



44th Season
**Highlands-Cashiers
Chamber Music Festival**
July 5th - August 10th, 2025

WELCOME to our 44th Season!



Spring is in the air and that means that summer and the Festival can't be far behind! We have another amazing season planned for you – our 44th – with our signature of **imaginative programs** with **star performers** in beautiful venues all over the Plateau.

Before we get to Summer, our annual **Spring Residency** will feature the brilliant young **Katarina Quartet** who are the Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at The Juilliard School. They will perform a public concert on **Saturday, May 3rd @ 5 PM** at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. In addition to their concert, they will also give three **outreach programs** at all the area Schools on Friday, May 2, bringing great music and live performance to all the area students. They will also play for the residents of the Eckerd Living Center on that Saturday morning, and, the evening concert is **FREE** and open to the public, no tickets needed – so bring your family and friends!

New musicians to the Festival this summer will include **violist/composer Paul Coletti** who will give the NC premiere of his new **Viola Quintet** with the returning Viano Quartet; brilliant young pianist **Zitong Wang** who will be the first of our new annual Kathy and Mark Whitehead Family Young Pianists to perform; multiple Grammy Award winner **Sharon Isbin**, perhaps the most in-demand guitarist in the world will perform alongside the **Pacifica Quartet**, Grammy winners themselves; and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Rita Dove**, who was also Poet Laureate of the US in a special Beethoven program called “**Sonata Mulattica**”. Returning favorites will include pianists **Vijay Venkatesh** playing Brahms; the passionate and virtuosic violinist **Chee-Yun; Julie Coucheron** and **Elizabeth Pridgen** reprising the thrilling **Rite of Spring** at one piano; delightful clarinetist **Jesse McCandless**; cellist **Charae Krueger**; harpist **Elisabeth Remy Johnson**, and many more.

Our final Gershon/Cohn Gala and Dinner Party on August 10 will feature Grammy Award-winning cellist **Zuill Bailey** leading a group of EIGHT cellists for a thrilling “**CelloBration**” to close the season.

In addition to our regular concerts we will again be featuring a variety of fun additional programs and events including **Salons**, an **Interlude Concert**, our annual **Family Concerts** and **Ice Cream Social**, **classes** with CLE, and of course our popular **Martinis, Mozart & More** will be back and will sell out quickly again. Take a look through this brochure and **make your plans now** to join us for another unforgettable summer!

William Ransom, Anna and Hays Mershon Artistic Director
wransom@emory.edu | www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Original Artwork for the 44th Festival by Avery Rowan

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 2-3 HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS
SATURDAY, MAY 3 @ 5 PM
FREE CONCERT @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS
OCTOBER: TBA

HCCMF continues its Residency Program in 2025. On May 2-3, one of Canada's leading young string quartets, the Katarina String Quartet, will perform. They are the current Graduate String Quartet in Residence at The Julliard School. They will be presenting programs at our three area schools: Highlands, Blue Ridge and Summit in Cashiers. A visit to the Eckerd Living Center is planned and a FREE public concert will be given on Saturday, May 3rd at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5 PM.



Katarina String Quartet

Both Residencies are sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach Free

NEW STEINWAY PIANO FOR THE VILLAGE GREEN!
TUESDAY, JUNE 17 @ 5 PM
VILLAGE GREEN, CASHIERS



William Ransom

The Festival is thrilled and endlessly grateful for the gift of a beautiful new Steinway grand piano to be housed in Lewis Hall at the Village Green, our primary Cashiers venue. Artistic Director William Ransom will give a free Dedication Concert on Tuesday June 17 at 5 PM to showcase the new instrument to the entire community. A reception will follow to celebrate. Please plan to join us, and tell your friends!

Ballade #1 in G Minor
L'Isle Joyeuse
Rhapsody in Blue

Frederic Chopin
Claude Debussy
George Gershwin

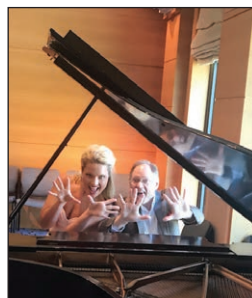
MOUNTAIN MUSIC SOIREE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 @ 6 PM
AT THE THOMPSON HOME

A piano concert will be performed by Julie Coucheron & William Ransom and will also feature a Special Surprise Guest. A premier gourmet dinner will follow the performance at the elegant home of Mary Thompson with an added benefit of a spectacular view!

\$200/per person

Call for reservations - 828-526-9060.

Order online starting March 15 or call for required reservations



Julie Coucheron and William Ransom



James Zellers



Alexandra Prior



Ryan Little

**WINDS @ THE BASCOM
SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH @ 5 PM
THE BASCOM CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS – HIGHLANDS**

The All-Star Woodwind Quintet will present a delightful Sunday evening concert. Additional musicians to be announced.

Wine & hors d'oeuvres will be served. \$80/person

Call for reservations – 828-526-9060 Order online starting March 15 or call for required reservations



*Susie
Park*

**INTERLUDE CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 @ 2 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH – HIGHLANDS**

In collaboration with First Presbyterian Church, a concert featuring Susie Park, violin and William Ransom, piano will present an outstanding program of Beethoven, Massenet and Ravel. Free



*William
Ransom*



Gary Motley



Andy Eulau



Emrah Kotan

**FAMILY CONCERTS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 @ 3PM
ALBERT CARLTON CASHIERS LIBRARY
THURSDAY, JULY 17 @ 3 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – HIGHLANDS**

Free family concerts, in collaboration with the Highlands Community Child Development Center, HCCMF presents "Just Jazzin' Around" with the Gary Motley Trio: Gary Motley, piano; Andy Eulau, bass; Emrah Kotan, percussion

The concerts will be followed by an ice cream social. Free

Sponsored by Mountain Findings – Highlands, NC

**MARTINIS, MOZART & MORE!
THURSDAY, JULY 24 @ 5:30 PM
ORCHARD HOUSE @ OLD EDWARDS FARM – HIGHLANDS**



Vega Quartet



Ransom Wilson

HCCMF presents, in collaboration with Old Edwards Hospitality Group, a special event featuring Elisabeth Remy Johnson, harp; Ransom Wilson, flute; Vega Quartet. Concerto for Harp and Flute
Mozart
Sonatine for Flute, Cello, & Harp Ravel
Halleluia Leonard Cohen
Refreshments will be served before the concert; a cash bar will be available.

\$125/per person which includes two (2) drink tickets
Call for reservations – 828-526-9060

Order online starting March 15 or call for required reservations

Sponsored by Dianne & Myron Mall; Jack Sapolsky & Richard Bordeaux



*Elisabeth
Remy Johnson*

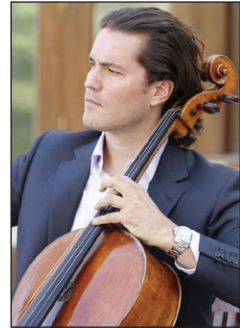
**ANGEL PARTY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7 @ 6 PM
THE HOME OF FAITH & FRED SCHWAIBOLD
WILDCAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB**



Helen Kim

Enjoy an outstanding cocktail party and performance by Zuill Bailey, cello & Helen Kim, violin at the stunning home of Faith & Fred Schwaibold. We thrive on generous contributions and are rewarding those patrons who contribute \$3,000 and above with an Angel Party.

To join, please consider giving and become a part of this exclusive celebration of your generosity and our 44th season.



Zuill Bailey

CLE CLASSES

Call CLE for lecture tickets, classes and locations @
828-526-8811 office@clehighlands.com



Dr. Ben Arnold



Dwight Andrews

**SATURDAY, JULY 19TH,
10-12 NOON – CLE LECTURE HALL**

***“The Canonic Phenomenon of Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring:
Primitivism, Myth, and Modernity”***

Dr. Ben Arnold serves as the Acting Director of the University of Kentucky School of Music, a position he served in previously from 2003 to 2012. He has written extensively on music in response to war and the composer Franz Liszt. In addition to writing for and editing *The Liszt Companion*, he is the editor of the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*. Prior to UK, he taught at Emory University for sixteen years, serving as Director of Graduate Studies in Music and two terms as Chair of the Music Department.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH,
10-12 NOON – CLE LECTURE HALL**

“Jazz Meets Classics”

Dr. Dwight Andrews uncovers the often-overlooked connections of aesthetics, improvisation, and the requirement of mastery in both musical traditions.

Dr. Dwight Andrews, composer, musician, educator, and minister, is Professor of Music Theory and African American Music at Emory University and Senior Minister of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta. He has also composed movie and television scores from Broadway to Hollywood and written and performed both Jazz and Classical works with some of the finest musicians of today.

CONCERT PROGRAMS:

In an effort to make concerts easier to identify,
we have color-coded the concerts:

**HIGHLANDS concerts (Saturday & Monday) in Blue and
CASHIERS concerts (Sunday & Tuesday) in Red.**

CONCERT LOCATIONS:

**Saturday and Monday concerts (both 5 PM) are at
the Highlands Performing Arts Center – 507 Chestnut Street.**

**Sunday and Tuesday concerts (both 5 PM) are at the
Village Green Commons in Cashiers – 160 Frank Allen Road.**

OPENING CONCERTS



The Viano Quartet



Paul Coletti



Yinzi Kong



Charae Krueger

Saturday, July 5th, Highlands, 5 PM

Sunday, July 6th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“The Old and the New”

NC Premiere of Paul Coletti’s Viola Quintet

Moonlight Journey

String Quartet in G major, K. 387, “Spring”

The Pawn Who Dreamed Of Becoming A Queen

Viola Quintet in Bb Major, Op. 87

Paul Coletti

W. A. Mozart

Coletti

Felix Mendelssohn

The Viano Quartet; Paul Coletti, viola/composer



Monday, July 7th, Highlands, 5 PM

Tuesday, July 8th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“Viano Plus”

String Quartet in D major, Op. 76/5 “Largo”

String Quartet No. 9, Op. 117

String Sextet in G Major

F. J. Haydn

Dmitri Shostakovich

Johannes Brahms

The Viano Quartet; Yinzi Kong, viola; Charae Krueger, cello

WEEK TWO



Zitong Wang



Susie Park,



James Kim



Sharon Isbin and the Pacifica String Quartet

Saturday, July 12th, Highlands, 5 PM

Sunday, July 13th, Cashiers, 5 PM

"The Whitehead Family Young Pianist Concert"

Sonata in F# Major, Op. 78

Ludwig van Beethoven

Scherzo #4 in E Major

Frederic Chopin

Fantasy on Themes from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro

F. Liszt, arr. Busoni

Piano Trio in D Minor

Anton Arensky

Zitong Wang, piano; Susie Park, violin; James Kim, cello



Monday, July 14th, Highlands, 5 PM

Tuesday, July 15th, Cashiers, 5 PM

"Strings Attached"

Concerto in D Major for Guitar and Strings

Antonio Vivaldi

Danza española No. 5 "Andaluza"

Enrique Granados

Capricho árabe

Francisco Tárrega

Waltz Op. 8

Agustín Barrios Mangoré

La Oración del Torero, Op. 34

Joaquín Turina

Four for Tango

Astor Piazzolla

String Quartet in F Major, Op. 96, "American"

Antonín Dvořák

Guitar Quintet No. 4 in D major, G. 448, "Fandango"

Luigi Boccherini

Sharon Isbin, guitar; the Pacifica String Quartet

WEEK THREE



Julie Coucheron



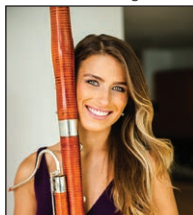
Elizabeth Pridgen



Chee-Yun



Jesse McCandless



Eleni Katz



Kevin Lyons



Gabriel Colby



Jonathan Colbert



Scott Pollard



Richard Prior

Saturday, July 19th, Highlands, 5 PM

Sunday, July 20th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“The Rites of Spring”

Spring *from* the Four Seasons
To Spring
Spring Sonata
The Rite of Spring for Piano 4 hands

Antonio Vivaldi
Edvard Grieg
Ludwig van Beethoven
Igor Stravinsky

Julie Coucheron & Elizabeth Pridgen, piano; Chee-Yun, violin



Monday, July 21st, Highlands, 5 PM

Tuesday, July 22nd, Cashiers, 5 PM

“Musical Stories”

Ferdinand the Bull
Babar the Little Elephant
The Soldier's Tale

Ridout
Francis Poulenc
Igor Stravinsky

***Chee-Yun, violin; Jesse McCandless, clarinet; Eleni Katz, bassoon;
Kevin Lyons, trumpet; Gabriel Colby, trombone; Jonathan Colbert, bass;
Scott Pollard, percussion; Richard Prior, narrator; Julie Coucheron, piano***

WEEK FOUR



The Vega Quartet



*Elisabeth Remy
Johnson*



*Ransom
Wilson*



*Jesse
McCandless*



*Vijay
Venkatesh*

Saturday, July 26th, Highlands, 5 PM

Sunday, July 27th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“The Enchanted Harp”

Elegiac Trio

Nuntii

Vocalise

Sonata No. 1

Sacred and Profane Dances

“Alborada del gracioso”

Introduction and Allegro

Arnold Bax

Catrin Finch

Cheryl Frances Hoad

Jean-Michel Damase

Claude Debussy

Maurice Ravel

Ravel

Elisabeth Remy Johnson, harp; Ransom Wilson, flute;

Jesse McCandless, clarinet; Vega Quartet



Monday, July 28th, Highlands, 5 PM

Tuesday, July 29th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“Eternal Love Triangle”

Three Romances

String Quartet in A Major

Piano Sonata in F Minor

Vijay Venkatesh, piano; Jesse McCandless, clarinet; Vega Quartet

Clara Schumann

Robert Schumann

Johannes Brahms

WEEK FIVE



Rita Dove



Njioma Grevious



William Ransom



Matt Herskowitz



Helen Kim



Charae Krueger



Mathieu Désy



David Rozenblatt

Saturday, August 2nd, Highlands, 5 PM

Sunday, August 3rd, Cashiers, 5 PM

“Sonata Mulattica”

Readings from “Sonata Mulattica”

“Kreutzer” Sonata, Op. 47

Rita Dove

Ludwig van Beethoven

Rita Dove poet; Njioma Grevious, violin;

William Ransom, piano



Monday, August 4th, Highlands, 5 PM

Tuesday, August 5th, Cashiers, 5 PM

“Jazz Meets Classics – Three’s Company”

Piano Trio in B Major

Jazz Trios with bass and drums

Johannes Brahms

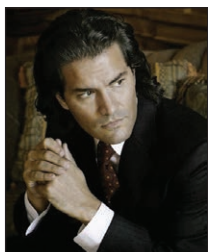
Matt Herskowitz, piano; Helen Kim, violin;

Charae Krueger, cello; Mathieu Désy, bass;

David Rozenblatt, drums

GERSHON/COHN FINAL GALA CONCERT & DINNER

Sunday, August 10th, 5 PM
Highlands Performing Arts Center



Zuill Bailey



Charae Krueger



Guang Wang



Nick Curry



Grace Gavin



Martin Gueorguiev



Benjamin Karp



Laura Usiskin



Bethany Mamola

“CelloBration!”

***Zuill Bailey, Charae Krueger, Guang Wang, Nick Curry,
Grace Gavin, Martin Gueorguiev, Benjamin Karp, Laura Usiskin, cello;
Bethany Mamola, soprano***

Bachianas Brasileiras #5
Rococo Variations

Heitor Villa-Lobos
Peter Tchaikovsky

Dinner follows at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club

**** If anyone has a shellfish allergy, it is a MUST that you advise us.****

Qty. Price Total



	Qty.	Price	Total
Highlands Series (Price indicates \$40 discount w/series purchase) 10 Concerts, Saturday AND Monday Highlands – 5 Saturday concerts series Highlands – 5 Monday concerts series		\$360 \$200 \$200	
Cashiers Series (Price indicates \$40 discount w/series purchase) 10 Concerts, Sunday AND Tuesday Cashiers – 5 Sunday concerts series Cashiers – 5 Tuesday concerts series		\$360 \$200 \$200	
Single Concert Tickets Dates: _____		each \$40	
Student Concert Tickets (under 18)		\$20	
Festival Final Gala Concert & Dinner at Wildcat Cliffs, Sunday, August 10 Concert Only, Sunday, August 10		\$200 \$100	
"Mountain Musical Soiree - Wednesday, June 25 @ 6 PM		\$200	
"Winds @ The Bascom - Sunday, June 29 @ 5 PM		\$80	
"Martinis & Mozart" - Thursday, July 24 @ 5:30 PM		\$125	
Tax Deductible Contribution Total			
NORTH CAROLINA SALES TAX HAS BEEN ADDED TO ALL TICKET PRICES			



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 Address, Summer _____



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 Address, Winter _____

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Payment Method
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 Signature _____ CVC# _____



Mail to: **HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**
 P.O. Box 1702, Highlands, NC 28741
 Fax to: 828-526-4893 Phone: 828-526-9060
 Email: hccmfnc@gmail.com · www.hcmusicfestival.org

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TICKET POLICIES

Tickets can be refunded if the ticket holder returns the ticket to HCCMF at least 24 hours prior to the ticketed event and HCCMF is able to resell the tickets.

We do not mail tickets; they are available for pick-up at our office at the Performing Art Center or at will-call the night of your concert.

A REMINDER AND A THANK YOU

You, the Festival supporters, are vital to the Festival's success. Contributions keep us performing at the outstanding level you have come to expect. We appreciate your continued generosity.

Any DONATIONS before JUNE 1ST, 2025 will be acknowledged in the 2024 program.



William Ransom wins prestigious Chamber Music America award!

Our Artistic Director William Ransom has been named the “Community Impact Award/Presenter of the Year” by Chamber Music America, the national service organization for the field. Previously titled the CMAclaim Award, this award recognizes those who have made lasting contributions to their community through the presentation of chamber music performances, educational outreach initiatives, collaborations with local musicians and organizations, or audience development programs. In more than three decades, the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta has enriched the lives of the greater Atlanta area and created a new generation of chamber music enthusiasts and advocates. Under the helm of founder and Artistic Director William Ransom, ECMSA has grown into one of the largest chamber music organizations in the Southeast and presents over 60 concerts, masterclasses, and events each season that are all free to attend.

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

507 CHESTNUT STREET

P.O. BOX 1702

HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

828-526-9060

Email: hccmfnc@gmail.com

H-CMUSICFESTIVAL.ORG

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