



# Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

Newsletter

Fall 2024

## *Fall residency concert is Saturday, Oct. 26*

From the Artistic Director

The first taste of Fall is in the air but it seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating great Music in the Mountains at the 43rd Festival! And what an amazing season it was – our busiest ever, with more concerts, Salons, Feasts, and Special Events than ever. **THANK YOU** to all our audience members, patrons, volunteers, and dedicated Board members who helped make the season such a glowing success!

We are not finished with 2024 just yet – our Fall Residency will feature a brilliant young String Quartet, the Rose Quartet based in New York. They will perform a public concert on **Saturday, Oct. 26 @ 5 PM** at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. In addition to



*Camp Merrie Woode*

their concert, they will also give three **outreach programs** at all the area Schools on Friday, Oct. 25, bringing great music and live performance to all the area

students, and they will also play for the residents of the Eckerd Living Center on that Saturday morning. And, the concert is **FREE** and open to the public, no tickets needed – so bring your family and friends!

Planning for **NEXT** season is well underway, with our signature of imaginative programs with star performers. Here is a sneak peek at only **some** of the exciting programs to look forward to in 2025 – mark your calendars **NOW!**

Festival debuts will include **violinist/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 Young Pianists to perform; multiple Grammy Award winner **Sharon Isbin**,



*Brass @ The Bascom*

*Continued on Page 2*

### Board of Directors

Olivia Holt  
*President*

Beth Acker

J. F. Bryan

Earl Dorsey

Judy Freeman

Barbara Guillaume

Alfred Kennedy

Dianne Mall

Cheri Martin

Ginny May

David Moore

Martha Pearson

Rick Shackelford

Jack Sapolsky

Marcia Weber

Peter Whitcup

William Ransom

*Anna &  
Hays Mershon  
Artistic Director*

Nancy  
Gould-Aaron  
*Executive  
Director*

Dr. Lucas Drew  
*Founder*



# Imaginative programs, star performers, fun events

*Continued from Page 1*

perhaps the most in-demand guitarist in the world; 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 **Victor Asuncion** playing Brahms; **Julie Coucheron** and **Elizabeth Pridgen** reprising the thrilling **Rite of Spring** at one piano; cellist **Charae Krueger**; the **Vega Quartet** and much 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 **Festival Feasts. Martinis, Mozart & More** will be back and will sell out quickly again. Stay “tuned” for further details of next summer- and again, **THANK YOU** for helping to make the Festival not only possible but so successful for the last 43 years. If you ever have questions, suggestions or comments about the Festival, I am always delighted to hear from you!

*William Ransom, Anna and  
Hays Mershon Artistic Director  
wransom@emory.edu*



*2024 Gala*



*Cashiers Concert*



*Dover in Concert*



*In Rehearsal*

**President's Message:**

## *Collaboration, generosity drives festival success*

Early last year the book “Awe: The Transformative Power of Everyday Wonders” was published. The author describes awe as a universal emotion that fosters wonder, creativity and collaboration.

I think this exactly describes the “vibe” around our Festival. The myriad collaborative efforts and exceptional generosity from you allows us to bring world-class music to our beautiful Plateau. The creativity in programming from Will Ransom, our wonderful

Anna and Hays Mershon Artistic Director, results in outstanding concerts from diverse musicians. Nancy Gould-Aaron, our exceptional Executive Director, is the bond that transforms the many moving parts into a cohesive, enjoyable festival.

I am certainly in awe of what the Festival has become. Thanks so much to you and our Board for all you do.

*Phyllis Davis, Outgoing President*

**Executive Director's Message:**

## *Your support makes the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival exceptional*

Heart-felt thanks to all who supported the Festival by making a monetary contribution, underwriting a concert, sponsoring a special event, housing a musician, hosting a feast, salon or concert reception, attending a concert or becoming a member of the Legacy Society.

These opportunities for support are all available in 2025! Please call us at 828-526-9060 for more information. Our office will be happy to assist you; we love visits from you all.

2024 was an exceptional season for our chamber music festival – look for 2025 to continue the magic!

*Nancy Gould-Aaron, Executive Director*

I add my sincere thanks to Will, Nancy, and Phyllis for another phenomenal season. It shouldn't be possible, but the seasons just keeps getting better! We are now preparing for a blockbuster 44th year!

*Olivia Holt, Incoming President*



## **Festival Feasts / Salons**

Planning has already started for the 2025 season of Festival Feasts and Salons.

Please consider helping with these vital sources of revenue by becoming a Host. Your contribution as a Host is a tax-deductible gift to the Festival.

Our staff will provide you with information and support and YOU will provide us with an important and essential means of fulfilling our mission of bringing wonderful music and stellar performers to our communities.

Call 828-526-9060 or email [hccmfnc@gmail.com](mailto:hccmfnc@gmail.com) and we shall send you information and connect you with the Feast/Salon Chairperson.

### **UNDERWRITING**

Underwriting a concert is a wonderful way to support your Chamber Music Festival and a unique way to honor individuals, anniversaries, and other special occasions. Individual concerts may be underwritten beginning at \$2500. A dedication or underwriting credit will be printed in the program along with all of the information regarding that concert. The underwriting contribution is fully tax-deductible.

### **FUND RAISING CYCLE**

To be included in the donor listings in the Program, contributions must be received no later than May 31st, 2025. Contributions received between June 1st and September 30th will be listed in the following year's program.





**HIGHLANDS  
CASHIERS  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**

P.O. Box 1702  
507 Chestnut Street  
Highlands, NC 28741  
hccmfnc@gmail.com  
www.h-cmusicfestival.org  
828-526-9060

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Greenville, S.C.  
Permit # 1431

---

*Starring in 2025*



*Vega Quartet*



*Jesse McCandless*



*Viano Quartet*

---