA, call 207-563-1393, write to dra@damariscottariver.org, or download the form at www.damariscottariver.org. No prior music experience is necessary.



SALT BAY
CHAMBERFEST

P.O. Box 1268
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Newsletter Editor - Kit Pfeiffer
Designed by Design&Smith Creative Ventures

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HELP WITH HOUSING

If you own a private guest house or apartment near Damariscotta that you could make available to our visiting musicians for a few days during the August festival, please consider donating your space. We especially need extra housing for August 17-20. Since Salt Bay Chamberfest is a not-for-profit organization, the rental value of your housing donation is tax-deductible. If you are able to help out, please call Kit Pfeiffer at 207-522-3749.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED



There are lots of fun things you can do to help out during our Festival, ranging from ushering and box office work to helping with parking or baking your best cookies for the Moo Café. Please contact Kit Pfeiffer at 207-522-3749 or contact@saltbaychamberfest.org if you are interested in giving us a hand.