

Critically acclaimed Southeastern Piano Festival celebrates 15 years of excellence

The critically acclaimed Southeastern Piano Festival, now in its 15th year, transforms the University of South Carolina and Columbia, S.C. into a major cultural destination on June 18-24, 2017, drawing audiences and piano talent from around the world. In addition to ticketed public concerts, the festival also offers insight into the music-making process. Master classes, panel discussions and competition performances are open to the public and free to observe.

The Festival opens with the Piano Extravaganza Concert, featuring 15 pianists, five Steinway grand pianos and renowned guest artists on Sunday, June 18 at 4:00 p.m. at the Koger Center for the Arts. The first Piano Extravaganza, created to celebrate the 10th anniversary, has become the Festival's most exciting event. The multi-piano multi-media showcase features a cameo appearance by Anderson & Roe piano duo and Orff's *Carmina Burana* - a choral masterpiece combining pianos, percussion and an award-winning Miami-based choir.

Among the world-class guest artists performing during the 2017 Festival are Anderson & Roe, a groundbreaking, style-crossing dynamic piano duo that feel equally at home playing Michael Jackson hits and Vivaldi. They have appeared on NPR and MTV, recorded Billboard chart-topping albums, toured worldwide as recitalists and orchestral soloists, and released Emmy-nominated, self-produced music videos viewed by millions; Frederic Chiu, a piano world guru with a unique voice and insight into new and traditional repertoire; Vadim Kholodenko, Gold Medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; and Anna Han and Chaeyoung Park, two former award winners of the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition.

In addition to presenting new and world-renowned concert pianists, the Southeastern Piano Festival (SEPF) is a high-level training platform for young pianists, an advocate for new piano music, and a vehicle for exploring different roles the piano plays on stage and beyond. Twenty of some of the best precollege pianists on the piano scene today take part in a rigorous program that includes daily lessons with USC piano faculty, master classes with guest artists and up to five hours of practice a day. The Festival culminates with the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition. After a rigorous weeklong program, the young pianists compete for cash awards and the opportunity to perform with the South Carolina Philharmonic. The competition takes place Friday, June 23.

Concerts take place at venues around the city throughout the week and have moderately priced tickets with \$5 student rush tickets and free tickets to those 18 and younger one hour prior to each concert. Individual tickets go on sale March 15, 2017. New levels of sponsorships and subscriptions are available starting January 2017.

For a list of festival events, locations and guest artists, and to purchase tickets (beginning March 15), visit the festival website: sepf.music.sc.edu

More events:

Alumni Celebration Concert

Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall
Anna Han and Chaeyoung Park

Frederic Chiu

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 7:30 pm, Trinity Cathedral

Vadim Kholodenko

Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall

Anderson & Roe

Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Johnson Performance Hall (Moore School of Business)

Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition

Friday, June 23, 10 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall

Jury: Barry Snyder, chair, Washington Garcia, Morihiko Nakahara, Boris Slutsky and Ilana Vered.