



26th Season
2026–2027

OPREX
2020

26th Season

Sounds of the Season featuring Nicole Zuraitis

Outdoor Courtyard at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

December 16, 2026

A New Year's Celebration

Featuring David Coucheron, *violin*; Julie Albers, *cello*;
Julie Coucheron, *piano*; Elizabeth Pridgen, *piano*
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

January 3, 2027

Anderson & Roe, piano duo

Amelia River Club

January 24, 2027

Dover Quartet

Amelia Plantation Chapel

February 19, 2027

An Evening with Audra McDonald

Amelia River Club

February 23, 2027

Johannes Moser, cello with Marc-André Hamelin, piano

Amelia Plantation Chapel

March 2, 2027

Balsam Range

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

March 14, 2027

Curtis on Tour

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

March 30, 2027

Concert Hall on Wheels: The Concert Truck

Various Venues

April 3-7, 2027

Voice and the Violin

Joshua Bell, *violin*; Larisa Martínez, *soprano*; Peter Dugan, *piano*
Amelia Plantation Chapel

April 23, 2027

Marasco Young Artists' Concert

Sanctuary, Memorial United Methodist Church

May 8, 2027

Beethoven & Beer featuring American String Quartet

Mocama Beer Company

June 9, 2027

Festival Finale

Nassau County Historic Courthouse

June 12, 2027

Cover Artwork by **Christopher Rex**

Performance venues, programs, dates, and times are subject to change.

Visit us at aicmf.org for the latest information.



All venues for Festival events are wheelchair accessible. It is the policy of Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival to comply with all of the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in our programs and performances, please contact us at office@aicmf.org or (904) 261-1779 at least 10 days in advance to initiate your request.

Welcome!

Following last year's exceptional twenty-fifth season, I am elated as we begin our journey into the next quarter of a century.

Jazz musician Herbie Hancock said, "Music is about communication. It's about sharing something in common." I hope you will share in our conversations in sound and participate in the art of listening as we present stellar American voices, global virtuosi, and incomparable musicians.

This season, classical chamber music "conversations" intersect with bluegrass, vocal artistry, and rising new talents to beautifully and fluently merge in the common language of Music.

Festival favorites Julie Coucheron, David Coucheron, and Elizabeth Pridgen open the season alongside cellist Julie Albers in a celebratory New Year's concert. We also welcome back the Dover Quartet. These ascending stars, once our quartet-in-residence, have been called "the next Guarneri Quartet."

Shifting the conversation to American bluegrass, we warmly welcome one of its most award-winning bands, Balsam Range. Expanding further, Audra McDonald, classically trained soprano and winner of six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy, will grace our stage.

Three concerts feature acclaimed duos. We welcome world-renowned artists cellist Johannes Moser and legendary pianist Marc-André Hamelin, the piano duo Anderson & Roe, called "the most dynamic duo of this generation," and also present the collaboration of husband-and-wife team, violinist Joshua Bell and soprano Larisa Martinez.

More "musical conversations" are brought directly to you! The Concert Truck, a fully functioning mobile concert hall, will present seven pop-up concerts in different locations. Curtis on Tour, a global initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music, brings emerging student artists and celebrated alumni and faculty to us.



Concluding the season is the revered American String Quartet. In addition to performing in our Beethoven and Beer concerts, they will mentor two student quartets, our Beth Newdome Fellows, participating in our Christopher Rex String Seminar. This weeklong seminar of coaching and community concerts resounds in a collaborative concert with all three quartets at our Historic Courthouse for our Festival Finale.

I close with a personal note. Being involved with the Festival for the past twenty-five years has presented many of my most treasured, special, and rewarding memories. Having been a volunteer from the beginning, later becoming a board member, and now as President, I am most grateful and honored to reap the benefits from participation in the Festival's past and present "musical conversations."

Together let's enjoy the Festival's continuing journey of musical convergence, conversations, heightened listening, and phenomenal musical experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Emma Bledsoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Emma Bledsoe
*Amelia Island Chamber Music
Festival President*

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A Letter from the Executive Director

Every winter and spring, Amelia Island becomes a stage for some of the finest chamber musicians in the world. But the measure of this Festival has never been only what happens on our stages. It is who gets to experience the music, and how far that experience reaches into our community.

To those who joined us for our 25th Anniversary Season: thank you. Whether you attended a concert, told a friend, made a donation, or simply showed up and listened, you made something extraordinary possible. Twenty-five years is a milestone, and we did not take a single moment of it for granted.

As we step into Season 26, we are making some intentional changes. This year, we are keeping our headline performances in our more intimate venues. We believe that chamber music is best experienced up close, where you can feel the music in the room around you. That intimacy is one of the things that makes this Festival special, and we want to protect it. We are also raising ticket prices modestly to reflect the quality of the experience we provide.

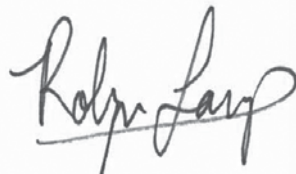
We also know that not everyone in our community can attend at full ticket price, and that matters to us. This season, we are introducing a rush ticket policy. In the final minutes before each concert, available seats will be offered for \$20. I know firsthand what access like this means. After finishing my Master of Music degree, I spent two years in Boston studying voice, coaching, and singing with local opera companies. The Boston Symphony released rush tickets on concert mornings, and utilizing this rush ticket program I was able to hear some of the most extraordinary musicians. I would not have had those experiences without that access, and I want to offer the same opportunity to anyone in our community who wants it.

That commitment to access informs our educational and outreach activities as well. Every season, Festival artists visit Nassau County

schools and homeschool groups, bringing live classical music directly to young people who may never have experienced it. This year, with support from the Theodore and Pauline Cohen Charitable Trust, we are expanding this program to reach more students in Nassau County than ever before. We are also partnering with the University of North Florida and the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestras to offer masterclasses led by Festival artists. And we are proud to launch our new Music and Mindfulness Initiative in collaboration with Baptist Health: free concerts combining live acoustic chamber music with guided mindfulness and quiet reflection, offered in community settings throughout Nassau County. In April 2027, The Concert Truck will come to Amelia Island. This is a converted box truck that becomes a full concert hall, complete with a grand piano. Over five days, we will give free performances in parks, on sidewalks, and in public spaces across the county. No ticket required. Just music, wherever people happen to be.

None of this happens without a village. I use that word deliberately, because that is exactly what this community is to this Festival. Your attendance, your generosity, your word of mouth, your belief in what live music can do for a place... it is the foundation everything else is built on. I am deeply proud to be part of this village, and deeply grateful to each of you for making it what it is.

With gratitude,



Robyn Lamp
Executive Director



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THE RITZ-CARLTON

AMELIA ISLAND

Festival History

About The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival was founded in 2001 by Christopher Rex, then principal cellist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and a frequent visitor to Amelia Island. Now celebrating its 26th season, the Festival has grown from an inspired island idea into a nationally recognized chamber music festival, known for presenting extraordinary artists in intimate and memorable settings throughout Amelia Island and Northeast Florida.

Each season, the Festival brings world-class musicians to the community for performances that span classical masterworks, contemporary voices, and genre-crossing collaborations.

Over the years, audiences have experienced performances by Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Hilary Hahn, Pinchas Zukerman, Joshua Bell, Chick Corea, Béla Fleck, Chris Thile, Emanuel Ax, Wynton Marsalis, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Ricky Skaggs, Renée Fleming, and many others. The acclaimed Dover Quartet has served as the Festival's first quartet-in-residence, reflecting the organization's commitment to both exceptional artistry and meaningful, long-term artistic relationships.

Rather than presenting concerts only in traditional theaters or concert halls, the Festival brings chamber music into distinctive Amelia Island spaces: churches, courthouses, hotels, wedding venues, forts and even local parks. These settings help create intimate, one-of-a-kind experiences that reflect the character and charm of the island.

Music education and community engagement have been central to the Festival's mission since its founding. Through the Christopher Rex String Seminar, masterclasses, school performances, free family programming, outreach concerts, and opportunities for aspiring young musicians, the Festival makes great music accessible to audiences of all ages while helping nurture the next generation of artists.

The Festival's success is made possible by generous donors, sponsors, grant-making partners, and a dedicated corps of volunteers whose support sustains both artistic excellence and community access. As the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival looks beyond its 26th season, it remains committed to enriching Nassau County and the broader Northeast Florida region through extraordinary performances, meaningful education, and shared cultural experiences.



2026-2027 Ticketing Specials

Visitors to Amelia Island

If you are visiting Amelia Island, you may be eligible to receive a 50% discount on Festival tickets by presenting a valid confirmation from any lodging establishment located on Amelia Island. To get the discount - check availability, make your lodging reservation, and then call the Festival office at 904-261-1779 to purchase your discounted tickets.

Students Tickets

We are thrilled to offer \$15 tickets to most events for students under twenty-five with a valid student ID.

Tickets are available for purchase on aicmf.org. Some exclusions apply.

Looking for ticket packages or season subscriptions? Learn more at aicmf.org/ticketing-specials.

\$20 Rush Tickets

When seats are available, \$20 rush tickets may be purchased at the door shortly before the concert begins. Rush tickets are first come, first served, subject to availability, and cannot be reserved in advance.

Festival Support

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has been delivering world-class performances and providing music education for young students since our founding in 2001. We have been able to do this only thanks to your generous financial support, as ticket sales only cover less than 25% of our operating costs. The remaining 75% comes from grants, corporate sponsors, and individual donors like you.

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P.O. Box 15886
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

Donor-Advised Funds

Support the Festival through your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF). Please contact your sponsoring organization to recommend a grant to the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a tax-advantaged gift directly from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Please consult your financial advisor for details.

Stock Gifts

Donations of appreciated securities may provide tax advantages while supporting the Festival's mission. Please contact our office at 904-261-1779 for transfer instructions.

Legacy Giving

Leave a lasting musical legacy by including the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in your estate plans. We would be honored to discuss planned giving opportunities with you.

Tax Information

Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Federal Tax ID (EIN): 59-3744948

Questions? Contact the Festival office at 904-261-1779 or r.lamp@aicmf.org.

Donation Levels & Benefits 2026 - 2027

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Crystal Nautilus (\$500 - \$999)

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Gold Nautilus (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Name in Program

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Patron Party

2 Free Tickets per Season (Non-Headliner)

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Name in Program

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Post-Concert Reception with Artists*

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Name in Program

Primary Early Ticket Purchase

VIP Seating at Ticketed Events

Patron Party

6 Free Tickets per Season (Headliner)

Concert Sponsorship (Headliner)

Post-Concert Reception with Artists*

Reserved Parking Space at Concert Venue**

Hope Diamond Nautilus (\$20,000+)

Name in Program

Primary Early Ticket Purchase

VIP Seating at Ticketed Events

Patron Party

10 Free Tickets per Season (Headliner)

Concert Sponsorship (Headliner)

Post-Concert Reception with Artists*

Reserved Parking Space at Concert Venue**

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

You may give securely on our website (aicmf.org) or mail your contribution to:

P.O. Box 15866

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Sounds of the Season

featuring Nicole Zuraitis

THE RITZ-CARLTON

Sounds of the Season

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Outdoor Courtyard at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

Two-time GRAMMY winner Nicole Zuraitis brings her quartet to Amelia Island for a festive outdoor concert beneath the Ritz-Carlton's grand Christmas tree. This evening of jazz and holiday spirit under the open sky then continues with a post-concert dinner at Salt, the Ritz-Carlton's Michelin recommended restaurant, with the artists in attendance. Reservations for dinner after the concert must be made directly with the Ritz-Carlton.

Nicole Zuraitis

Nicole Zuraitis is a 2X GRAMMY®-winning and 6X GRAMMY-nominated jazz singer-songwriter, producer, pianist, arranger, New York-based bandleader, and winner of the prestigious *American Traditions* Vocal Competition Gold Medal. With a "heart as big as her remarkable voice" (Jazz Police), Nicole has positioned herself as one of the top artists and "prolific songwriters" (*Broadway World*) in jazz and beyond, or as she likes to call it, *The Modern Songbook*.

As a recording artist, Nicole has released seven albums as leader. Her sixth album, *How Love Begins*, co-produced with eight-time GRAMMY winner Christian McBride, won Best Jazz Vocal Album at the 2024 GRAMMY Awards and features all original music. She is the only recipient of this award to have written and arranged the entire album herself. Her live album *Live at Vic's Las Vegas* was nominated for two GRAMMY Awards in 2026. She released her next studio album, *The Devil I Knew*, produced by Larry Klein, in July 2026.

In addition to leading her quartet, Nicole performed and recorded with the Birdland Big Band before launching her own large ensemble. She has headlined the Newport Jazz Festival, Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Caramoor, Saratoga Jazz Festival, Tanglewood, and iconic New York jazz clubs including Dizzy's Club, Birdland, the Blue Note, the Carlyle, and 54 Below. She has also appeared as a featured soloist with the Savannah Philharmonic, Asheville Symphony, Macon Pops, and the Danish Radio Big Band.



Photo: Drew Bordeaux

Nicole is a featured artist and producer on her husband Dan Pugach's 2025 GRAMMY-winning album *Bianca Reimagined: Music for Paws and Persistence* (Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album), which includes their GRAMMY-nominated song "Little Fears" (Best Jazz Performance). She is also a vocalist on the GRAMMY-winning *Last Sunday in Plains: A Centennial Celebration* alongside Jon Batiste, Keb' Mo', and LeAnn Rimes.

Following the concert, join Nicole Zuraitis and her quartet for an intimate post-concert dinner at Salt, The Ritz-Carlton's signature restaurant (approximately 7:30 PM). To reserve your place and learn more, visit aicmf.org.



Amelia Island chamber music festival

“

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way to tell beautiful,
poetic things
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chamber music festival

A New Year's Celebration

Sunday, January 3, 2027 | 5:00 PM

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Celebrate the new year with music that dances! This festive program features Vivaldi's dazzling "Winter" from The Four Seasons, Dvořák's spirited Slavonic Dances, Piazzolla's passionate tangos, Schoenfield's jazz-inspired Café Music, and a spectacular finale with Strauss's beloved Blue Danube Fantasy for piano four-hands. It will be an energetic and joyful way to begin the new year.



David Coucheron - violin

David Coucheron joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Concertmaster in 2010. He has performed as soloist with leading orchestras including the BBC, Bergen Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, and Trondheim Symphony, and has appeared in recital at Carnegie's Weill Hall, Wigmore Hall, and the Kennedy Center. A frequent chamber musician, he is the founding member and artistic director of the Kon-Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo. He studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Guildhall School.

Julie Albers - cello

Cellist Julie Albers is recognized for her artistry, radiant performing style, and musicianship. She made her major orchestral debut with the Cleveland Orchestra at age 17 and has since appeared with leading orchestras throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Since 2015, she has served as principal cellist of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and performs regularly at major chamber music festivals. She previously served on the faculty of Mercer University.



Julie Coucheron - piano

Norwegian pianist Julie Coucheron earned her bachelor's and master's degrees with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. She has performed throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia in venues including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center, and both the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. She is artistic director of the Fjord Cadenza Festival, Kon-Tiki Chamber Music Festival, and Georgian Chamber Players, and serves on the faculty of Kennesaw State University.



Elizabeth Pridgen - piano

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen is Artistic Director of the Atlanta Chamber Players and is recognized as both a soloist and chamber musician. She made her orchestral debut with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under Robert Spano and has released acclaimed recordings, including Icons with violinist Robert McDuffie. A champion of new music, she has commissioned works by leading composers and directs the Rapido Composition Competition. She performs regularly at major chamber music festivals and studied at The Juilliard School and the Peabody Conservatory.

Anderson & Roe, *piano duo*

Sunday, January 24, 2027 | 5:00 PM

Amelia River Club

Two pianists, four hands, one piano. Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe turn the piano duo into a high-wire act of wit and virtuosity. Called "the very model of complete 21st-century musicians" by the Washington Post, they fuse classical fire with pop instinct in performances that crackle with chemistry.

The Anderson & Roe Piano Duo has been called "the most dynamic duo of this generation" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), "rock stars of the classical music world" (*Miami Herald*), and "the very model of complete 21st-century musicians" (*The Washington Post*). Pianists Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe are celebrated for their extraordinary artistry, seamless musical connection, and genre-transcending repertoire. Their performances captivate audiences with technical mastery, creativity, and an unmistakable artistic chemistry.

More than twenty years ago, the two Juilliard students discovered a shared vision for making classical music a more relevant and powerful force in the world. Since then, Anderson & Roe have redefined the piano duo, touring extensively while presenting original compositions, imaginative reworkings of the classical canon, and arrangements of popular music through a classical lens. Their work reflects their belief that all music has something to say to all people.

The duo has performed in major concert halls throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand, including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and has appeared at festivals including Mostly Mozart, Gilmore, Santa Fe, Chautauqua, Grand Teton, and Minnesota Beethoven. They have collaborated with artists including Augustin Hadelich, Time For Three, MasterVoices, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company.



Photo: © Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Their five critically acclaimed albums include *Mother*, featuring music from Dvořák to Queen in the duo's original arrangements. Their Steinway Label recordings—*When Words Fade*, *An Amadeus Affair*, and *The Art of Bach*—have spent more than a dozen weeks atop the Billboard Classical Charts. Their music has also been featured in film, television, and Olympic figure skating.

Early innovators in digital media, Anderson & Roe have created more than 50 self-produced music videos, viewed by millions worldwide and earning an Emmy® nomination. They have appeared on MTV, NPR, PBS, and the BBC, served as guest hosts of NPR's *From the Top*, and have hosted the live broadcasts of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe are Steinway Artists.

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Dover Quartet

Friday, February 19, 2027 | 7:00 PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

A longtime Festival favorite returns to Amelia Island. Since their early appearances with the Festival, the Dover Quartet has become one of the world's most celebrated and sought-after chamber ensembles. Their long-awaited return promises an evening of extraordinary music and a joyful reunion with Amelia Island's audiences.

Joel Link - violin

Bryan Lee - violin

Julianne Lee - viola

Camden Shaw - cello

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine* and "the next Guarneri Quartet" by the *Chicago Tribune*, the two-time GRAMMY-nominated Dover Quartet is one of the world's most in-demand chamber ensembles. The group's awards include a stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, grand and first prizes at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. Its honors include the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award. The members are on faculty at the renowned Curtis Institute of Music.

The Dover Quartet's 2025–26 season featured collaborative performances with preeminent artists including Marc-André Hamelin and Edgar Meyer, and performances in internationally renowned venues from Carnegie Hall to the Kennedy Center to Konzerthaus Berlin. The quartet's most recent commission is from Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, a leading composer of American Indian classical music. His new piece, *Abokkoli' Talooowa' (Woodland Songs)*, is featured on *Woodland Songs*, the group's critically acclaimed most recent album, which also includes Tate's new string-quartet orchestration of *Rattle Songs* by the Indigenous



Photo: Roy Cox

singer Pura Fé, originally for her a cappella vocal group Ulali. Dvořák's *American Quartet* completes the album, available now on the Curtis Studio label.

The Dover Quartet's GRAMMY-nominated recordings include its highly acclaimed three-volume recording, *Beethoven Complete String Quartets* (Cedille Records), which was hailed as "meticulously balanced, technically clean-as-a-whistle and intonationally immaculate" (*The Strad*), and *The Schumann Quartets* (Azica Records).

The Dover Quartet was formed at Curtis in 2008; its name pays tribute to *Dover Beach* by fellow Curtis alumnus Samuel Barber. The Dover Quartet proudly endorses Thomastik-Infeld strings.

Dover Quartet is represented by Curtis Artist Management at Curtis Institute of Music.

From Page to Stage



**Opera Gala
Sock-Opera**
November 6 & 7, 2026



**Sing-a-Long
Messiah**
November 29, 2026



Werther
by Massenet
May 14 & 16, 2027

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For more information visit: ameliaislandopera.org



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An Evening with **Audra McDonald**

Tuesday, February 23, 2027 | 7:00 PM

Amelia River Club

A Juilliard-trained soprano and the holder of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammys, and an Emmy, Audra McDonald is the only performer in history to win in all four Tony acting categories. A recipient of the National Medal of Arts and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people, she comes to Amelia Island For an intimate evening with one of the most luminous voices in American music.

Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actor. The winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy Award, she was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in 2015 and received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama.

A Juilliard-trained soprano raised in Fresno, California, McDonald won her first Tony for *Carousel* at Lincoln Center Theater just one year after graduating. She went on to claim five more, becoming the most decorated performer in Tony history and the first to win in all four acting categories. Her 2024 Broadway revival of *Gypsy* earned an eleventh Tony nomination, prompting Time to name her "the greatest living stage actor."

On the opera and concert stage, McDonald has sung with virtually every major American orchestra, from the Boston Symphony to the New York Philharmonic, under conductors including Sir Simon Rattle and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Her Los Angeles Opera debut in Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* yielded two Grammy Awards. Television audiences know her from *Private Practice*, *The Good Fight*, and NBC's live *Sound of Music*.

A passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ equality and at-risk youth, McDonald co-founded Black Theatre United in 2020 and holds an honorary doctorate from Yale University. Learn more at audramcdonald.com/bio.



Johannes Moser, *cello* Marc-André Hamelin, *piano*

Tuesday, March 2, 2027 | 7:00 PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

2027 marks 200 years since Beethoven's death, and pianist Marc-André Hamelin, back on Amelia Island after last season's appearance with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, marks the occasion with cellist Johannes Moser in a program spanning four of Beethoven's five cello sonatas. From the early Op. 5 to the late Op. 102, it's a journey through one composer's entire creative life in a single evening.



Johannes Moser - *cello*

Hailed by Gramophone magazine as "one of the finest among the astonishing gallery of young virtuoso cellists," German-Canadian cellist Johannes Moser has performed with the world's leading orchestras, including the Berliner Philharmoniker, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, BBC Philharmonic at the Proms, London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and Tokyo NHK Symphony. He has collaborated with conductors including Riccardo Muti, Lorin Maazel, Mariss Jansons, Valery Gergiev, Zubin Mehta, Christian Thielemann, Pierre Boulez, Paavo Järvi, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Gustavo Dudamel.

His recordings of concertos by Dvořák, Lalo, Elgar, Lutosławski, Dutilleux, Tchaikovsky, Thomas Olesen, and Fabrice Bollon have earned the prestigious Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik and the Diapason d'Or. His 2022 album *Alone Together*, featuring six new commissions for electric cello, was praised by *The Strad* for its ambition and innovative use of Dolby Atmos technology.

Highlights of the 2025–26 season include performances with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava, New World Symphony, and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, as well as a trio tour with Andrei Korobeinikov and Vadim Gluzman.

A dedicated chamber musician, Johannes has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Jonathan Biss, James Ehnes, Leonidas Kavakos, Midori, Menahem Pressler, and Yevgeny Sudbin, and appears regularly at the Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Gstaad, Kissinger, Colorado, Seattle, and Brevard music festivals.

Renowned for expanding the reach of classical music and championing contemporary repertoire, Johannes has commissioned works by leading composers including Julia Wolfe, Ellen Reid, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Detlev Glanert, Chris Cerrone, and Annie Gosfield. Throughout his career, he has paired performances with masterclasses, school visits, and pre-concert lectures.

A prizewinner at the 2002 International Tchaikovsky Competition and recipient of the 2014 Brahms Prize, Johannes Moser performs on a 1694 Andrea Guarneri cello from a private collection.

Marc-André Hamelin - piano

Pianist Marc-André Hamelin, hailed by The New York Times as a “performer of near-superhuman technical prowess,” is acclaimed worldwide for his unrivaled musicianship, brilliant interpretations of the standard repertoire, and fearless exploration of rarely performed works of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. He performs regularly with the world's leading orchestras and conductors and appears in recital at major concert halls and festivals across the globe.

An exclusive recording artist for Hyperion Records, Hamelin has released more than 90 acclaimed recordings spanning solo, orchestral, and chamber repertoire. Recent releases include *Found Objects / Sound Objects*, Beethoven's *Hammerklavier* Sonata and Sonata in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3, and the Dvořák and Florence Price quintets with the Takács Quartet.

Also a distinguished composer, Hamelin has written more than 30 works. His compositions are published by Edition Peters, and his 2024 album *New Piano Works* showcases nine of his own

compositions. *The New York Times* praised the recording, writing, “His previous offerings of his own music were rich, but his latest self-portrait album is on another level.”

Among his many honors are a Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Record Critics' Association, eight Juno Awards, 11 GRAMMY nominations, and the Jean Gimbel Lane Prize. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada. He also teaches at the New England Conservatory of Music.



Photo: Ben Ealovega

Balsam Range

Sunday, March 14, 2027 | 5:00 PM

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

Two-time IBMA Entertainer of the Year, Balsam Range brings twenty years of road-tested bluegrass: mountain music, played by mountain musicians, for an audience ready to stomp along.

Closing in on 20 years together, bluegrass powerhouse Balsam Range continues charging headlong toward the horizon. Heading into 2026, the group—**Caleb Smith** (guitar, vocals), **Tim Surrett** (bass, dobro, vocals), **Alan Bibey** (mandolin, vocals), and **Marc Pruett** (banjo)—is preparing to release new music while once again hitting the road, bringing their sound to both majestic theaters and backwoods gatherings alike—all in the name of bluegrass music. In 2026, the band also welcomes **Stephen Hudson** to many shows across the country. On fiddle and vocals, Hudson brings fresh energy while honoring the traditional “high lonesome sound,” making him a natural fit within the group’s signature style.

Formed in 2007 by happenstance during an informal kitchen jam in the mountains of Western North Carolina, Balsam Range quickly

evolved from friends picking tunes into one of the most celebrated bands in modern bluegrass. Since then, they’ve become one of the genre’s most decorated acts, earning multiple International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) honors, including Entertainer of the Year (2014, 2018), Album of the Year (2013, 2017), Song of the Year (2011, 2015), Vocal Group of the Year (2014, 2015), Male Vocalist of the Year (2014, 2018), and Bass Player of the Year (2018). By the numbers, Balsam Range has released 14 albums and scored numerous No. 1 singles on the bluegrass charts. Yet beyond the accolades and miles traveled, what matters most remains unchanged from that very first performance—genuinely connecting with an audience through the timeless, shared experience of live music.



Curtis on Tour

The Nina von Maltzahn Global Touring Initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music

Tuesday, March 30, 2027 | 7:00 PM

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Curtis on Tour is the global touring initiative of America's most selective conservatory, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Acclaimed cellist Nicholas Canellakis leads a chamber ensemble of outstanding young artists currently studying at Curtis. Together, they present a program centered around Dohnányi's Sextet for the unique combination of piano, violin, viola, cello, clarinet, and horn. Canellakis and these emerging artists open the concert with virtuosic duos by Schumann and Halvorsen (Variations on a Theme by Handel) and the lyrical Brahms Clarinet Trio before concluding with the Dohnányi.

Leading this program is cellist Nicholas Canellakis. Mr. Canellakis is an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, with which he performs regularly in Alice Tully Hall and on tour internationally, including London's Wigmore Hall, the Louvre in Paris, the Seoul Arts Center in Korea, and the Shanghai and Taipei National Concert Halls. He is also a regular guest artist at many of the world's leading music festivals, including Santa Fe, Ravinia, Music@Menlo, Bard, Bridgehampton, La Jolla, Moab, Chamberfest Cleveland, and Music in the Vineyards.

He was recently renewed as the artistic director of Chamber Music Sedona in Arizona, where he has made a major impact through his dynamic programming and educational and community outreach.

Mr. Canellakis plays an outstanding cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume, from 1840. He joined the Curtis Institute of Music faculty in 2024.





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Concert Hall on Wheels

The Concert Truck

April 3-7, 2027 | Various Times and Locations

For five days, a converted box truck transforms into a full concert hall, complete with a grand piano, and brings seven free outdoor performances to venues across Nassau County. Created by pianist Susan Zhang, The Concert Truck takes classical music out of the recital hall and into parks, sidewalks, and public spaces, no ticket required. Zhang performs each stop herself, alongside other performers to be announced, bringing the same artistry you'd find on any festival stage to wherever people happen to be. Exact dates, times, and locations will be announced on our website and social media closer to April 2027.

The Concert Truck is a mobile music venue that strengthens communities by redefining the concert experience and making live music accessible to all. Led by Artistic Director Susan Zhang, the project aims to engage diverse communities and audiences nationwide with thoughtful, timely programming, and works with arts organizations of all sizes to build a critical presence in their communities.

The stage is a 16-foot box truck and a fully functioning mobile concert hall, complete with lights, sound system, and piano. Susan and the truck have toured across the country, partnering with arts organizations to strengthen their presence in the communities they serve by presenting concerts in city streets, music and arts festivals, schools, neighborhoods, parks and beyond...anywhere you can think to park a truck.



Voice and the Violin

Joshua Bell, *violin*, **Larisa Martínez**, *soprano*

with **Peter Dugan**, *piano*

Friday, April 23, 2027 | 7:00 PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

GRAMMY-winning violinist Joshua Bell, one of the most celebrated musicians of his era, joins Puerto Rican soprano Larisa Martínez and pianist Peter Dugan, host of NPR's 'From the Top,' for an evening of beloved arias and romantic classics.

Joshua Bell - *violin*

With a career spanning more than four decades, Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, CBE, is one of the most celebrated artists of our time. He has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world and regularly appears as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor, and Music Director of London's Academy of St Martin in the Fields. In 2025, he was awarded an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Bell has been nominated for six Grammy Awards, named Instrumentalist of the Year by *Musical America*, selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, recognized with the Avery Fisher Prize, and honored as an Indiana Living Legend. His collaborators span classical, jazz, rock, and pop, including Emanuel Ax, Renée Fleming, Lang Lang, Sting, Chris Botti, Josh Groban, and the late Chick Corea.

Beyond the concert stage, Bell has given a TED Talk, performed for three American presidents and the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and participated in President Barack Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' cultural mission to Cuba, culminating in the Emmy-nominated PBS *Live from Lincoln Center* special.

Bell performs on the legendary 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin.

Larisa Martínez - *soprano*

Puerto Rican soprano Larisa Martínez is praised for her "smoky soprano" (*Opera News*), gracing top stages and collaborating with many of today's leading artists.

Larisa has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, and the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. In 2019, she made both her Kennedy Center recital debut and Carnegie Hall debut, singing Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Athens Philharmonic. She has also appeared at Athens' Herodeon Theater and Korea's KSPO Dome, and recently premiered a new work written for her and violinist Joshua Bell by Academy Award-winning composer John Corigliano.

A longtime touring partner of acclaimed tenor Andrea Bocelli, Larisa has performed for sold-out audiences at venues including the Hollywood Bowl and Madison Square Garden. Her collaborative program, *Voice and the Violin*, created with Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, has been presented by leading festivals and orchestras across the United States.

Her operatic credits include *La Traviata*, *Werther*, *West Side Story*, and the world premiere of Mercadante's *Francesca da Rimini* in Italy. She won the Metropolitan Opera's 2016 National Council Audition in Puerto Rico and is an advocate for music education through



Photo: Shervin Lainez

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Peter Dugan - piano

Peter Dugan is a versatile pianist, composer, collaborator, and radio host who is equally at home in classical, jazz, and pop music. He has appeared as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout North America and internationally, with orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and New World Symphony. His performance of Charles Ives's Symphony No. 4 with Michael Tilson Thomas was praised as "stunning" by the Los Angeles Times.

Dugan is the host of NPR's *From the Top*, where he shares his passion for classical music through performances and conversations with outstanding young musicians.

A frequent collaborator, he has toured extensively with violinists Joshua Bell and Charles Yang, as well as baritone John Brancy. As a composer and arranger, he has performed his own works at Carnegie Hall, created arrangements released by Disney+, and champions new music and cross-genre collaboration.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Peter Dugan is a Yamaha Artist.



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Marasco Young Artists' Concert

Saturday, May 8, 2027 | 5:00 PM

Sanctuary, Memorial United Methodist Church

Now in its second year, the Marasco Young Artists' Concert gives talented student musicians the chance to perform for Festival audiences, selected through open application. The concert honors the memory of Dr. Joe Marasco, the Festival's former Executive Director, and the mentorship and discovery he believed in.

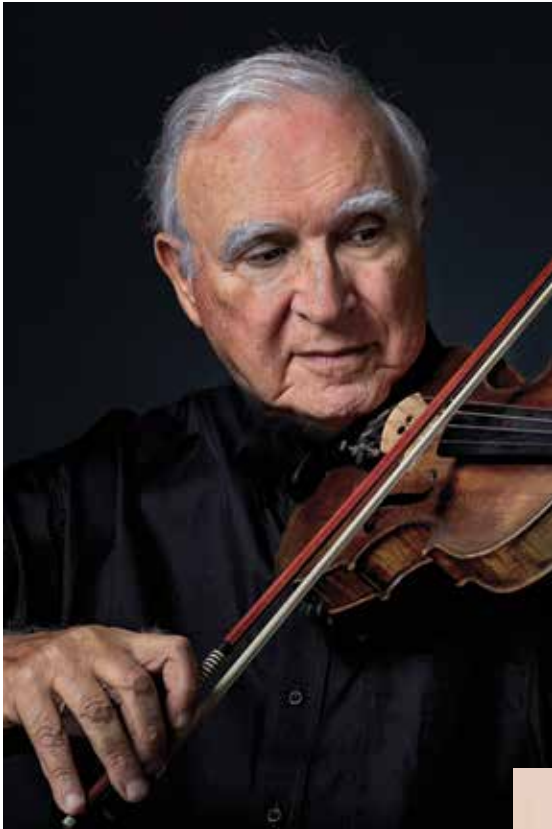


Photo: Steve Leimberg

Now in its second year, the Marasco Young Artists' Concert honors the memory of Dr. Joe Marasco, the Festival's former Executive Director and a passionate advocate for music education and the next generation of musicians. Dr. Marasco believed young performers deserved real opportunities to grow, perform, and be inspired by live music, not just instruction in a classroom, and this concert was created to carry that belief forward.

This free event features performances by outstanding local student musicians and ensembles, giving them a professional concert platform many young performers rarely have access to: a real stage, a real audience, and the same setting the Festival offers its professional artists throughout the season. For these students, it's a chance to test their artistry in front of a community that genuinely wants to see them succeed.

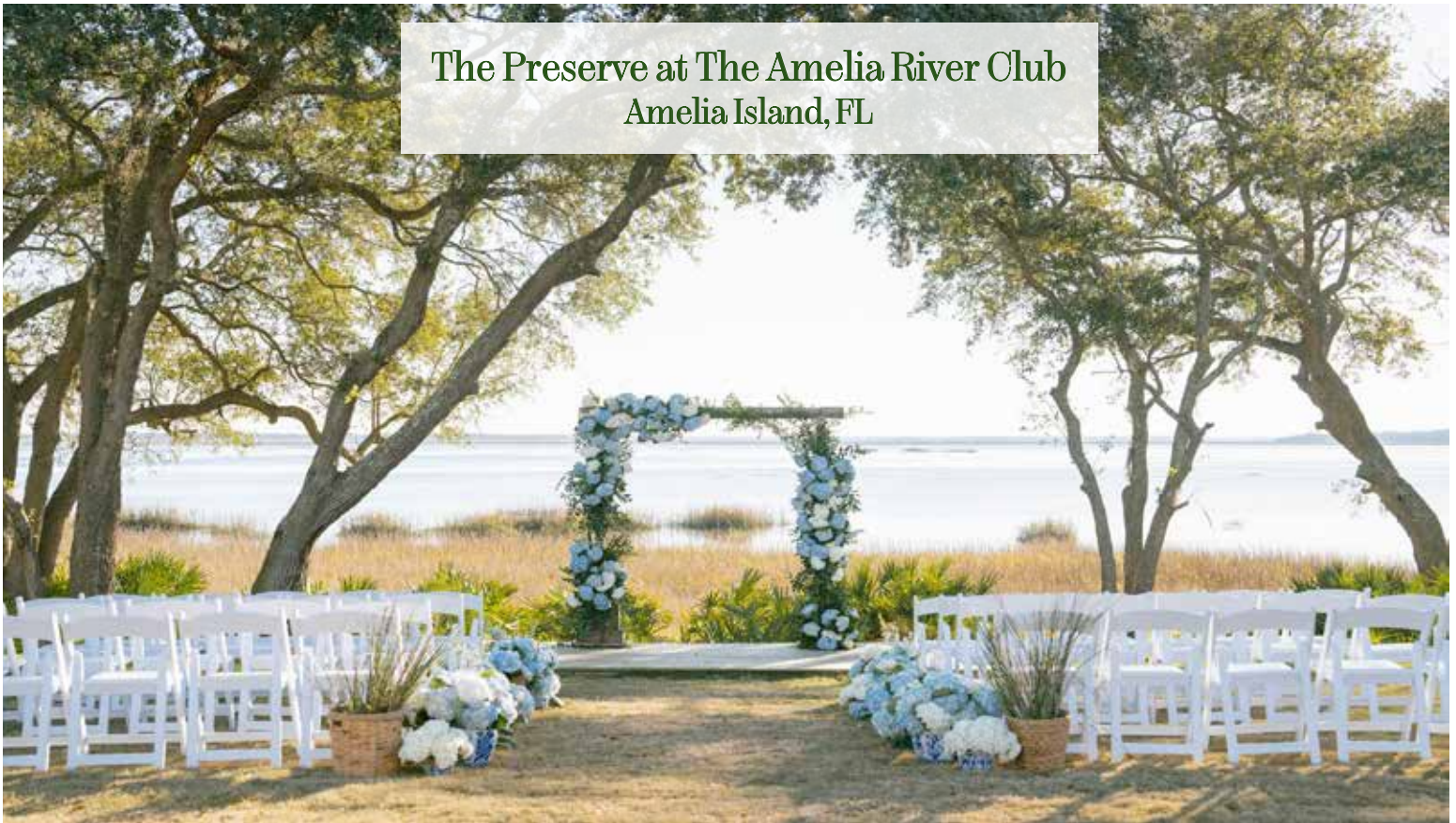
The concert reflects a core part of the Festival's broader mission: supporting young artists through performance experience, exposure to classical music, and connection

with mentors and peers who can help shape their development. We hope it becomes a meaningful milestone for emerging musicians in our community for years to come, and that each year's concert builds on the one before it.



Details on how students may apply to participate will be announced in January 2027.

The Preserve at The Amelia River Club Amelia Island, FL



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Beethoven & Beer

featuring American String Quartet

Wednesday, June 9, 2027 | 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Mocama Beer Company

The internationally acclaimed American String Quartet brings Beethoven to the relaxed atmosphere of Mocama Beer Company for an unforgettable hour of music in an unexpected setting. Enjoy craft beer and food before the performance, with beverages welcome throughout the concert. Seating includes folding chairs, high-top seating, and standing room—every ticket includes a seat, but many guests enjoy taking in the music from wherever they're most comfortable. At just one hour, this casual concert is perfect for seasoned concertgoers and first-time listeners alike. Two identical performances are offered at 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM, so choose the time that works best for you.

Peter Winograd - violin

Laurie Carney - violin

Matthias Buchholz - viola

Wolfram Koessel - cello

Internationally recognized as one of the world's finest ensembles, the **American String Quartet** has spent more than four decades cultivating the rich, luxurious sound for which it is renowned. Since its founding, the Quartet has performed in all fifty states and appeared in the world's leading concert halls. Its acclaimed performances of the complete string quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, Schoenberg, Bartók, and Mozart have earned widespread praise, and its celebrated recordings of the complete Mozart string quartets on a matched set of Stradivarius instruments are considered benchmarks of the repertoire.

Equally committed to innovation, the Quartet has collaborated with National Book Award-winning author Phil Klay, poet Tom Sleigh, 28 novelist Salman Rushdie, and composer Paul Cantelon in multidisciplinary performances that combine music and literature. These imaginative projects have reinforced the Quartet's reputation as an ensemble equally at home with the traditional repertoire and adventurous new artistic collaborations.

Formed at The Juilliard School, the Quartet launched its career by winning both the Coleman Competition and the Naumburg Award in the same year. It has served as resident quartet at the Aspen Music Festival since 1974 and at the Manhattan School of Music since 1984, while also holding residencies at the Taos School of Music, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.



Photo: Mae Barizo

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Festival Finale

American String Quartet and Beth Newdome Fellows

Saturday, June 12, 2027 | 3:00 PM

Nassau County Historic Courthouse

The Festival Finale closes the season with the American String Quartet and this year's Beth Newdome Fellows. Each student quartet performs a work on their own before all twelve musicians join forces for an octet and a finale piece together.

Since its inaugural season, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has recognized the vital role of music education in shaping the next generation of artists. What began as masterclasses and mentoring through our Young Resident Artists program has evolved into one of our signature educational initiatives: the annual Christopher Rex String Seminar.

Each year, we invite exceptional string students from the nation's top conservatories and universities to join us as Beth Newdome Fellowship Artists. This year, student quartets from universities and conservatories around the country will spend an intensive week in Amelia Island receiving direct mentorship,

training, and career development sessions from the American String Quartet. This offers the students an opportunity to work side by side with one of the most experienced ensembles in the country. Our Beth Newdome Fellows for the 2027 String Seminar will be announced in spring 2027.

Their training culminates in a series of public performances, including community outreach concerts and the highly anticipated Festival Finale Concert in June. At this concert, each student quartet performs a work on its own before all twelve musicians, students and mentors alike, join together on stage for one final Festival hurrah.



Photo: Mae Barizo

Cruise the Blue Danube

with the Festival and Wallace-Pierson Travel

July 22 - August 2, 2027

Join fellow Festival friends and supporters for a once-in-a-season adventure along one of Europe's most storied waterways. From July 22 through August 2, 2027, the Festival partners with Wallace Pierson Travel for a 12-day Tauck Blue Danube River Cruise, traveling from Budapest through Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague. This trip serves as a fundraiser for the Festival, making it a meaningful way to support the music you love while experiencing Europe in extraordinary company. Solo travelers take note: Tauck offers no single supplement on Category 1 cabins, making this an especially welcoming journey for those traveling independently.

The Blue Danube has inspired composers for centuries, and this 12-day journey brings it to life. Beginning in Budapest and ending in Prague, the itinerary features a 9-night river cruise aboard Tauck's ms Savor, with stops in Bratislava, Vienna, the Wachau Valley, Salzburg, and Regensburg along the way. Tauck is one of the world's most respected travel companies, known for thoughtfully crafted itineraries, exceptional service, and exclusive access that independent travelers simply cannot arrange on their own. Highlights include a private Imperial

Evening at a Viennese palace, a private dinner at Lobkowitz Palace at Prague Castle, and a private tour of the Baroque libraries at Strahov Monastery.

All gratuities, shore excursions, 30 meals, and unlimited beverages aboard ship are included. Suites begin at \$7,290 per person, double occupancy. For details and booking, contact Wallace Pierson Travel at 904.261.5914 or info@wallacepierson.com.



Education Initiatives and Civic Engagement

For over two decades, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has remained deeply committed to fostering a love of music through education and civic engagement. Our signature educational initiative, the Christopher Rex String Seminar, brings exceptional string students from the nation's top conservatories to Amelia Island each spring as Beth Newdome Fellowship Artists. Mentored intensively by a world-class professional quartet, these emerging musicians spend a week in residence having lessons, coachings, and performing in community outreach concerts and the Festival Finale in June.

This season, we're expanding our educational reach through partnerships with the University of North Florida and the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestras,



presenting four masterclass opportunities led by Festival artists. We also send artists directly into Nassau County schools and homeschool groups to perform, introduce students to their instruments, and answer questions from young audiences.

Beyond the concert hall, Festival artists perform for residents of assisted living facilities throughout Nassau County. In April 2027, The Concert Truck brings five days of free outdoor concerts to venues across the county, taking music into our entire community. And we are proud to collaborate with Baptist Health to bring our new Music and Mindfulness Initiative to life: free, hour-long experiences combining live acoustic chamber music with guided mindfulness and quiet reflection, offered in community settings throughout Nassau County.

Master Classes

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is honored to provide exceptional young musicians with a unique opportunity to learn directly from the world-class artists featured in our season. As part of our ongoing commitment to music education, the Festival will offer four exclusive masterclass opportunities this season, allowing students to engage, perform for, and grow under the guidance of internationally acclaimed performers.

February 6, 2027 - Aristo Sham, piano
at TBD

February 19, 2027 - Dover Quartet
at University of North Florida

March 1, 2027 - Johannes Moser, cello
at University of North Florida

March 30, 2027 - Nick Canellakis, cello
at Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras

These masterclasses are free and open to the public for observation. Visit aicmf.org for more information

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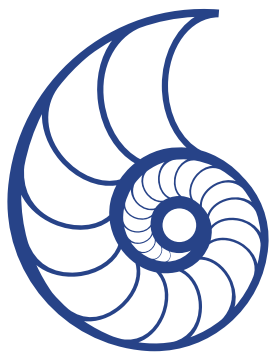
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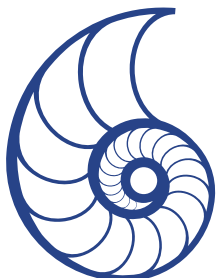


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