



Cranberry Coast Concerts Celebrates 2010 ~ “The Year of The Piano.”

Season 5 of Cranberry Coast Concerts is “The Year of the Piano” with celebrations of famous birthdays: Samuel Barber’s centennial, the 150th birthday of Isaac Albeniz, Frédéric Chopin and Robert Schumann at 200 and Ludwig van Beethoven at 240! The piano – or *two* pianos – will be central to all concerts this summer.

The regional music festival, whose motto is “From Bach to Rock” will present local, national and international touring concert artists in a wide variety of performance environments. Beginning at the end of June and continuing through the middle of August, Cranberry Coast Concerts – or CCC – will offer different concert experiences each week to local audiences.

Founded in 2006 in Onset, CCC is presenting its fifth season of musical and educational events. This will be the first season for the festival in New Bedford. All performances will be held at **Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School Street.**

The festival opens on Saturday, June 26th, 7:00 p.m., with “**A Celebration of Piano and Voice.**” The Cranberry Coast Concerts Chorale returns after their debut in 2009. International concert artists and festival directors Kirk Whipple & Marilyn Morales will perform Schumann impromptus for piano duet. Featured vocalists include Tenors Steven King and Braden Austin, and Sopranos Linda Westgate and Charissa Hamel. A wide range of other pieces will be presented from classical, romantic, Broadway to popular. Program highlights include Barber’s “Agnus Dei,” a choral transcription of the famous “Adagio for Strings,” original choral works and arrangements by Whipple and, in an audience participation finale, Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy.”

On Saturday, July 10th, 7:00 p.m., San Francisco pianist and actor Katie Ketchum stars in “**An Evening With Clara Schumann,**” an original one-woman concert/drama. Through letters, storytelling, costume and piano pieces, Ketchum brings one of the most distinguished pianists of the Romantic era alive. Clara Schumann, a composer herself, was married to the famous composer Robert Schumann during the 1800’s and brought his compositions to the European forefront through her concertizing while raising their eight children. She also brought the work of Johannes Brahms to the public and continued her friendship with him after Robert’s tragic death. Ketchum will also play and sing some of Clara’s original works that have been rarely performed in concert.

The centerpiece of the concert series is the “**Weekend of Grand Pianists.**” Three concert pianists will perform different recitals on each of three dates, July 16th, 17th & 18th. Festival directors Whipple & Morales will be joined this weekend by Rorianne Schrade, pianist and critic for the New York Concert Review. On Friday, July 16th, 7:00 p.m., Morales perform a program entitled “A Tribute to My Teachers,” featuring “Fantasiesstücke” by Schumann, one of Morales’ original compositions and works by Chopin, Albeniz and Cervantes. On Saturday, July 17th at 7:00 p.m., Whipple performs a recital of solo works entitled “The Ageless Romantic Spirit.” His recital includes original compositions, Beethoven’s “Moonlight” Sonata and Chopin’s Sonata #3 in B Minor. Schrade will conclude the weekend on Sunday, July 18th at 4:00 p.m. Her program will feature Schumann’s “Symphonic Etudes,” as well as works by Mozart, Chopin, Ravel and Liszt.

CCC stars come out to shine in **“Spectacular Night: A Night at the Movies,”** Thursday, July 22nd, 7:00 p.m. Featured are tenor Steven King, soprano Linda Westgate, and tenor Michael Duarte. Backed up by pianists Whipple & Morales, bassist Albert Ianucilli and drummer Brian Montgomery, the company performs a tour de force concert of songs and instrumentals from old favorite and modern cinema classics. No campiness will be withheld in this fun-filled family show. (You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll cheer – and want to come back for more!)

Chris Brown & Wilson Pedrazas, Piano & Violin Duo will perform on Saturday, July 31st at 7:00 p.m. Pianist Brown, who is also the official master piano technician of CCC returns for his fifth season of summer concerts with violinist Pedrazas in a rich concert of works from the classical repertoire. This enticing duet program will feature Sonata #1 in G Major by Johannes Brahms, Sonata by Claude Debussy and Tzigane by Maurice Ravel.

Kirk Whipple & Marilyn Morales will be joined by the European duo Frédéric Chauvel & Mark Solé-Lerís as **The United Nations Piano Quartet – a.k.a. “The U.N.P.Q.”** in a rare concert of works for 2 pianos / 8 hands – that’s 40 fingers! Since their 2007 launch, The UNPQ has performed in concert tours and festivals in the U.S. and Europe. In 2008 the worldly ensemble released their debut recording and received rave reviews in English, French and Spanish language newspapers on two continents. Their program on Saturday, August 7th, 7:00 p.m., will consist of arrangements of Beethoven’s “Egmont” Overture and the complete Symphony #5 in C Minor, selections from Whipple’s now internationally acclaimed work, “Fives, Concerto for 2 Pianos / 8 Hands” and Whipple’s arrangement of Ravel’s Bolero. This final work will also feature the endurance of Brian Montgomery on the solo snare drum.

“Concertos at Two Pianos” is the title of the final event of the summer concert season. On Saturday, August 14th, 7:00 p.m., the season finale brings Whipple, Morales and Brown back for a final bow in a stellar performance of piano concertos with the orchestral accompaniments performed at the second piano. Local pianist and educator Marilyn Brown makes her return to the concert stage in this Season 5 finale.

The closing program:

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Mvt. 1 by Edvard Grieg, performed by Marilyn Brown

Piano Concerto #1 in E Minor by Frédéric Chopin, performed by Chris Brown

Intermission

Piano Concerto #1 in C Major by Ludwig van Beethoven, performed by Marilyn Morales

Piano Concerto #2 in F Minor by Frédéric Chopin, performed by Kirk Whipple

Just one more: On Friday, August 20th, starting at 6:00 p.m., at The Beachmoor Inn & Restaurant, 11 Buttermilk Way at Taylors Point, Buzzards Bay, CCC will hold a special **“Season Ticket Holders Appreciation Dinner.”** The evening will include fun and prizes for couples participating in a game show, “The Oldyweds.” This event is exclusively for Season Ticket holders. Dinner will be by reservation and at additional cost.

Season tickets are available for \$100 each (adults) or \$25 each (children aged 6 – 17) in advance at Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School Street and Celia’s Boutique, 800 Purchase Street. Single event admissions are \$20 general and \$18 students/seniors, which can be applied to the purchase of season tickets. Tickets are available at the door of each performance, 30 minutes before the start of each concert. Season ticket holders will enjoy 10% discount on food bills at Freestone’s Bar & Grill and other local restaurants.

In addition to the rich offering of concerts, a diverse schedule of educational events will be presented that will target different age groups. Special events will include the annual Outstanding Young Artist Workshop and Concert, weekly “Informances” at the Wareham Free Library, “Rhythm at the Beach” – a “groovy” afternoon for the family. “Music Seminar” events will include a choral music reading workshop, piano ensemble for kids and “Meet Your Local Piano Tuner.”

Repeat events will take place throughout the summer at venues in Attleboro, Mansfield, Onset and Wareham. For complete event listings and details, please visit www.CranberryCoastConcerts.com or phone (508) 491-8888 or email CCC@WhipMo.com

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