

PRESS RELEASE
MAY 7, 2017

CONTACT: Ronnie Bauch (917-699-6263)
rbauch@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NORTH COUNTRY CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNOUNCE
2017 WHITE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL, JULY 8 THROUGH
AUGUST 13**

Recognized as one of New England's foremost musical ensembles for nearly four decades, the *North Country Chamber Players* proudly announce their summer season, the 39th annual *White Mountains Music Festival*, which will include six weeks of concerts, lectures, open rehearsals and outreach programs in northern New Hampshire, beginning on Saturday, July 8 at the historic **Sugar Hill Meeting House** and concluding, on Sunday, August 13, at the spectacular **Mountain View Grand Resort** in Whitefield. According to Chamber Players' Artistic Director, Ronnie Bauch, "this is one of our most ambitious and dynamic summer seasons to date. These programs, blending classic works and totally accessible, cutting edge repertoire, organized in compelling combinations, will delight listeners of all ages, musical tastes and backgrounds."

Joining the *North Country Chamber Players*, this summer, as featured guest artists, will be the renowned Portuguese guitarist, *Pedro Joia*, whose work with fado legend, *Mariza*, has placed him prominently on the World Music map, the brilliant American soprano, *Sara Heaton*, now singing with the *Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center*, and the *Solera String Quartet*. Making their New Hampshire debut, this rising young chamber group has been described by music critics as "top notch, intense, stylish, and with an abundance of flare and talent," and is currently in residence at the *University of Notre Dame*. In addition, *Bernard Scully*, horn player of the well-known *Canadian Brass Quintet* will return to the *White Mountains Festival* for a special tribute concert dedicated to the late *Kendall Betts*, who, up until last summer, was a fixture of the *Philadelphia Orchestra*, *Minnesota Orchestra* and *North Country Chamber Players* for over 30 years.

Themes for this summer's concerts include *'Iberia'*, a guided musical tour of the folk music of Portugal and Spain, from a classical perspective, that celebrates the release of a critically acclaimed

new album, *Lisboa Intima*, by North Country Chamber Player flutist, *Susan Palma Nidel*, (www.susanpalmanidel.com) and guitarist, *Pedro Joia*; *'Mendelssohn Octet'*, a pairing of Mendelssohn's incomparable teenage masterpiece with his dramatic final string quartet, the Opus 80; *'Rhapsody'*, a concert driven by the hot-blooded passion, driving rhythms and colorful sounds of the Eastern European countryside, featuring Hungarian and Romanian dances and rhapsodies by Brahms, Bartok and Enesco; *'Vivaldi's Venice'*, will highlight popular concertos for oboe, mandolin and piccolo penned by the great violinist, composer and teacher whose work epitomizes both the Italian Baroque era and his magical home city, legendary for its commerce, carnivals, architecture and intrigue; *'Fantasia'* surveys the powerful music of film, opera and theater with vocal works by Verdi, Bernstein, and Korngold, and remembers the extraordinary cinematic partnerships of Alfred Hitchcock and Bernard Herrmann, and Walt Disney and Leopold Stokowski, whose chance encounter in a Los Angeles restaurant produced an animated concert that changed, forever, the way we think about music and movies; *'Grand Finale'*, will serve as a musical tribute, including music of Brahms, Mozart and PDQ Bach, to the consummate artistry and grand sense of humor of Kendall Betts, one of America's greatest horn players for four decades.

All concerts, during Weeks 1 through 5, will be preceded by pre-concert talks delivered by Dr. Joel Timm, Professor of Music at the University of Southern California, as part of the *Fritz Kramer Lecture Series*. His introductions will provide valuable and entertaining background information and inside looks at the music and composers featured each week. They will also include interviews, musical examples and the personal experiences and reflections of an oboist who has collaborated with many of the most famous classical and popular artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, and who can be heard on the film scores of more than 150 Hollywood films.

Concerts at the historic *Sugar Hill Meeting House*, located on Route 117 in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, will take place on July 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 5 and 12, beginning at 7:30 PM. Programs in the air-conditioned ballroom at the spectacular *Mountain View Grand Resort*, located off Route 3 in Whitefield, NH, will be presented on July 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 13, beginning at 4:00 PM. The concert on Sunday afternoon, August 6 will take place at *Alumni Hall*,

75 Court Street, Haverhill, NH, also at 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 for all concerts and may be purchased on line, at the door, or by calling 603-444-0309. Students, under the age of 18, are admitted free of charge.

Dates and locations of free open rehearsals and showcase presentations, throughout July and August, can be accessed at www.whitemountainsmusicfestival.org

BACKGROUND

In 1978, a group of ten musicians holding principal positions with such prestigious ensembles as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, New York City Ballet and Opera Orchestras, and New York's Speculum Musicae joined artistic forces in northern New Hampshire to present four chamber music concerts over two summer weekends. Now in their 39th season, the North Country Chamber Players, through their unwavering commitment to the area and, having successfully built an audience for classical music in northern New Hampshire, now present their ever-popular six-week-long *White Mountains Music Festival* and additional year-round chamber music concerts. During the past four decades, the Chamber Players have designed and presented concerts, multi-media presentations, lectures and seminars of the highest artistic and intellectual standards including collaborations with internationally renowned figures like jazz great *Branford Marsalis*, tango master *Pablo Ziegler*, conductor, author and educator, *Leon Botstein*, and architect and visionary *Paolo Soleri*. In addition, they have frequently partnered with regional artists, celebrities and organizations like *Ballet New England*, *Ben & Jerry*, the *Starbird Puppet Theater*, the *Weathervane Theater*, the *Papermill Playhouse*, *Bread and Puppet Theater*, the *Frost Place*, *Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN)*, the *Jefferson Chorus*, the *Summerfare Chorus* and many others. As ambassadors for the arts, representing New Hampshire, the Chamber Players performed in a national tribute to the great Brazilian composer Heitor Villa Lobos at New York City's *Merkin Concert Hall*, presented a nine-concert series, "*An American Chamber Music Retrospective*," under the auspices of the *MacDowell Colony's Centennial Anniversary* celebration, and have been the subject of feature articles in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe* and *Ski Magazine*.

Serving as a national model for resident ensembles, the Chamber Players have presented countless education and outreach programs in New Hampshire public and private schools (from a one-room schoolhouse in Stark to the campus' of Dartmouth and Keene State Colleges), at town halls, meeting houses, opera houses, radio stations, movie theaters, libraries, factory floors, supermarkets, community centers, senior facilities, hospitals, rehab centers, churches, synagogues, ski lodges, grand resorts and summer camps, among others. In recognition of their groundbreaking **Rural Arts Program**, which, in partnership with the *NH State Council on the Arts*, provided interactive in-school programs for more than 80,000 New Hampshire students, the Chamber Players were invited by *Carnegie Hall* to participate in their *Link-Up* educational program in New York City. Their work with New Hampshire school children also led to an invitation to present a showcase performance about the *Rural Arts Initiative* on the floor of the **New Hampshire State Legislature** where they received a standing ovation from more than 300 state lawmakers who voted, the next day, to continue funding the program.

PROGRAM DETAILS

WEEK 1 'IBERIA'

Guest Artists: Pedro Joia, guitar, Laura Frautschi, violin, Ruca Rebordão, percussion

July 8, Sugar Hill Meeting House, Sugar Hill, NH

July 9, Mountain View Grand Resort, Whitefield, NH

FALLA: *Siete Canciones Populares* for violin, viola, cello, bass and piano

ANON: *Alfama* for flute and guitar

C. PAREDES: *Verdes Anos* for flute and guitar

J LUIS: *Um Homen Na Cidade* for solo flute

MISC *Flamenco Pieces* for solo guitar

J. PEREIRA: *Ler Devagar* for flute and guitar

ALBENIZ: Excerpts from *"IBERIA"* for clarinet, violin, cello and piano

BOCCHERINI: *Quintet No. 4 in D, G. 448 'Fandango'* for guitar and string quartet

WEEK 2 'MENDELSSOHN OCTET': Eleonor and Fritz Kramer Concert

Guest Artists: Solera String Quartet, Megumi Stohs, violin, Marcia Cassidy, viola

July 15, Sugar Hill Meeting House

July 16, Mountain View Grand Resort

MARTINU: *Sonata* for flute and piano

MENDELSSOHN: *String Quartet in f minor, Op. 80*

FINZI: *Eclogue* for piano and strings

MENDELSSOHN: *Octet in Eb Major, Op. 20* for strings

WEEK 3 'RHAPSODY'

Guest Artists: Megumi Stohs, violin, Cal Wiersma, viola

July 22, Sugar Hill Meeting House

July 23, Mountain View Grand Resort

DOPPLER: *Andante and Rondo* for flute, violin and piano

BARTOK: *Romanian Folk Dances (arr. Palma)* for flute, clarinet and strings

BRAHMS: *Hungarian Dances Nos. 4, 5, 6 (arr. Farrington)* for clarinet, cello and piano

DVORAK: *Silent Woods* for cello and piano

ENESCO: *Romanian Rhapsodie No.1* for piano and string quintet

WEEK 4 'VIVALDI'S VENICE'

Guest Artists: Keisuke Ikuma, oboe, Joel Brent, mandolin, Liesl Doty, violin, Karl Doty, bass

July 29, Sugar Hill Meeting House

July 30, Mountain View Grand Resort

MONTEVERDI/GABRIELI: *Toccatà and Ricercare*

VIVALDI: *Mandolin Concerto in C Major, RV 425*

Oboe Concerto in a minor, RV 463

VIVALDI: *Piccolo Concerto in C Major, RV 443*

Vivaldi "a la mode" for violin, mandolin, and double bass

Molti Istromenti Concerto, RV 558

WEEK 5 'FANTASIA'

Guest Artist: Sara Heaton, soprano, Anna Lim, violin, Sophie Scolink-Borower, piano, Robert Schulz, percussion

August 5, Sugar Hill Meeting House

August 6, Alumni Hall, Haverhill, NH

MORRICONE: *Cinema Paradiso* for flute, clarinet, strings, piano, and percussion

VERDI: *Ave Maria from "Otello"* for voice and strings

HERMANN: *Psycho Suite* for string quartet

BERNSTEIN: *Glitter and be Gay from "Candide"*

ROTA *Aria from "Divertimento Concertante"* for double bass and piano

KORNGOLD: *Marietta's Lied from 'Die tote stadt'*

DUKAS: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice (arr. Farrington)*

WEEK 6 GRAND FINALE: A Tribute to KENDALL BETTS

Guest Artists: Bernard Scully and Lauren Becker, horns, Curt Macomber, violin, Kemp Jernigan, oboe, Reiko Uchida, piano

August 12, Sugar Hill Meeting House

August 13, Mountain View Grand Resort

BRAHMS: *Trio in Eb Major, Op. 40* for horn, violin and piano {1st movement}

PDQ BACH: "Moose" Quartet excerpt

CONNESON: *Sextet* for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, bass and piano

PDQ BACH *Sonata* for viola 4 hands

MOZART: *Divertimento in D Major, K.251* for oboe, 2 horns and strings

GALA AUCTION & Mediterranean Feast

August 2, The Inn at Sunset Hill, 231 Sunset Hill Road, Sugar Hill, NH

5:30 PM Preview

6:00 PM Silent Auction, Dinner and Music

7:30 PM Live Auction

North Country Chamber Players programs are made possible by the generous support of:

Eleonor and Fritz Kramer Endowment Fund
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
New Hampshire Charitable Trust/Tillotson Fund
Ridgeline Wealth Management
Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank

ADMIN BIOS

Ronnie Bauch, Artistic Director

A founding violinist member of the *North Country Chamber Players*, Ronnie served as its Artistic Director from 1984 until 2002. As a longtime member of the *Grammy*[®] Award winning *Orpheus Chamber Orchestra*, he served several terms as an Artistic Director and also served as the Managing Director from 2002 to 2008, during which time he led a major organizational turn-around and received the first *Orpheus Leadership Award*. As a violinist, he has toured throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia with *Orpheus* and other groups. Mr. Bauch has appeared as a soloist with *Orpheus*, the *American Symphony*, the *Long Island Philharmonic*, the *American Composer's Orchestra*, and the *Westchester Philharmonic*, and has performed on hundreds of national and international radio and TV broadcasts and recordings with *Orpheus* and other ensembles. As the primary architect of the *Orpheus Institute*, a virtual conservatory-without-walls curriculum for training 21st century musicians, he designed groundbreaking experiential programs for the *Juilliard School*, *Manhattan School of Music*, *Indiana University*, the *Paris Conservatory* and *Interlochen Arts Academy*. As the creator of the *Orpheus Process*[®] demonstration, Mr. Bauch has been a featured speaker at *Stanford*, *Columbia* and *Hitotsubashi* (Tokyo) *Universities*, the *Universities of Pennsylvania*, *Illinois*, *Iowa*, *California at Berkeley*, *NYU*, and *Baruch College*. In May 2000, *Slate* magazine (slate.com) featured Ronnie in a weeklong series chronicling the life of a touring orchestra musician.

Don Palma, Program Director

For several decades, Donald Palma has been recognized as one of America's pre-eminent double bassists, conductors and educators. A native New Yorker, Don attended the Juilliard School and, at the age of nineteen, joined Leopold Stokowski's *American Symphony*. As a member of the newly formed new music ensemble, *Speculum Musicae*, he went on to win the *Naumburg Competition* and secure management with *Young Concert Artists*. A founding member of both the *North Country Chamber Players* and the *Orpheus Chamber Orchestra*, Don has toured the globe and recorded over fifty compact discs for Deutsche Grammophon, including the *Grammy Award* winning Stravinsky CD, *Shadow Dances*. Don has also been a member of the *Los Angeles Philharmonic* and played Principal Bass in the *National Arts Centre Orchestra* under Trevor Pinnock. As a performer devoted to contemporary music he has played and conducted dozens of premieres and recordings of important works. Elliott Carter's *Figment III*, Mario Davidovsky's *Synchronism No.11*, Charles Wuorinen's *Spin-Off* and Robert Ceely's *Harlequin* are among the many works composed for him. He has conducted three critically acclaimed CDs of American music with the *Odense Symphony* in Denmark and recently he conducted Ives Symphony No.2 and Strauss' Four Last Songs with the *Xalapa Symphony* in Mexico. Mr. Palma currently serves as the Music Director of the *Symphony by the Sea*, on the north shore of Boston, and serves on the faculties of the *Yale School of Music* and the *New England Conservatory*, where he directs the *NEC Chamber Orchestra*.

Ah Ling Neu, Managing Director

Violist Ah Ling Neu's performing career has spanned several continents, including the U.S., Europe, Australia and Asia. An avid chamber musician, she is currently a member of the *Cassatt String Quartet*, was a member of the *Ridge String Quartet* for three seasons, and a resident performer at the *Marlboro Music Festival* for four summers. In addition to touring with *Musicians from Marlboro* on several occasions, Ah Ling was also a member of the *New York Philomusica* for 20 years. A member of the *North Country Chamber Players*, since 2009, and the *Brooklyn Library Chamber Players*, she has participated in music festivals around the globe, including the *Bridgheampton Festival*, *the White Mountains Music Festival*, *Manchester Music Festival* and *International Musician's Seminar* in Cornwall, England. Born in Japan of Chinese parents, Neu started viola in the San Francisco public school system at the age of 13. She continued her studies at the *San Francisco Conservatory of Music* with Gennady Kleyman, and with Nobuko Imai at *the Royal Conservatory* in the Hague. While she was finishing her studies at *SFCM* she served as an acting member of the *San Francisco Symphony* for three seasons. Neu performs frequently with several orchestras in the NYC area and is currently on the faculty of *Dartmouth College*, *Williams College*, and *Columbia University*.

Joyce Petkovich, Executive Director

In addition to managing the day to day operations of the organization since 2005, Joyce Petkovich, has established new concert venues, such as *Alumni Hall* in Haverhill, the *Mountain View Grand Hotel* in Whitefield, and the *Tillotson Arts Center* in Colebrook, as well as many important new community outreach partners including the *Copper Cannon Camp* in Franconia, the *Littleton Coop* and public libraries in Lancaster and Bethlehem, among others. In addition, along with key Board members and Musicians, she played a pivotal role in the establishment of the *Fritz and Eleanor Kramer Educational Endowment Fund* and the cultivation of the recent unrestricted bequest to the NCCP from the estate of the late Joan Farrell of Concord, NH. Before joining the Chamber Players' Administrative Staff, Joyce enjoyed a lengthy career in the Boston financial services industry as a securities trader. She and her husband Vladimir have resided in Franconia since 2000 and enjoy hosting many of the musicians during the Chamber Players' *White Mountain Music Festival* each summer.
