



PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2018

www.monteuxschool.org

2018 - Celebrating 75 Years

Four Alumni Join Us as Guest Artists for 75th Anniversary Season

We are all greatly looking forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival throughout the upcoming summer season. One of the special joys will be to welcome a number of guests—former students and now friends—who will be conducting, teaching, coaching, performing, and composing for us. We are pleased to present to you, ‘in order of appearance,’ the alumni who will be joining us this season.



Ming-Feng Hsin - violin

- We are pleased to welcome back alumnus and Metropolitan Opera violinist Ming-Feng Hsin to serve as a 2018 Guest Artist in Residence. He will perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Monteux Festival Orchestra on Sunday, July 1, perform a chamber piece with students on June 27, and hold a strings masterclass.

“I was a student at the school for five summers in the late 80s studying with Charles Bruck. The school had a huge impact on me at the time. I had injured my hand in my early 20s and had to put the violin aside for many years and didn’t know what to do without music, so I chose to go into conducting. The Monteux school was the first place I got my conducting experience. The school opened up a whole new world for me, and the

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Marc Thayer to Succeed Ron Schwizer as Executive Director



We are extremely pleased to announce that the board of the Monteux School and Music Festival has selected Marc Thayer as our next Executive Director. He will succeed Ron Schwizer, who has served us with distinction for the past twelve years. Marc will be our Executive Director Designate at first and will assume his duties

during the coming 2018 season. Marc is currently Executive Director of Symphony NH in Nashua, New Hampshire, a position he will maintain in addition to this new one.

Marc received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in violin performance from the Eastman School of Music. He has had extensive leadership experience both abroad and at home. He was Deputy Director of the Association of American Voices, a Cultural Diplomacy NGO with whom he has performed and taught in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Ghana, Cuba, Thailand, Burma, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and the Gaza Strip. Thayer co-managed the American Music Abroad Program for the U.S. Department of State and served as Cultural Envoy in Liberia in 2014 and 2015. In 2016 he also taught and coached in the El Sistema program with MusAid in San Salvador. Thayer was on the faculty of the Guadalquivir Festival with the National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia from 2006-07.

From 2002-2011, Marc served as the Vice President for Education and Community Partnerships with the St. Louis Symphony and as Director of Community Engagement with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach from 1999-2001. He performed as a member of the New World Symphony from 1995-1998 and founded their Education and Community Engagement Programs.

Marc’s brother, Jeff, who is the concertmaster of the San Diego Symphony, has appeared three times as our guest artist. We are thrilled to welcome Marc into the Monteux family, and we look forward to his leadership this season and for many more to come.

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incredible amount of repertoire I learned there and the podium time really added up. Maestro Bruck's approach to music was revelatory to me, and I felt I had found my musical voice again through conducting!

"It's been many years since those formative times, but what I learned in those summers stayed indelible in my subsequent music life. I have been fortunate that Maestro Jinbo invited me back to play concertos and work with the students several times, so I never lost connection to the school through the years, even though the school was always very much part of who I was wherever I might be. Whenever I revisit the school, it seems like the place is exactly the way it was when I was a student, so surreal — like time travel — the grounds and the hall, the smell of the Maine coast, the sounds of music and summer, Michael continuing very much the same way as Charles Bruck used to teach, the same traditions and formats, down to the humor and twinkle in the eyes...the students so enthusiastic, hungry to learn, and immersed in musical ideals and teamwork. And, of course, the wonderful public who comes to the concerts appreciating such high caliber and passionate music making. It's amazing that what I experienced as a student decades ago is still available to so many subsequent generations, and the Monteux/Bruck tradition and spirit is so well maintained and preserved.

"It is such an honour to be part of the celebration of the Monteux School's 75th anniversary. I will be playing the Sibelius concerto, one of my all-time favorites. Having recently retired from the Met Orchestra, I am hoping to start a new chapter of my musical life, with time and freedom now to pursue more playing and conducting. How interesting and appropriate it is that 32 years ago when I first went to the Monteux School, it started a new chapter in my musical life. And now I will be starting another big chapter while being at the school again!"

In 2005, Mr. Hsin married Wen Qian, also a first violinist from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. They now spend much of their free time enjoying their twelve-year-old son Thomas and ten-year-old daughter Olivia.



William C. White - Guest Composer in Residence

- We have commissioned Mr. White to write an orchestral piece for our Children's Concert, to be held on Thursday July 12 at 10:30 am. He will narrate the work, *Carnival of the Animals: Maine Edition*. Mr. White will also perform as pianist in another of his works, *Trio for Viola, Horn, and Piano*, to be performed

on the July 11 program in our "Mainely Chamber Music" series. Mr. White studied conducting at the Monteux School under Maestro Jinbo from 2004 to 2006, later returning as Conducting Associate from 2009 to 2013, and then as Composer-in-Residence in 2016.

Will writes:

"We all know and love Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, a piece that has been part of the 'family music' repertoire since it was first published in 1921. (A small cadre of the composers' friends got to enjoy it as early as 1886 when Saint-Saëns first composed the piece, but he did not allow it to be published until after his death.)

"I myself have enjoyed composing new works for young audiences over the years, first with *Cinderella Goes to Music School* which I wrote for the Monteux School Children's concert in 2011, and continuing with *How to Become a Composer* and *The Itsy Bitsy Spider and His Great Singalong Adventure*. During my 2016 residency, when we premiered *Acadia Fanfare* in Hancock, I was chatting with Olivia Norine (who, along with her conductor/cellist husband John, has long been a mainstay of the school), and she mentioned the idea of a new version of *Carnival of the Animals* that would focus on Maine's local fauna: the Puffin, the Lobster, the Porcupine, the Black Bear, the Moose, the Whale, Chipmunks & Squirrels, the Eagle, the Mosquito, and, as a nod to the 'Pianists' movement in the original *Carnival*, what else – the Conductor!" (A committed vegan, Will promised that no animals would be harmed in the composition of this piece.)

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"The piece will be premiered by alumna and Conducting Associate Maestra Tiffany Lu and the Monteux Festival Orchestra at the annual Children's Concert on Thursday, July 12, as part of my residency this season. The residency's other component will provide quite a contrast: the Wednesday evening concert on July 11 will feature a performance of my most serious work to date, a *Trio for Viola, Horn, and Piano* (in which I will perform as pianist.) This is also a work with a deep Monteux School connection – it was commissioned by Andy and Mary Moran, whom I first met during the summer of 2005 when we were all students together at the school."

"As ever, I am thrilled to return once again to Downeast Maine which has inspired so much of my creative output and activity, and to the School, which has played such a vital role in my life as a musician."

Following his residency with us this summer, Mr. White will assume his new position as Music Director and Principal Conductor of Orchestra Seattle and Seattle Chamber Players.



Gabriel Lefkowitz - Guest Artist - Alumnus Gabriel Lefkowitz will join us this summer as a Guest Artist during the week of July 9. Mr. Lefkowitz is a conductor and composer, and concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra. He will present master-classes on topics ranging from audition prep, orchestral excerpt performance, and conductor auditions.

During the 2016-2017 season (concurrent with his position in Louisville), Gabriel completed a 6-year tenure as concertmaster of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his orchestral positions, Gabriel is an active soloist, recently performing concerti of Tchaikovsky (Louisville, KY), Brahms (Knoxville, TN), Philip Glass (Ocala, FL), and Mozart (Oak Ridge, TN). Gabriel is a frequent recitalist, having founded the series Gabriel Lefkowitz & Friends in Knoxville, in which he performed 16 distinct recital programs during his KSO tenure.

An active conductor, Gabriel made his conducting debut

with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra during the 2015-2016 season in the form of several light classical & pops "runout" performances at venues throughout Knoxville and East Tennessee. He served as Music Director of the Oak

"I am thrilled to be returning this summer to the Pierre Monteux School, a place that is always near and dear to my heart! Spending multiple summers in Hancock made me a better conductor, violinist, orchestral musician, and person, and I am honored to have the opportunity to 'give back.' I can't wait to return to Maine!"

Ridge Community Orchestra during the 2014-2015 season, and has worked extensively with youth ensembles including the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra, and the Boston Youth Symphony. During the 2017-2018 season conducted the Louisville Orchestra in three performances during its Neighborhood Series.

Gabriel holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and earned a master's degree at the Juilliard School where he studied with Joel Smirnoff and Masao Kawasaki. He studied conducting at the Pierre Monteux School with Michael Jinbo in the summers of 2011 and 2012.



Ludovic Morlot - Guest Conductor - "It's such an emotional journey for me to travel back to where everything started for me conducting-wise, under the guidance of Charles Bruck and Michael Jinbo. I am hugely indebted to them and to the Pierre Monteux school for instilling in me those core values of humility and the quest for truth — these are the values

that I wake up thinking of every morning. After 20 years, it's wonderful to be able to reflect on the what's been going on in my musical life, and to bring a little bit of guidance to my young musician colleagues."

We are delighted to welcome back alumnus Maestro Ludovic Morlot ('94-'97), Music Director of the Seattle Symphony and Chair of Orchestral Conducting Studies at the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle. On the July 22 Memorial Concert Mr. Morlot will conduct

"Season" continued on Page 4

Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival

PO Box 457 · Hancock, Maine 04640

Celebrating Our 75th Anniversary FULL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

Sundays at 5 PM

- June 24** - led by returning conductors
- July 1** - featuring Ming-Feng Hsin, violin, Sibelius *Violin Concerto*
- July 8** - program TBA
- July 15** - program TBA
- July 22** - Annual Memorial Concert, conducted by
Ludovic Morlot, Michael Jinbo & Tiffany Lu
- July 29** - Pops Concert



Mainly Chamber Music

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

- June 27** - featuring Ming-Feng Hsin, violin with students
from the Monteux Festival Orchestra
- July 11** - featuring William C. White's "Trio for Viola, Horn
and Piano," with the composer at the keyboard

Plus concerts on **July 18, 25**

FREE - Children's Concert - FREE

Thursday, July 12 at 10:30 AM

Maestra Tiffany Lu conducts the Monteux Festival Orchestra in a world premiere performance of "Carnival of the Animals: Maine Edition," narrated by the composer William C. White; followed by an "instrument petting zoo."

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Debussy's *Jeux*, a work Pierre Monteux premiered in Paris in 1913. Mr. Morlot will also

present a seminar and question/answer session for students, and join in teaching during the week of July 16.

This season, Maestro Morlot will be conducting at Seattle Opera for the first time (Berlioz *Béatrice et Bénédict*), make his debut with the Orchestra of St Luke's and will return to the Atlanta and Houston Symphony Orchestras. He has regular relationships with the Chicago Symphony and New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras. Ludovic also has a particularly strong connection with the Boston Symphony Orchestra having been Seiji Ozawa Fellowship Conductor in 2001 at Tanglewood and subsequently appointed assistant conductor for the orchestra and their Music Director James Levine (2004-07). Since then he has conducted the orchestra in subscription concerts in Boston, at Tanglewood, and on a tour to the west coast of America.

Outside North America, recent and future debuts include the Berliner Philharmoniker, Vienna Symphony (closing concert of the prestigious Wien Modern Festival), Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, MDR Leipzig and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestras. Ludovic has conducted the

Morlot has been Music Director of the Seattle Symphony since 2011. Among the many highlights of his tenure, the orchestra has won two Grammy Awards.

London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall in London and on tour in Germany.

Other recent notable performances have included the Royal Concertgebouw, Czech Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Tonhalle, Budapest Festival, Orchestre National de France, Helsinki Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras. Ludovic also served as conductor in residence with the Orchestre National de Lyon under David Robertson (2002-04).

Ludovic was Chief Conductor of La Monnaie for three years (2012-2014). During this time, he conducted several new productions including *La Clemenza di Tito*, *Jenufa* and *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Concert performances, both in Brussels and Aix-en-Provence, included repertoire by Beethoven, Stravinsky, Britten, Webern and Bruneau.

Trained as a violinist, Ludovic studied conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in London and then at the Royal College of Music as recipient of the Norman del Mar Conducting Fellowship. Ludovic was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to music.

Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation
All Contributions - September 1, 2017 - May 6, 2018

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In Honor of Peggy Amstutz
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In Honor of Michael Jinbo
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PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sponsored by the Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation

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Michael Jinbo

Spring 2018

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Dear Monteux Friends,

We are about to enter into our 75th season! And what a season it promises to be!

First—of course—the musicians and the music. Maestro Michael Jinbo will return with the sixty-plus strong Monteux Festival Orchestra, joined by Maestra Tiffany Lu as our Conducting Associate. As you will read in more detail in the enclosed Newsletter, we have a stunning lineup of alumni friends returning to perform, compose, and conduct:

- Ming-Feng Hsin as Guest Artist for a third time to perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto
- Gabe Lefkowitz as Guest Artist to teach and coach
- Will White as composer in residence to narrate his new work, 'Carnival of the Animals: Maine Edition'
- Ludovic Morlot, Music Director of the Seattle Symphony, to conduct at the annual Memorial Concert

Second, we have a new Executive Director Designate, Marc Thayer, who will succeed Ron Schwizer as Executive Director during the 2018 season. Again, you can read about Marc's considerable experience and credentials in the Newsletter. Marc was the unanimous selection of both our Search Committee and of the Board as a whole.

Third, our fundraising efforts have continued to bear fruit, with recent grant awards from the Davis Family Foundation and Clark Charitable Trust, and an increased number of larger gifts from generous individuals.

Fourth, we have accommodations for six more students in the newly renovated Tamarack Place, along with two additional practice rooms.

The School and Festival is moving from strength to strength in every way—musically, administratively, financially, and in physical plant. We invite you to attend as many concerts as possible, to participate in the Monteux Society with your annual gift, and to consider joining our Legacy Club with a bequest. We could not be prouder to be continuing the precious legacy of Pierre Monteux, now seventy-five years on.

As ever,



President

PO Box 457 | Hancock, ME 04640-0457 USA | Phone 207-460-0313 | Fax 207-221-5702

www.monteuxschool.org

pierremonteuxschool@gmail.com