

MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS PRESENTS:

Min Kwon, piano

AMERICA/ BEAUTIFUL

Steinway Artist and Center for Musical Excellence Director **Min Kwon** will perform highlights from her **America/Beautiful** project, a compendium of over 70 variations on America the Beautiful by living composers.

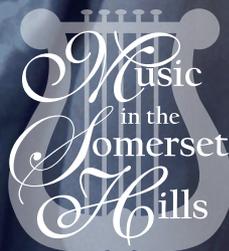
3:30 PM CAR SHOW

5:00 PM CONCERT

JULY 3, 2022

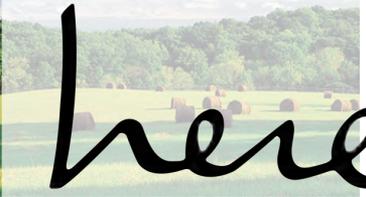
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MusicSH.org





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Min Kwon, piano

AMERICA/BEAUTIFUL

www.America-Beautiful.com



* PIECES TO BE PERFORMED WILL BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

Samuel Adler (b. 1928):	<i>A Celebration of Our Beautiful Nation</i>
Bruce Adolphe (b. 1955):	<i>A Contemplation</i>
Leila Adu-Gilmore:	<i>United Underdog</i>
Timo Andres (b. 1985):	<i>American Coda</i>
Andrew Bambridge:	<i>Oh Beautiful</i>
Jonathan Berger (b. 1954):	<i>...but wait a minute</i>
Victoria Bond (b. 1945):	<i>Sea to Shining Sea</i>
Peter Boyer (b. 1970):	<i>Still Beautiful</i>
Kenji Bunch (b. 1973):	<i>Beautiful for all (or for none at all)</i>
Charles Coleman (b. 1968):	<i>To be Beautiful</i>
Viet Cuong (b. 1990):	<i>Echo Chamber</i>
Sebastian Currier (b. 1959):	<i>23 Variations on America</i>
Richard Danielpour (b. 1956):	<i>DESECRATION</i>
Tyson Davis (b. 2000):	<i>American Tableau</i>
Avner Dorman (b. 1975):	<i>Variation on "America the Beautiful"</i>
Reena Esmail (b. 1983):	<i>America/Desh</i>

Michael Gandolfi (b. 1956):	Of Liberating Strife
Michael Gilbertson (b. 1987):	Grace
John Harbison (b. 1938):	Getting the Upper Hand on America
Stephen Hartke (b. 1952):	O Genus Infelix Humanum
Jake Heggie (b. 1961):	Undiscovered
Fred Hersch Little (b. 1955):	American Variations for the Left Hand
Jonathan (b. 1974):	Bailey Holland No Man's Land
Huang Ruo (b. 1976):	Meditation on "America the Beautiful"
Vijay Iyer (b. 1971):	Crown Thy Good
Pierre Jalbert (b. 1967):	Endeavor
Kristjan Järvi (b. 1972):	Look up America
Aaron Jay Kernis (b. 1960):	Epilogue: End of the Dream
JP Jofre (b. 1983):	Air of America
Texu Kim (b. 1980):	America the Polarized
Libby Larsen (b. 1950):	Amber (Variation)
Hannah Lash (b. 1981):	Passage
George Lewis (b. 1952):	America, the changing same
Lei Liang (b. 1972):	America the Beautiful... devastatingly quiet ...
David Serkin Ludwig (b. 1972):	Qaddiš
Miya Masaoka (b. 1958):	Praying for a Sign
Jessica Meyer (b. 1974):	Halcyon Skies

Patricio Molina (b. 1993):	<i>Arabic Homage to America</i>
Paul Moravec (b. 1957):	<i>American, the Work in Progress</i>
Nico Muhly (b. 1981):	<i>Refine</i>
John Musto (b. 1954):	<i>Habanera</i>
Qasim Naqvi (b. 1977):	<i>America The</i>
Dave Ragland (b. 1978):	<i>A Most Glorious Grace</i>
Shulamit Ran (b. 1949):	<i>America Summer 2020 (The Beautiful)</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986):	<i>Beauty of America</i>
Terry Riley (b. 1935):	<i>Crown of Brotherhood</i>
Gyan Riley (b. 1977):	<i>Endure</i>
Daniel Bernard Roumain (b. 1971):	<i>america, NEVER beautiful</i>
Greg Sandow (b. 1943):	<i>America Slow Dance and 12-Tone America</i>
Paul Schoenfeld (b. 1947):	<i>Aramaic Fuel Tube</i>
Jeff Scott (b. 1967):	<i>Purple Mountains</i>
Juri Seo (b. 1981):	<i>America the Beautiful, "sotto voce"</i>
Robert Sirota (b. 1949):	<i>Two Variations</i>
Christopher Trapani (b. 1980):	<i>Thine Every Flow</i>
Liliya Ugay (b. 1990):	<i>The Beautiful</i>
Melinda Wagner (b. 1957):	<i>Swinging in My Yard: An American Reverie</i>
Trevor Weston (b. 1967):	<i>A Fantasy on America</i>
Judith Lang Zaimont (b. 1945):	<i>in darkness veiled</i>

FEATURED PERFORMER

Min Kwon

Steinway Artist

Founder & Artistic Director of CME

Korean-born American pianist Min Kwon excels in a versatile career that encompasses concerti, solo recitals, and chamber music appearances, while in high demand around the world as pedagogue, arts advocate, and administrator. She has held professional engagements in over 60 countries on seven continents and all 50 U.S. states. Professor of Piano at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University since 2002, Dr. Kwon is also the founder and director of Center for Musical Excellence (CME), a non-profit dedicated to mentoring and supporting gifted young musicians.



Min Kwon holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, completing post-doctoral studies in Salzburg. From 2015-2018, she served on the Juilliard Council as the first and only alumna/a to be invited. She counts among her teachers and mentors Eleanor Sokoloff, Martin Canin, Leon Fleisher, Hans Leygraf, Dorothy DeLay, Jerome Lowenthal, and Leif Ove Andsnes. Kwon is a Steinway Artist.

ABOUT THE PROJECT **AMERICA/BEAUTIFUL**

Dear Friends,

This project has been a long time in the making, but its guiding spirit took on more special meaning for me as I worked on it over the past nine months (parallel in so many ways to giving birth!) during this unprecedented moment we are living through together. America has been shaken by concurrent crises across its social, racial, political, economic, cultural, and health sectors. In spite of these many challenges, however, I am grateful for the time that the pandemic has afforded me - to dedicate myself to exploring the sound worlds of so many wonderful American composers, and the profound diversity of backgrounds and styles they represent. I am humbled that they have agreed to contribute to this dream vision of mine and that they have entrusted me to bring their music to life.

The voices of these "United Composers of America" form a powerful chorus, a collective musical snapshot that I'm sure will reverberate far beyond the present moment. I can't wait to share this project with you, and I hope it helps to remind us, in spite of all the difficulties we face, that there is still so much beauty in this country of ours.

Yours,

Min Kwon

THIS IS WHAT AMERICA SOUNDS LIKE

AN ESSAY BY JULIA CHO

While some of us baked bread, sewed masks, or doom-scrolled through the latest "Breaking News," internationally-celebrated pianist, arts advocate and educator Min Kwon was busy Zooming with American composers, from aspiring young students to Pulitzer Prize winners, from as young as 20 years old to as old as 93, inviting them to come together and contribute their unique, individual talents—to create something altogether new—much like the American experiment itself. Though it would end up both enabled and shaped by it, the idea of bringing American composers together to write variations of "America the Beautiful" wasn't born of the pandemic. Inspired by the famous Diabelli's variations written over 200 years ago in Vienna, Kwon already had the vision to create something fresh for the 21st century before the pandemic hit in March. Almost a year later, she has a compendium of over 70 variations on what's often been called "the national hymn."

ABOUT THE PROJECT AMERICA/BEAUTIFUL

Like Diabelli's original waltz, America the Beautiful is a simple melody and harmony—full of possibility, making it a great choice for variations. “The challenge for these very highly sophisticated musicians who studied Beethoven and Mahler was to have to look at this very simple melody and do something new,” says Kwon.

The original song itself was effectively collaborative. The young feminist poet, Katherine Bates, penned the lyrics after her hike up to Pike's Peak just after climbing out of her own deep depression. Two years later, it was published as “America” on the Fourth of July in 1895. She added the lines, “And crown thy good with brotherhood / From sea to shining sea in 1904, and it wasn't until 1910 that it was published together with Newark church organist Samuel Ward's tune “Materna,” and titled, “America the Beautiful.”

Kwon researched the composers to make sure their music resonated with her, and spent time getting to know them. “As a composer, you try to capture your emotions and aesthetics into black and white notes on a piece of paper, and then the rest is up to the performer.” That is a responsibility she takes seriously. Not only did the composers have to trust her, but in some ways, they had to cede their own egos to participate in the project. “It's not about each individual, but making a bigger and collective statement about America, and I am grateful that these inspired creators trusted me to be the messenger of their art and their heart”, she says.

A project on variations is ultimately an exercise in contrast. The individual pieces vary in tone, texture, and mood, but ultimately, form a united whole—much like the United States of America. Like our nation, the call for variations was full of possibility, requiring mutual trust and respect.

Artists have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, with concert halls closed indefinitely. In giving them the assignment, Kwon, an arts advocate and founder of the Center for Musical Excellence, was hoping the project could propel them forward. “It's evidence of what artists are able to do in a very difficult, challenging time that felt like a dead end,” she says. In the end, she's produced a meaningful, poignant, and powerful record that speaks of the resilience and invention of all Americans during this time.

When Beethoven wrote his famous 33 variations for Diabelli, he used the German word “Veränderungen” rather than the traditional German word, “variationen.” It meant not only variation, but “transformation.” Kwon's project, also, touches upon the transformative. “Life itself is a variation,” she says,

ABOUT THE PROJECT AMERICA/BEAUTIFUL

“because every day there are common denominators, but then things and events would vary. We ourselves evolve. Nothing stays the same, and so taking what’s there—the skeleton of the music, the foundation, and to expand upon it... it’s a very beautiful process of creation and recreation.”

Even her creative process evolves as she learns and masters the pieces. “I would play and then put it away, the piece continues to grow in me while I may be physically away from it. It’s like getting to know a person, and it takes time. Every time I approach it, I’m also different,” she says.

Launching on February 15th, the project will premiere on July 4th, 2021 with four days of streaming concerts, and two days of what will hopefully be live concerts in New York City. “My desire and goal for the project is that it’s going to live a very long life,” says Kwon. She hopes to see the piece take many forms and visit many different venues from concert halls to veteran homes—from the expected to the unexpected.

Part of Kwon’s hope for the project is for future generations to have a record of this time—besides what they’ll read in textbooks or articles—in the form of recordings and sheet music. So many of the events of the last year were beyond language, but the musical variations kept arriving for Kwon. During some of the darkest months in our history, she says, “America the Beautiful was always on my mind, and I knew America would be beautiful again one day, and it will be.”

ABOUT THE SONG

“America the Beautiful” is an American patriotic song. The lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates, and the music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey. The two never met.

Bates originally wrote the words as a poem, “Pikes Peak,” first published in the Fourth of July edition of the church periodical *The Congregationalist* in 1895. At that time, the poem was titled “America” for publication. Ward had originally written the music, “Materna”, for the hymn “O Mother dear, Jerusalem” in 1882, though it was not first published until 1892. Ward’s music combined with the Bates poem was first published in 1910 and titled “America the Beautiful.” The song is one of the most popular of the many U.S. patriotic songs.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Lyrics

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!*

*America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!*

*America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!*

*America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!*

*America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

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to our area.

*Jimmy and Patti
Bellis*



Mission Statement

Music in the Somerset Hills (MISH) is a musical community whose mission is to create musical experiences of the highest quality for those who live and work in the Somerset Hills and the surrounding area. Founded in 2010 by Artistic Director Stephen Sands, MISH's primary focus is the Somerset Hills Community Chorus, The Concert Series and Music Education.

The Somerset Hills Chorus is open to anyone aged 14 and upwards, with or without expertise, and enables young performers to sing extraordinary repertoire alongside more seasoned professionals in fine venues within and around the community.

The Concert Series brings accomplished professional musicians to perform with the Chorus in local venues. Since 2010, performances have included the Vivaldi *Gloria*, Handel's *Semele* and *Messiah*, a centenary concert of works by Benjamin Britten, a jazz concert of George Shearing works, the Fauré *Requiem*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, *Music of the Movies* (with Peter Dinklage), and, in 2018, a Bernstein Centenary concert. The Concert Series also includes performances by distinguished visitors - concerts by Chanticleer (2016), Canadian Brass (2017) and The King's Singers (2019), as well as occasional outdoor concerts in the summer, including Handel's *Water Music* on the Lake at Far Hills in 2017.

Music Education centers on an **Early Childhood Music Program**, which runs classes for children up to 8-years old. MISH also runs **Summer Music Camps** for children, including the very popular Summer Voices camp for children and teens in August each year.

A guitar workshop is available for adult participation. And MISH offers **scholarships to high school seniors** who demonstrate musical excellence.

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¹⁶ *Honorary Artistic Advisor, Frederica von Stade*

MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS



Stephen Sands, Music in the Somerset Hills founder and Artistic Director is highly sought after as a soloist, conductor, music educator and ensemble member. He holds his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Westminster Choir College. Stephen is the director of Downtown Voices, a semi-pro choral group that is part of the Trinity Wall Street Music program, focused on bringing the best volunteer and professional singers in the NYC area together for high level performances. He has taught choral music to thousands of students in grades 3-12 in the Somerset Hills School District for more than 20 years, and is a founding member and executive director of the internationally acclaimed Antioch Chamber Ensemble. Stephen sings with the Grammy-nominated Trinity Choir in New York. He has been praised as a "crystalline tenor" (Backstage) and "a tenor with a focused, powerful tone" who sings with "subtlety" and "poignancy" by the New York Times. Stephen has been heard as the Evangelist and tenor soloist in numerous performances of Bach's sacred oratorios, most recently with the Trinity Choir and Baroque Orchestra in the *St. John Passion* of J.S. Bach. StephenSands.net

Joan Seigle, President, is a native of the Somerset Hills. Raised by two music enthusiasts, both proficient pianists, she was exposed to concerts and theater at a very young age. As a child, she took piano lessons and played in a recorder quartet and handbell choir, further nurturing her love for the performing arts. She graduated from the University of the South, Sewanee with a degree in English literature and a minor in French. Today, with three grown children out of the nest, she combines her appreciation for excellent music with the gift of time by working to promote the mission of Music in the Somerset Hills throughout the greater community. A passionate advocate for music as a form of therapy and healing, she believes that all genres, performed at their highest level, hold the unique power to transport us out of the ordinary into the otherworldly and profound.



Billy Webster, Executive Director, earned his BA in Literature and Theater Arts at Hunter College in Manhattan and his Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. For seven years he served as Director of Admissions at The General Theological Seminary in New York City. In December 2021, Billy released his 11th album of original music, "Nothing New Under The Sun." He and his musical partner, Carl Basler, are currently recording an album of Civil War era ballads reimagined as rock and punk songs. The collection entitled "Marching Through Georgia" will be released in the fall of 2022. Part One of Billy's rock opera trilogy, "Bold Enough To Say" (based on The Lord's Prayer) made its New York City debut in 2014. BillySongs.com

MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS



Pamela L. Nardone, Chair of Events, has been a part of Music in the Somerset Hills, almost from the beginning, as a member of its Community Chorus. Her singing and performing go all the way back to her early school years and have never stopped, simply for the pure joy it brings her. In addition to the Somerset Hills Chorus, she also sings in the choir of St. Luke's, Gladstone, and rings in their Bell Choir. Pam has a day job, too. She owns and operates Hibernate Bedding in Bernardsville. Pamela brings her love and passion for music and this organization along with her many years of experience chairing fundraising events to her role with Music in the Somerset Hills.

Catherine Pane, Treasurer. Cathy has been with Music in the Somerset Hills since its inception as bookkeeper. These days as Treasurer, she continues to maintain the financial records and reporting for the organization as well as assisting with concert check-in. Her full time employment is with the USET Foundation as Director of Accounting & Office Manager but she keeps busy volunteering with a few local organizations. Cathy also owns CP Business Management where she works part-time for several local companies assisting with records management and various projects.



Erin Schwab, Marketing, Communications, & Development Associate, is an experienced performer, teaching artist, and arts administrator. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts, where she studied Vocal Performance and was the recipient of the Olga Marsano Burian award for "Outstanding Achievement in Music" in 2014, and the Michael Fardink award for "Outstanding Vocalist" in 2019. She received further training through scholarships at Maestro Lorin Maazel's Castleton Festival, The Chautauqua Institution's Opera Conservatory, and an artist residency at The Crested Butte Music Festival. In addition to her role at Music in the Somerset Hills, Erin serves as Marketing Coordinator for PROTESTRA, an orchestral ensemble educating audiences about social justice issues through the context of classical music. She is also the Chorus Manager for Trinity Wall Street's Downtown Voices ensemble, and Webmaster for Sing Aphasia, a nonprofit working to empower individuals and families affected by aphasia through music, education, and community.



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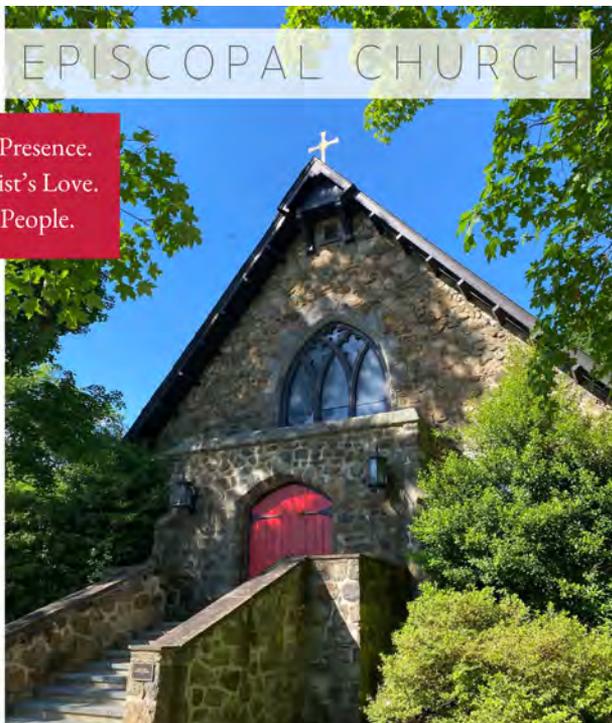
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8am | traditional

9:30am | traditional

5pm | contemporary

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Mozart ON THE MEADOW

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 • BEDMINSTER, NJ



Save the Date!

Mozart ON THE MEADOW



WWW.MUSICSH.ORG

September 24, 2022

Raindate Sept. 25

Bedminster, NJ



WWW.CMEMUSIC.ORG

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Together you'll sing, chant, move, dance, listen, and play simple instruments, all activities that bridge the natural connection between music and movement.



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(ages 3-4)

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(ages 5-9)

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(ages 0-5)

Our half hour mixed age class gives children the chance to re-imagine some of our most beloved nursery rhymes. Parents and children will enjoy exploring these rhymes through singing, dancing, movement, and playing instruments.



For more information and to register visit [MusicSH.org](https://www.MusicSH.org)

Music in the Somerset Hills' Young Musicians Scholarship

Two scholarships of \$1,500 each are awarded to high school seniors in New Jersey who demonstrate exemplary musicianship and have been accepted into an accredited college to pursue a music major.

Congratulations to our 2022 Scholarship Winners



Kelly Irwin



Gavin Tomasco

Kelly Irwin is a senior at Hillsborough High School (HHS) and has been studying voice privately for six years. She currently studies with Adrienne Mckeown and studied for many years with Katie Gornick. Kelly has been heavily involved in choir and musical theatre throughout her four years of high school. She is the Department Manager (President) of her school's choir council and performs as a soprano in the auditioned based Mixed Chorale. Kelly is a founding member of both Cardinal Voices and The Chamber Ensemble at HHS and also has performed in the musicals at the high school, most recently holding the position of Student Music Director for their Spring Musical. She is also involved in the HHS chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, serving as Vice President. Kelly has performed as a part of the NJMEA All State Chorus, CJMEA Region II Chorus, TCNJ Honors Festival, and the 2021 Peabody Conservatory Summer Vocal Academy. She also participated in the TCNJ Future Music Educators Institute. She is a Semi-Finalist for the 2022 Hal Leonard Vocal Competition, Gold 1* Recipient of the 2021 NJ State Solo and Ensemble Festival, and was awarded 1st place in the Musical Theatre Standard Level 2 (2020) and Junior A Category (2019) at the MAMTG Student Festival.

Kelly will be attending the University of Delaware in the fall to study music education in order to share her passion for music with students as her directors, particularly Mrs. Ashley Mathews, have done for her. She plans to continue her community involvement as a mentor and as a performer where she can share her vocal talents with others.

Gavin Tomasco is a composer, vocalist, and conductor from Chester, New Jersey. Gavin has studied composition with Joseph Turrin, Justin Weiss, and Paul Coleman, as well as voice with Tallen Olsen. He has been recognized for his compositions as a two-time finalist in the NJMEA Young Composers Competition and a winner of the 2021 Make Music Day Young Composers Contest. His compositions have been performed by ensembles at Black River Middle School, Morris Hills High School, and the Eastman Community Music School, as well as baritone Christopher Herbert.

Gavin has participated in honors ensembles including the NAFME All-National Mixed Chorus, NAFME All-Eastern Mixed Chorus, ACDA Eastern Region Honor Choir, and NJMEA All-State Mixed Chorus. In addition, Gavin led the Morris Hills Scarlet Knights Marching Band as the Drum Major for two consecutive seasons. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavin spent hundreds of hours organizing seven virtual performances as a contribution to his musical community, giving them an opportunity for collaborative ensemble performance when it was needed most. Gavin believes that the role of a musician is to inspire people to make art together that they would be incapable of producing on their own. He is currently studying music composition with a concentration in voice performance at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance.

The deadline for receipt of materials is April, 2023.



Upcoming Performances

In the Heights

By Lin-Manuel Miranda

July 15, 16, 22, 23, 2022 at 8 PM

July 17, 24, 2022 at 2 PM

South Orange Performing Arts Center, South Orange, NJ

Candide Operetta (In Concert)

By Leonard Bernstein

October 22, 2022 at 8 PM

October 23, 2022 at 3 PM

Dorothy Young Center for Performing Arts, Madison, NJ

Don Giovanni

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

February 24, 2023 at 7:30 PM

February 26, 2023 at 2:30 PM

Fellowship Cultural Arts Center, Basking Ridge, NJ

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

By Robert L. Freedman

July 14-16 and July 21-23, 2023

South Orange Performing Arts Center, South Orange, NJ

More Info and Tickets:

<https://lightoperaofnewjersey.org>



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2022

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Come enjoy a full season of Summer Sings and choral camaraderie.

We provide the conductor, accompanist, and professional soloists and you provide the voices!

Tickets will be available at the door, including packets of 5 tickets for \$65.

June 22 **Durufle Requiem & two Ubi Caritas Motets (Durufle & Gjello)**
Conductor: Anne Matlack

Artistic Director of Harmonium Choral Society and Organist/Choir Director Grace Church, Madison

June 29 **Brahms Requiem and Beethoven 9th Movement 4**
Conductor: Thomas Juneau

Director of Choral Activities, Wagner and St Joseph's University

July 6 **Verdi Requiem**
Conductor: Chris Shepard

Music Director of the Masterwork Chorus, Worcester (MA) Chorus,
and CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Arts)

July 13 **Messiah in July, Selections from Handel's Messiah**
Conductor: Deborah Simpkin King

Artistic Director and Founder, Ember Choral Arts, Director and Founder, PROJECT:ENCORE™,
Director of Music and Arts, Trinity Episcopal Church, Asbury Park, NJ

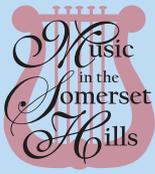
July 20 **Mendelssohn Elijah**
Conductor: Chris Loeffler

Artistic Director, Central Jersey Choral Society, Director, Pinecone Singers,
Vocalist, and Performing Arts facilitator for Tom's River school system

July 27 **Mozart Requiem**
Conductor: Marty Sedek

Director, Choral Arts Society of NJ, Associate Conductor, Masterwork Chorus,
Composers in residence at Harmonium Choral Society and Baldwin Festival Chorus

www.Masterwork.org



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