Brevard Music Center sets summer lineup

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Brevard Music Center announced the lineup Tuesday for its 10-week summer music series, set to shine ontage from June to August.

This year, more than 80 performances will sound from the wooded amphitheater, nestled into the city of Brevard against Pisgah National Forest.

Brevard Music Center's Summer Music Festival covers symphonies, opera, chamber music, pop, jazz, country, bluegrass and folk. Performances will include music from Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs — and the seasonlong Festival Within a Festival will feature music from Kurt Well.

Ever think you'd be watching "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial" with a live symphony soundtrack? Brevard Music Center's Summer Music Festival has that covered, too.

Another reason to celebrate the 2017 season is the milestone 10th anniversary of artistic director Keith Lockhart's involvement with the orchestra and school. An alumnus of the center, Lockhart directs symphonies in Western North Carolina along with conducting the Boston Pops and BBC Concert Orchestras.

"We warmly invite audiences to enjoy a summer festival filled with extraordinary musical performances and acclaimed guest artists in a beautiful, natural setting," BMC President and CEO Mark Weinstein said in a release. "Bring a bottle of wine and someone you love and enjoy."

The season also includes a series of BMC Student Spotlights, a concert with Adam Holzman and the Texas Guitar Quartet, on June 9,

This year's festivities commence on June 23, opening night, with Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5." The following evening, BMC will host a Saturday Spectacular concert, featuring a nationally acclaimed guest artist who will be announced in the coming weeks. On June 25, Lockhart will conduct a matinee performance of Stravinsky's "Petrushka."

On June 27, the center will bring mandolin virtuoso Ricky Skaggs to the Whittington-Pfohl stage, filling the scenic campus with his classic country and bluegrass sound.

Later that week, the BMC Opera Company will present Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," on June 29 and July 1.

On July 4, the festival celebrates Independence Day with its annual Patriotic Pops concert, featuring the rousing 1812 Overture with live cannon.

Throughout July, BMC will salute German composer Kurt Weill with a distinctive Festival within a Festival. Joseph Horowitz, one of the most prominent and widely published writers on topics in American music, will return to curate a seasonlong series of events including "A Kurt Weill Cabaret" on July 6, "The Chamber Music of Kurt Weill" on July 10, "Kurt Weill on Broadway"'on July 12, two performances of the composer's Tony Award-winning American masterpiece "Street Scene" on July 27 and 29, and free lectures, book readings and community concerts providing rich context around the influential composer's music.

Also happening in July — outside of the Weill mini-festival — is the "E.T." screening with live symphony accompaniment on July 8, Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" on July 13 and 15, and Canadian singer-songwriter Ruth Moody (from The Wailin' Jennys) at the Porter Center stage on July 18.

The summer festival's chamber music series starts June 8 with the Shanghai Quartet and continues through August with guest performers like Amernet String Quartet and Sidney Outlaw. Symphony shows also dot the lineup throughout the 10-week festival, with highlights including Liszt's "Piano Concerto No. 1" on July 1, Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" on July 26, "Romeo and Juliet" on July 30 and the Leningrad Symphony on July 14, directed by Lockhart.

The season concludes with Verdi's "Requiem" on Aug. 6, and a special post-season concert by the Asian Youth Orchestra will round out the summer Aug. 11.

Tickets to Brevard Music Center's Summer Festival range from $15 for lawn tickets to $57 for premium seating in the Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium, the center's 1,800-seat, open-air auditorium. Lawn seating is free for children under 17 (with a paying adult) and students 18 and older (with a valid ID).

Early Bird subscription and single ticket sales begin Feb. 1 for Brevard Music Center donors, and on March 15, single tickets become available to the public. On May 1, the box office opens and remains open for subscription and single ticket sales throughout the summer season.



A chamber music trio performs in the forest surrounding the Brevard Music Center campus. COU

For more information about the 2017 Summer Music Festival, a complete performance schedule and to purchase tickets, visit brevardmusic.org, contact the subscription line at 862-2130 or email subscriptions@brevardmusic.org