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Canandaigua Chamber Music Festival continues to grow

Stuart Low
Staff writer

(August 12, 2007) — As a young music festival barrels full speed ahead, it's getting a little boost from a British speedboat ace.

Fifty years ago, Donald Campbell attempted to set a 250-mph world record on Canandaigua Lake. Choppy waters swamped his best efforts — but starting next weekend, he'll have a ripple effect. The Canandaigua Lake Chamber Music Festival will honor his memory by performing "Speedboat Splash Selections"; blindingly fast encores that bring each concert to a frothy close.

Visitors will find other new twists at the three-year-old event. For the first time, the four main concerts will be held in the air-conditioned sanctuary of Zion Fellowship on Bristol Road. Elsewhere, Strong National Museum of Play and Canandaigua's Wood Library will host family concerts as festival partners.

The programs put a firm accent on contemporary works. Among the highlights are two Pulitzer-Prize-winning quartets by Aaron Jay Kernis and John Corigliano, played by the Corigliano Quartet, and Adam B. Silverman's new duo for viola and cello. Making their festival debut will be the Zephyros Winds quintet of New York City and veteran concert pianist Claude Frank in Viennese classics.

"People ask why we present so much contemporary music in a rural community," says violist Edward Klorman, 24, who directs the festival with cellist Amy Sue Barston. "I compare it to going to an ethnic restaurant. If you've never had Ethiopian food, it's exhilarating to try something new."

The festival also has a growing educational component. The four main concerts will offer pre-concert lectures or Prelude Concerts by area students.

Once again, a Classical Blue Jeans evening will combine gluttony and music-making on Aug. 22, when a barbecue dinner sets the stage for Silverman's *Duo Vert*.

As a special event on Feb. 9, the much-acclaimed Orion Quartet will premiere a string quartet by American composer Lowell Liebermann. He'll be in residence at the Wood Library and Canandaigua Academy, giving presentations about his music.

Klorman expects about 1,700 listeners to visit the festival this year — nearly double the attendance in 2006. A majority always comes from Monroe and Ontario counties, but tourists starved for chamber music drive from as far as Pennsylvania and Illinois, says Klorman.

He believes that his concerts can hold their own with the 28-year-old Skaneateles Chamber Music Festival.

"We have a savvy but unpretentious tone," he says. "And Canandaigua is a premier summer locale."

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The music festival includes Classical Blue Jeans, a group that combines classical masterworks with traditional fiddling.

Day in Photos

Festival Series

All Canandaigua Lake Chamber Music Festival events begin at 7:30 p.m., with a 7 p.m. pre-concert chat or student Prelude Concert. They're at Zion Fellowship, 5188 Bristol Road, Canandaigua. Tickets are \$75 for a season pass (\$45 for students) or \$25 per concert (\$15 for students). Call (800) 838-3006 or go to www.lakechambermusic.org.

Friday: The Corigliano Quartet plays Pulitzer-Prize-winning quartets by Aaron Jay Kernis and John Corigliano.

Next Sunday: The Zephyros Winds perform Mozart's *Quintet for Piano and Winds* (with pianist Norman Carey), among other works.

Aug. 24: Pianist Claude Frank plays Schubert's *Sonata in B-flat*, violinist Juliana Athayde leads an ensemble in Mozart's *String Quintet in G Minor*, and Edward Klorman and Amy Sue Barston premiere Adam B. Silverman's *Duo Vert* for viola and cello.

Aug. 26: Program includes Brahms' *Piano Quintet in F minor* with Claude Frank.

Community concerts

11 a.m. Thursday: The Corigliano Quartet at Strong National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square. Free with admission: \$9 (\$8 for seniors, \$7 for children ages 2 to 17).

11 a.m. Saturday: Chamber music master class at Denton Cottier & Daniels, Piano Works Mall, 349 W. Commercial St., East Rochester. Free.

10:30 a.m. Aug. 21: Children's concert with Mary Ferris narrating *An Adventure at Granny's*. Wood Library, 134 N. Main St., Canandaigua. Free.

6 p.m. Aug. 22: Classical Blue Jeans, a barbecue dinner and performance of Adam B. Silverman's *Duo Vert*. South Bristol Cultural Center, 5323 Seneca Point Road. Make reservations by Aug. 19. \$35 (\$18 for children age 10 and younger).

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