



FRIENDS OF MUSIC
PROMOTING MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

2024-2025 CONCERT SEASON



CHAMBER MUSIC AT ITS BEST!

Barbara Spicher
Photo by Mark Muse

In Historic Shepherdstown, WV

TICKETS & INFORMATION: FRIENDSWV.ORG / INFO@FRIENDSWV.ORG

Admission to all concerts FREE for Friends of Music Members



PRE-CONCERT TALKS

This season, to enhance the audience experience of our Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra concerts, we will again offer talks in the concert hall before each evening performance—and before afternoon performances, too, when logistics allow.

In these talks, our music director, **Jed Gaylin**, will discuss the works being performed, offering his insights into the compositions and the composers. Jed is very knowledgeable and an excellent teacher, and concertgoers should always find these sessions to be informative and enjoyable.

The talks will start an hour before the performance (6:30 for evening performances and 2:00 for afternoon performances), and last about half an hour.

There will be no additional charge to attend these talks and no need to make reservations for them. But remember, the talks will only be held in conjunction with our Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra concerts. They will not be held in conjunction with our concerts by smaller ensembles.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!
2024-2025 Concert Season
Chamber Music at its Best!

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
FRIENDSWV.ORG/INFO@FRIENDSWV.ORG



PO BOX 220, SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV 25443

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WELCOME TO OUR 2024-2025 SEASON!

Friends of Music is entering its 25th year, and we welcome you to join us during our upcoming concert season. It will begin in September with a concert by an exciting guest ensemble called Gut, Wind, and Wire, and the concerts that follow will—as always—feature a mix of new works and traditional favorites.

Audience satisfaction is one of our highest priorities. The responses to our surveys of concertgoers and others have been most positive, and we are honored that so many of you have taken the time to offer ideas and encouragement. And we listen: Throughout our 2024-2025 season, we will continue experimenting and innovating.

But promoting excellence in music doesn't just involve meeting the expectations of current concert audiences. We are also trying to develop audiences for the future by fostering

fuller appreciation and understanding of great music among all age levels and especially among young people. With our grants to public school music programs in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, our scholarships to graduating seniors from those schools, and our other educational activities, we want to be actively involved in the cultural life of the community and be more than an organization that simply hosts concerts.

In all our endeavors, we are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the community, especially those of you who help sustain us on an ongoing basis by becoming members and those who donate to us. Support from corporate and foundation funders has been growing, but we could not survive without your help. We look forward to seeing you again at this new season's performances and hope you greatly enjoy the music!

—Judy Jones, President

PLEASE DONATE IF YOU CAN!

Our funding sources include memberships, ticket sales, support from local businesses, and grants. But as with most arts organizations everywhere, our largest source of support is donations from people like you. We very much depend on your generosity.

By donating to Friends of Music, you help preserve the arts in this part of West Virginia. This not only enriches our community's cultural life, it also improves our community's economic prospects by making this area a better place to live, work, and visit. Individual donations of any size are always welcome and appreciated. Every dollar helps, and no donation is too small. If you receive Individual Retirement Account distributions, please remember you can achieve significant tax benefits by designating all or part of each year's distribution to nonprofit organizations such as Friends of Music. Check with your tax preparer for details.

If you want to restrict a donation to a specific purpose, you can be assured we will use it only for that purpose.

You can donate online at www.friendswv.org. Or you can use the form that accompanies this brochure and mail it with your check to Friends of Music, PO Box 220, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. We would prefer that you donate by check because a service fee is deducted from online donations. But we are grateful to accept whatever form of payment you prefer.

Donors at all levels will be recognized in our concert programs according to the following Honor Roll:

- FRIENDS — Donations up to \$99
- CULTIVATORS — \$100-\$249
- PARTNERS — \$250-\$499
- PATRONS — \$500-\$999
- SUSTAINERS — \$1,000-\$2,499
- BENEFACTORS — \$2,500+

BECOME A MEMBER!

An annual Friends of Music membership will guarantee you seating at all our concerts, and it's easy and convenient. You'll get a personalized membership card that will replace the need for tickets at each concert. Just show your card at the door for admission.

Memberships are \$175 per person. This covers admission to all five of the season's concerts and represents a savings of \$15 over the cost of buying individual tickets for each performance. If you cannot attend a particular concert, you can lend your card to a friend or family member if you notify us in advance. In addition to free admission to all our concerts, members also enjoy advance email delivery of concert program notes and information as well as invitations to attend all our Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra rehearsals and special events.

Annual memberships benefit Friends of Music, too! Receiving these revenues at the beginning of each concert season helps put us on a sound financial footing and ensures high quality music for the season's duration. You can use the form that accompanies this brochure and mail it with a check to us at PO Box 220, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Or you can purchase your membership online at www.friendswv.org.

TICKETS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONCERTS ALSO AVAILABLE

If you'd rather not become a member, you can always purchase tickets for individual concerts on the Friends of Music website at www.friendswv.org. You can also purchase tickets by mail, using the form that accompanies this brochure, or at the door if seats are available. We accept cash, checks, and various credit cards. If you use a credit card to purchase tickets on site, we will absorb the service fee applied for that transaction.

If you misplace your ticket, please let us know, and we will arrange to admit you to the concert. All ticket sales are final, and no exchanges or refunds will be given. If you notify us in advance, you may transfer the ticket to a friend or family member.

Gut, Wind, and Wire
September 14, 2024 (one performance only)
\$35

Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra
November 2 & 3, 2024
\$40

Two Rivers String Quartet
January 26, 2025 (one performance only)
\$35

Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra
March 29 & 30, 2025
\$40

Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra
May 31 & June 1, 2025
\$40

THIS SEASON'S CONCERT SCHEDULE

NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

GUT, WIND, AND WIRE

ANCIENT AIRS AND DANCES

7:30 pm • Saturday, September 14, 2024

(One Performance Only)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown, WV

We are very pleased to open our 2024-2025 season with a concert by Gut, Wind, and Wire, a trio formed by longtime Baltimore Consort members Mark Cudek (who plays the bass viol, cittern, and percussion), Ronn McFarlane (lute), and Mindy Rosenfeld (flutes, fifes, and bagpipes). They have named their ensemble for the natural elements that bring their instruments to life: gut strings, wire strings, and wind (breath). Since its beginning, Gut, Wind, and Wire has explored a wide variety of music from the 16th and 17th centuries, music from folk traditions, and even original music. They have been making music together for over four decades!

The concert they will perform for us will focus on a rich range of delightful early and Celtic pieces from the 16th to 18th centuries. These works are notable not only for their own rousing, lyrical beauty but also because many of them inspired composers of later years. All of this will be explained in the commentary the trio's members will provide during their concert!



TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RADIANCE AND FIRE

7:30 pm • Saturday, November 2, 2024

3:00 pm • Sunday, November 3, 2024

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Shepherdstown, WV

- Henry Cowell (1897-1965) — Hymn and Fuguing Tune No. 10
- Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) — Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) — Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550



This concert is a tale of two halves: one gracious and radiant; the other fiery, stormy, and mostly unrelenting. But who would have thought a 20th-century American composer (Cowell) and Haydn would provide the more easy-going half, and that Mozart would provide the storminess and stress? Cowell's piece delights with warm and gentle melodies of Americana, developed in a welcoming gesture with deftness that belies its rigor. Haydn's concerto displays a similar radiance and is a technical showcase for our brilliant guest cello soloist, Amit Peled. All this good cheer sets up a dramatic conclusion in Mozart's most famous and surprisingly confessional symphony.

TWO RIVERS STRING QUARTET

MATINEE MAGIC

3:00 pm • Sunday, January 26, 2025

(One Performance Only)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown, WV

Join us as our Two Rivers String Quartet brings movie magic to life. Enjoy iconic film scores, soundtracks, and unusual pieces that capture the essence of cinematic moments—a perfect blend of Hollywood and harmony. The Quartet is composed of four of the finest members of our Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra: Heather Austin-Stone, violin; Petr Skopek, violin; Jason Diggs, viola; and Camilo Pérez-Mejía, Cello.



TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

WORKING WITH NO-NETS

7:30 pm • Saturday, March 29, 2025

Shipley Recital Hall in the Frank Arts Center, Shepherd University West Campus, Shepherdstown, WV

3:00 pm • Sunday, March 30, 2025

Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town, WV

- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) — Nonet in F minor, Op. 2
- Josef Bohuslav Foerster (1859-1951) — Nonet, Op. 147
- Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959) — Nonet, No. 2, H 374

A nonet is a composition that requires nine musicians, usually a wind quintet plus a violin, viola, cello, and double bass. But our concert will feature ten musicians—why? Because one of our nonets calls for piano instead of flute. Our first work is by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a British composer of mixed-race descent (his father was from Sierra Leone) who was named after the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Like his namesake's poetry, his music is filled with sweep and Romantic charm; his nonet is a major work that is both immediate and resonant. Works by two composers from Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) fill the second half of the concert. Despite their common heritage, these two men lived very different lives and their music reflects those differences. Foerster spent some time in Hamburg and Vienna but mostly stayed close to home. His nonet does too—it is pastoral and Bohemian in every best sense of those words. Martinů became a quintessential 20th-century composer living in Paris between the wars: urbane, witty, clever, and fun-loving—and his nonet displays the same characteristics.



TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

EN FAMILLE

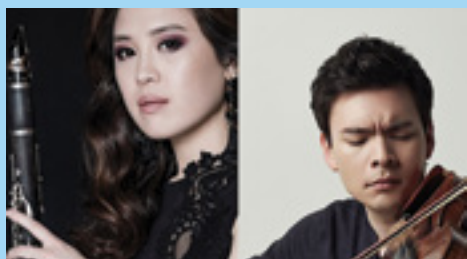
7:30 pm • Saturday, May 31, 2025

3:00 pm • Sunday, June 1, 2025

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Shepherdstown, WV

- Carlos Simon (b. 1986) — Elegy: A Cry from the Grave
- Eric Nathan (b. 1983) — Double Concerto for solo violin and solo clarinet
- Aaron Copland (1900-1990) — Clarinet Concerto
- Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) — Prelude to Act III, Forza del destino
- Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) — Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. posth

We are thrilled to present an exciting husband-wife team of guest musicians—world renowned violinist Stefan Jackiw and phenomenally talented clarinetist Yoonah Kim—in a shimmering program of great beauty that will feature both musicians virtually non-stop. Together, they will perform an intensely expressive work they commissioned from Eric Nathan. Each will also be showcased individually: Ms. Kim in the iconic Copland Clarinet Concerto, originally written for Benny Goodman, and Mr. Jackiw in a lesser-known jewel by Felix Mendelssohn that was discovered by Yehudi Menuhin in 1951, 129 years after it was composed.



Committed to Musical Excellence

Founded in 1999, Friends of Music is a local nonprofit organization that promotes musical excellence in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. We pursue this mission first by sponsoring the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra and small ensembles. We also work to boost music appreciation and education in our local public schools by assisting music programs at those schools and by providing scholarships to graduating seniors.

Our past seasons have been a success by every measure, and with your help we will strive for even more memberships this season! We hope you'll continue to enjoy the music we offer—live, up close, and personal—in this new season's concerts!

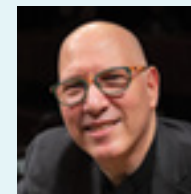
Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra

Established in 2007, the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra is the only chamber orchestra in the Eastern Panhandle composed entirely of professional musicians and one of only a handful of such orchestras in the state. The time and effort these musicians devote to their art is evident in the quality of their music. Many of our musicians also perform regularly with other leading orchestras in the region, including those in the Baltimore and Washington, DC, metropolitan areas. They hold advanced degrees in music and teach as well. This is an orchestra to be proud of. Join us and see what we mean!

Music Director: JED GAYLIN

This will be Jed Gaylin's 12th season as music director and conductor of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra. He is a tremendous asset, and we are lucky to have him! He has made an enormous difference in the quality and creativity of the orchestra's programming and performances.

Jed is also music director of the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore and New Jersey's Bay Atlantic Symphony, and he is principal guest conductor of the Cape May



Music Festival. He has previously served as principal guest conductor of Beijing's National Film and Radio Philharmonic, director of orchestras of the Cervera International

Music Festival and Summer Course in Spain, and principal guest conductor of the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania. He has also been a guest conductor with many other prestigious orchestras in the United States and worldwide.

Supporting Music Education in Local Schools



Choral students at Gerrardstown's Mountain Ridge Middle School with new sheet music donated to the school by Friends of Music.

With the ongoing assistance of local businesses and foundations, we are continuing to provide substantial support to music education programs in public elementary and secondary schools in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties.

In 2024, thanks to a generous grant from Ecolab Inc., we have donated musical instruments and accessory equipment and supplies to 19 schools, a record number. The schools are: Berkeley Heights Elementary, Blue Ridge Primary, Charles Town Middle, Harpers Ferry Middle, Hedgesville Middle, Jefferson High, Martinsburg North Middle, Martinsburg South Middle, Martinsburg

High, Mill Creek Intermediate, Mountain Ridge Middle (2 grants), Musselman High, Ranson Elementary, South Jefferson Elementary, Spring Mills Primary, Spring Mills Middle, Tomahawk Intermediate, Washington High, and Wildwood Middle. The value of the year's donations is \$7,037. This brings our total donations to school music programs so far to more than \$33,000. Also in 2024, thanks to the generosity of the Nora Roberts Foundation, we have awarded \$500 college scholarships to four very talented music students who graduated from local high schools: Richard Friends III, from Jefferson High; Melody Hudson, from Martinsburg High; Liam McCarthy, from Musselman High; and Alexander Parello, from Musselman High. This brings the total value of scholarships we've awarded so far to \$14,500.

Since last season, we have also been offering free concert tickets to music teachers and students in all the public elementary and secondary schools in Jefferson and Berkeley counties. Tickets for college students are \$5 each.

MEET OUR NEW SCOTT BEARD INTERN: MATTHEW JAGELA

Our Scott Beard Intern for the 2024-2025 academic year and concert season will be Matthew Jagela, a Shepherd University music major who begins his sophomore year in the fall. Matthew, who is from Weirton, WV, is proficient with several instruments, most notably trombone, bass trombone, tuba, and piano. In his freshman year at Shepherd, he performed in numerous ensembles such as the Ram Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Piano Ensemble, Trombone Choir, and Masterworks Chorale. He is involved in the honors program and has been serving on the piano accompaniment team for various performances.

We created this internship three years ago in honor of Dr. Scott Beard, Shepherd's much-beloved professor of music, provost, and vice

president for academic affairs—and Friends of Music board member—who passed away suddenly in the spring of 2021.

The internship is open to talented Shepherd music students interested in arts administration. It gives them the opportunity to participate in managing and sustaining a professional arts organization by helping in the Friends' office, and they receive a \$1,000 stipend.

This year, the internship is being supported by the Marion Park Lewis Foundation for the Arts, which is based in Winchester, Virginia.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



As before, this season's Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra concerts are being presented with generous financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. We are most grateful for their continuing support!

We are also very grateful for the generous support from Ecolab Inc.; the Nora Roberts Foundation; the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Detlev and Mary Ellen Preissler Fund for the Arts, Music, Design, and Nature; the Long Meadow Fund; the Ian Thom Foundation; and the Marion Park Lewis Foundation for the Arts. Several local business sponsors also assist our efforts.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION