Brevard brightens summer with shining stars

Keith Lockhart returns to conduct 5 concerts

By Ann Hicks
ARTS WRITER
ahicks@greenvillenews.com

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Boston Pops artistic director Keith Lockhart returns for his second summer as artistic advisor and principal conductor to the 73-year-old Brevard Music Center, the idyllic, 150-acre campus where Lockhart says his experiences as a student influenced his decision to become a professional musician.

Lockhart, who will conduct five concerts, has been busy for months shaping the summer music program for the 400 student musicians, the 65-artist faculty (from 48 states and 12 foreign countries), and the summer audiences who trek to these hills year after year to hear world-class music and performers.

Conductor Steven Smith and the BMC Orchestra will launch the center's 2009 season on Friday with a concert featuring Broadway and operatic tunes sung by tenor Stanford Olsen.

The season's many highlights include special appearances by former artistic directors Henry Janiec and David Effron, conducting works of their choice, and world-renowned guest performers; acclaimed American pianist Norman Krieger performing Brahms' second piano concerto (July 5); and world-class Russian pianist and Van Cliburn gold medalist Olga Kern performing Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto (Aug. 9).

Other musical nuggets include Lockhart and the BMC Orchestra performing a mini-series of Tchaikovsky symphonies, Mahler's "Das Lied von der Erde (July 10-18), and Gershwin's "An American in Paris," Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" and Barber's "Adagio for Strings" (July 24).



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The Janiec Opera Company will perform selections from well-known operas on July 29.

Opera, a strong suit at Brevard, will be produced by the Janiec Opera Company's 40 student members who will present fully-staged productions of Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman" (July 11), Herman and Stewart's "Hello Dolly" (July 23, 25), and Puccini's double bill, "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicci" (Aug. 8).

The Brevard experience also includes first-class chamber music fare – featuring artist-faculty and guest performers including cellist Andres Diaz, violinists William Preucil and Roberto Diaz and the Biava Quartet, interpreting the works of Barber, Beethoven, Prokofiev, Faure, Brahms and others through July and August.

Not to be overlooking lighter fare, BMC returns the eclectic group Rhythm and Brass performing jazz and other styles (June 27) and the annual July 4 Patriotic Pops concert titled "From Sea to Shining Sea," which concludes with dazzling fireworks.

While ticket prices range from $15-$50, there are also 40 free daytime events available to the music-loving audience, including faculty and student recitals, vocal programs and opera scenes, noon-time faculty chamber music and the BMC Piano Competition finals.

For more detailed information, contact BMC at www.brevardmusic.org or call 828-862-2112.

■ Arts writer Ann Hicks can be reached at 864-298-4004



COURTESY PHOTO

Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart returns to Brevard Music Center this summer.

YOU CAN GO

What: Brevard Music Center 2009 Season
When: June 26-Aug. 9
Where: Brevard Music Center, Brevard, N.C.
Admission: Some events is free; ticket prices up to $50
Call: 828-862-2100