

# NOTES



## THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

JOEL NEVES,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 27<sup>th</sup> season of the Pine Mountain Music Festival! I am still reveling in the fabulous success of last season, in which new artists, new genres, and a new

vision for the festival created greater audience diversity, strong patron reviews, and solid ticket sales (a 44% increase). As a result, we have decided to add an extra week to this summer's festival: **June 16-July 1**. Mark it on your calendars!

The 2017 season continues our fresh approach to programming, with classical and opera intermingling with folk and jazz. The Bergonzi String Quartet premieres Scott Flavin's innovative new stage play for two actors and string quartet: *The Beethoven Project*. Soprano Julie Tabash Kelsheimer returns to the festival with two sensational young opera artists in a *Night at the Opera*. And the inspiring UPstarts! program returns for its sixth year, with the young artists being chosen for the first time from a peninsula-wide Talent Contest.

The festival is excited to introduce Joshua Davis, the best-selling and most popular folk singer-songwriter in the U.P. and an emerging superstar on the national scene. Joshua earned widespread acclaim as a finalist on NBC's reality talent show, *The Voice*. And *The Lake Effect Quintet*, with local legends Mike Irish, Mike Christianson, and Glenn Basham, makes its electric return to the festival with an imaginative array of modern music, from jazz standards to rock classics to popular tunes.

And, finally, the envelope please... I would like to officially announce that the Pine Mountain Music Festival will return to its opera roots in the 2018 season with a new production of Bizet's *Carmen!* What a glorious season awaits—I greatly look forward to sharing it with you. See you in June!



## WHAT A YEAR!

TONY SERTICH,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Wow.** What a year it has been since I wrote you all in Spring of 2016. Together, with the Board of Trustees, Festival Artists, PMMF Team Members and you, our true

and valued Friends, we have righted the ship and are sailing into the future.

The 2016 Festival season last June ended in the black and our overall 2015-16 fiscal year that ended in September 2016 was within 2% of budgeted projections. Now, together, we move forward in to the 2017 Festival season and 2016-17 fiscal year with confidence and with the Board of Trustee's commitment to return to Opera in 2018. Bravo!! This could not have been accomplished without your financial and moral support.

I'm the person that processes all of your generous donations and writes all of the heartfelt thank you cards. Truly, I and everyone in the PMMF office have appreciated your donations. And in particular, we in the office have also appreciated the little notes of encouragement many of you included with your check. It has meant a lot to all of us in the office to receive and read your words of support and your notes have brightened many a day and lifted our spirits. Thank you.

I recall being told "without possibilities we do not act." With a brilliant 2017 Festival season planned by Artistic Director, Joel Neves, and Bizet's, *Carmen* in the works for 2018 the possibilities are in place.

Please continue your financial support for this beautiful Festival and if you have the time, keep those notes of support coming. We really do read the notes and they really do mean a lot to us in the office.

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR GENEROUS  
SPONSORS!**



## 2017 SEASON EVENTS



### THE BERGONZI STRING QUARTET

Scott Flavin (quartet violinist) premieres his imaginative new play, *The Beethoven Project*, for the Pine Mountain Music Festival. Written

for two actors and string quartet, this collaborative multi-genre work offers a unique glimpse into the life of Ludwig van Beethoven. His trials, triumphs, and loves come alive in this powerful presentation, featuring the words of Beethoven and his contemporaries, along with music from his groundbreaking string quartets. Julie Tabash Kelsheimer, in her third residency with the festival, performs the role of Bettina; Keweenaw actor, Mark Wilcox, is Beethoven.

### THE LAKE EFFECT QUINTET

With local legends Mike Irish, Mike Christianson, Dan Komarzec, and Glenn Basham (pictured), this groundbreaking instrumental ensemble presents an innovative array of modern music—from jazz standards to rock classics to popular tunes—that appeals to all ages. With an “unusual” instrumentation of guitar, tuba/trumpet, fiddle, bass, and drums, the quintet is one of the most refreshing and imaginative professional ensembles in the Midwest.



### OPERA SCENES

As a tantalizing appetizer for the Pine Mountain Music Festival's 2018 production of Bizet's *Carmen*, we bring in three award-winning young opera singers to present a timeless “Night at the Opera.” Julie Tabash Kelsheimer (left), Kelsey Park (center), and Bille Bruley (right) sing arias, duets, and trios that evoke love, hate, tragedy, revenge, and ecstasy. This impressive trio has numerous prestigious festivals and companies to their credit, including Central City Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, Madison Opera, and Florentine Opera Company.



### JOSHUA DAVIS

Earning widespread acclaim as a finalist on NBC's reality talent show, *The Voice*, Joshua Davis is the best-selling and most popular folk singer-songwriter in the Upper Peninsula, and an emerging superstar on the national scene. Joshua has nine original albums (three solo) to his credit, with his debut album titled *Last Winter in the Copper Country*. His diverse songwriting style has been described as “blending the roots of American music with gritty rock n’ roll and vintage soul” and “some of the liveliest and most rocking roots music around.” Davis brings his sensational trio with him to the 2017 festival.

### UPSTARTS!

The inspiring UPstarts! concert series features incredibly talented young musicians native to the Upper Peninsula. Audiences rave about the youthful charm and bold musicality these emerging artists bring to the festival. For the first time, winning participants will be selected from a peninsula-wide UPstarts! Talent Contest, in which the musicians submit video auditions to vie for one of four prestigious spots. Susie Byykkonen (pictured), the festival's esteemed pianist, will accompany the group.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT THE 2017 SEASON:  
PMMF.ORG**

2017 SEASON EVENTS ALL EVENTS AT 7:30 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.	IRON MOUNTAIN	HOUGHTON/ HANCOCK	MARQUETTE
Lake Effect Quintet	June 28	June 30	July 1
Opera Scenes	June 18 (3 PM)	June 17	June 16
UPstarts!	June 30	July 1	June 28
Bergonzi String Quartet	June 23	June 24	June 21
Joshua Davis	June 22	June 23	June 24

TICKETS GO ON SALE MAY 1 • CONTACT MTU TICKET OFFICE AT 906-487-2073 OR 877-746-3999 (TOLL FREE) • SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

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To: Pine Mountain Music Festival Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 PO Box 406, Hancock MI 49930

Enclosed is my/our donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA, M/C, Discover # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I/We pledge to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ equal installments starting \_\_\_\_\_ (must conclude by 9/30/17).

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## **A GOODBYE FROM OUR GOOD FRIEND...**



I write to say goodbye to the wonderful folks of Pine Mountain Music Festival. I retired from the University of Miami in May and from the Bergonzi String Quartet in June. The most regrettable aspect of this decision is that it includes PMMF.

So many people come together to make Pine Mountain special, and every one is dedicated and energetic! This energized me. Arranging 'Peter and the Wolf', 'Carnival of the Animals', 'Babar, the Little

Elephant' and 'The Story of the Loon' for the Children's concerts was a great pleasure... and then there is Scott's 'Glitter and be Gay'. If you would like to renew your acquaintance with this masterpiece, go to YouTube and enter "Bergonzi."

What a wonderful adventure this has been! The Bergonzi has been with the festival since its early years, and every year I have driven the round trip from Miami to Houghton. Did you know that Hwy 41 goes all the way to Miami? It is a beautiful trip, but there is nothing quite like the feeling of entering da UP and knowing I am back with my music-loving friends.

I will miss you, and I will be forever grateful for the many, many fantastic memories! Thank you for making the world such a happy place all these years.

Yours, Pamela McConnell

## **MCACA GRANT AWARD**

Pine Mountain Music Festival (PMMF) is proud to announce that it has been awarded an Operational Support (OS) grant of \$12,500 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

According to PMMF Board President Daniel Arnold: "The grant was awarded through the MCACA peer review process and was one of over 600 applications to compete for fiscal year 2017 funding. This process is extremely competitive; only one-third of applicants receive funding."

Executive Director Tony Sertich: "The MCACA peer review process requires each grant application to be considered by a panel of in-state and out-of-state arts professionals. This grant award from our professional peers recognizes the high standards of our arts and educational programs."

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) also provided partial funding of the grant.