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For Immediate Release

July 27, 2011

THE STAUNTON MUSIC FESTIVAL presents

STAUNTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

SUMMER SOUNDS

Staunton, Virginia

August 19-27, 2011

The Staunton Music Festival, Central Virginia's most innovative classical music festival, presents "Summer Sounds," a nine-day celebration of vocal, choral and instrumental music performed by world-class American and European musicians. From Friday, August 19, through Saturday, August 27, historic Staunton comes alive with eight main-stage concerts and many FREE events, including pre-concert talks and daily lunchtime concerts. The Festival is known for its friendly atmosphere and adventurous, eclectic mix of classical music, from baroque masterpieces performed on period instruments to world premieres. For more information, go to stauntonmusicfestival.com [PSA :40]

Artistic director Carsten Schmidt, a longtime Staunton resident and Professor of Music at Sarah Lawrence College, has invited more than 40 musicians to perform in the Festival, including world-class singers and instrumentalists from around the globe and Mira vocal ensemble, five leading composers, two Emerging Composers, and four Young Artist Fellows. They hail from Germany, Russia, Netherlands, Canada, Finland, Austria, France, and the United States.

FREE EVENTS Musicologist-in-Residence Jason Stell will offer free pre-concert talks before the evening concerts. All noon concerts are free, and music lovers 17 and under attend evening concerts on a pay-what-you-will basis, with the exception of the Gala (August 19) and Czech Letters, for which they pay student price if they wish a guaranteed seat.

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WORLD PREMIERES ARE FREE! Prominent composers Chester Biscardi and Stephen Siegel join emerging composers Vera Ivanova and Zachary Wadsworth to premiere new work at the festival concert on August 23, which will be followed by open conversation with the artists. Ivanova and Wadsworth also will premiere work composed especially for the Festival August 26 at noon. Both concerts are free.

EMERGING COMPOSERS PROGRAM: The Staunton Music Festival Emerging Composers Program was inaugurated in 2008 as a competition to recognize outstanding young composers of works for voice and piano. Selected composers are commissioned to write new works and are invited to participate in the SMF Summer Sounds Festival, where they collaborate with SMF performers and composers-in-residence in the Happy New Ear! and Emerging Composers lunchtime concerts. The Emerging Composers Program is directed by Chester Biscardi (chesterbiscardi.com), an acclaimed composer whose works have been featured at prominent music festivals and recorded on many classical labels worldwide, and SMF Artistic Director Carsten Schmidt. This year's Emerging Composers are Vera Ivanova, whose work has been commissioned in Moscow, London, and the U.S, and Zachary Wadsworth, whose compositions have been performed at Lincoln Center and by the Washington National Opera, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Atlanta Philharmonic, and the Long Leaf Opera, and were featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today.

YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

The Staunton Music Festival Young Artists appear at both daytime and evening events throughout the Summer Sounds Concert Series. In addition, the four work with the SMF Artists in open masterclasses and perform numerous outreach recitals, taking classical music to people who cannot attend a traditional concert setting.

THE MUSIC STORY PROJECT

Five classical piano pieces recorded by Ednaldo Borba inspired school-age children to write and submit stories for the Staunton Music Festival Music Story Project. Prize-winning

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entries are read aloud at the August 21 afternoon concert, where Borba performs the musical selections.

SMF Artistic Director Carsten Schmidt, pianist, harpsichordist and conductor, has an unusually broad repertoire ranging from the early Baroque to new works, of which he has premiered more than 100. He has appeared at the Ravinia and Vail festivals, the Kuhmo Festival in Finland, the German Mozart Festival, International Schubert Festival in Amsterdam, Kaleidoscope Festival in Moscow, Merkin Hall in NYC, and the Kennedy Center, and he has been heard in radio broadcasts worldwide. Since 2004 he has conducted opera productions of Handel and Purcell, and a concerto program at Kuhmo. He holds Artist Diplomas from the Folkwang Institute, Indiana University, and a doctorate from Yale. Since 1998, he has been Professor of Music at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. He resides in New York City and downtown Staunton.

CONTACTS FOR FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

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TICKETS: All seats are unreserved. Doors open one hour before the concert.

Main Stage concerts: \$20 regular, \$18 senior, \$8 student, *Pay-what you-will 17 and under.

Gala Dinner & Concert All tickets \$75

*Not available for Gala (full price) and Czech Letters (\$8 if a guaranteed seat is wanted).

Discounted Subscription Tickets to all events, with and without Gala, are also available.

Online: www.stauntonmusicfestival.com

Phone: (800) 838-3006

In Person in Staunton: Celebrate! (644 Greenville Ave) and Bookworks (101 W. Beverley)

At the Door (except Gala Dinner & Concert)

DIRECTIONS, MAPS & PARKING: www.stauntonmusicfestival.com

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2011 Staunton Music Festival Summer Sounds Calendar

Please list all events!

Friday, August 19

7:00 pm

GALA DINNER & CONCERT

President's House, Mary Baldwin College, Kable St., Staunton

(Advance ticket purchase required)

Enjoy drinks, dinner, dessert, and music by Saint-Saëns,
Rameau, Messiaen, Fauré, in a beautiful setting.

Saturday, August 20

Noon–12:50 pm

SONG AND DANCE (FREE)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick St., Staunton

Renaissance vocal music performed by Mira vocal ensemble, Raven
Hunter, dir., and lively violin duets by Bartók.

7:30 pm

ON THE DANUBE

(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)

Trinity Episcopal Church, 214 W. Beverley St., Staunton

A sumptuous program of music by Johann Strauss, Schubert, Kurtág,
Liszt and Brahms, evoking the beauties and character of this storied
river, its landscape, people and culture.

Sunday, August 21

3:00-3:50 pm

MUSIC-STORY PROJECT (FREE)

Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton

This event combines a piano recital of brief works by J.S. Bach,
Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, and Bartók, and the prize-winning stories
written by schoolchildren in response to those pieces

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7:30 pm SUMMER SERENADES
(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)
Trinity Episcopal Church, 214 W. Beverley St., Staunton
Two contemporary pieces, by John Hilliard and Kaija Saariaho, framed
by the most glorious examples of “evening music”: Mozart’s Eine Kleine
Nachtmusik, and Tchaikovsky’s Serenade in C.

Monday, August 22

Noon-12:50 pm ORGAN RECITAL (FREE)
Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton
David Schrader performs works of J. S. Bach, Reger, Coria, and
improvisations on a theme selected by the audience.

7:30 pm WATER MUSIC
(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)
Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Water – its motion and mythology, its drama and symbolism – has
always appealed to composers as a musical subject. Sibelius, Telemann,
Schubert, Crumb, Yannelli, Dufay, Ravel and Vivaldi

Tuesday, August 23

Noon-12:50 pm PIANO EXTRAVAGANZA (FREE)
Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
An SMF institution returns! Four pianists jockey for space on one piano,
in pieces scored for up to eight hands by Saint-Saëns, Yannelli, Haney,
Biscardi, Rachmaninoff and Lavignac.

2-3:30 pm MASTERCLASSES open to the public (FREE)
Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton 2011
Young Artist Fellows work with Festival artists

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7:30 pm HAPPY NEW EAR! (FREE)
Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Interactive event with composers Zachary Wadsworth, Vera Ivanova,
Chester Biscardi and Stephen Siegel.

Wednesday, August 24

Noon-12:50 pm SERENADES AT NOON (FREE)
Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Intimate pieces by Schubert, Britten, Richard Strauss and Debussy, and
the debut of the SMF Watchmen Choral Society in Franz Biber's
Serenada for strings, continuo, and watchmen.

7:30 pm HEROES (?)
(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)
Trinity Episcopal Church, 214 W. Beverley Street, Staunton
SMF marshals its forces for three major works: Monteverdi's
Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda, Schoenberg's Ode to Napoleon,
and Beethoven's Eroica Symphony transcribed for piano quartet!

Thursday, August 25

Noon-12:50 pm NORDIC VOICES (FREE)
St. Francis Catholic Church, 118 North New Street, Staunton
Small scale works for small ensembles, from Swedish baroque (Johan
Helmich Roman) to Finnish contemporary (Jouni Kaipainen)

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7:30 pm

CZECH LETTERS

(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)

Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Dvořák's Quintet, Op. 77, Pavel Haas's Suite for oboe and piano,
Zelenka's Trio Sonata No. 2 in g, and Smetana's great portrait of a river,
Die Moldau, arranged for chamber orchestra.

Friday, August 26

Noon–12:50 pm

EMERGING COMPOSERS (FREE)

Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Premieres of songs by this year's Emerging Composers, Vera Ivanova
and Zachary Wadsworth, followed by conversation.

7:30 pm

BAROQUE INSIDE/OUT

(Also: Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30 pm)

Trinity Episcopal Church, 214 W. Beverley, Staunton
A treasure of baroque trio sonatas, concertos, vocal and choral works by
Heinichen, Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Pergolesi and Clérambault.
Madrigals at intermission in the church and churchyard

Saturday, August 27

Noon–12:50 pm

BOHEMIAN TREASURES (FREE)

Central United Methodist Church, 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton
Delicious duets for cello and piano (Dvořák), trumpet and piano
(Martinů) and baritone and piano (Janáček)

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7:30 pm

A HANDEL EXTRAVAGANZA

Blackfriars Playhouse, 10 South Market St., Staunton

(Also: Pre-Concert Talk by Jason Stell: The Royal Handel

4:00 pm, Temple House of Israel, 15 N. Market Street, Staunton

The festival's final concert is a celebration of George Frideric Handel's splendid vocal, choral and instrumental music, by Festival vocal soloists and the SMF Baroque Players, under the direction of Carsten Schmidt.

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