

Glacier Symphony and Chorale Press Release
For Immediate Release
Date: July 29, 2010

Contact:

Alan Satterlee, Executive Director

alansatterlee@gscmusic.org

257-3241 ext 2

Marti Kurth, Publicist, (406) 862-3608

Marti.k@centurytel.net

Glacier Symphony and Chorale collaborates with North Valley Music School to make education an important component of Festival Amadeus 2010

Festival Amadeus will open on Monday August 2 with a gala opening night reception featuring the esteemed guests musicians who will perform with the chamber ensembles and orchestra concerts during the week.

But while the Festival offers a wealth of classical music for concert goers, it also offers an exciting opportunity for the public and for music students in “Camp Festival Amadeus” a week long music camp that runs concurrent with the Festival.

North Valley Music School sponsors the camp for strings students grades 7 to 12. Now in its third season, the camp is growing steadily, and according to camp director, Cameron Blake, they will have 24 students this year. The intensive six days of music making has this year attracted students from throughout Montana as well as the Flathead Valley. The camp is taught by staff from the music school, several of whom are members of the Glacier String Quartet, and by members of the Bridger String Quartet, of Bozeman.

Both the students of the camp, as well as the general public are invited to attend any of the seven free educational events during Festival Amadeus. The camp is held within walking distance of the performance hall for Festival Amadeus and the students are invited to actually sit on stage with the musicians as they rehearse pieces for the that night’s concert.

“It is an incredible opportunity for these kids to be so close to professional musicians, listening to how they interpret a passage of music and watching as they interact with their fellow performers,” exclaims Blake. “I can’t think of a more inspirational way to teach music.” She

adds that the camp also allows the kids to make a connection between playing music and a career in music. Inspired by the camp and the musicians several past attendees have chosen to study music in college.

The guest artists participate by offering their time during the week for master classes and question and answer workshops. Festival Music Director, John Zoltek adds that “We encourage the students to interact with the artists as much as possible and the artists are always gracious in their critique of the budding musicians.”

Open rehearsals at the O’Shaughnessy will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 2 and 1 p.m. Wed. Aug. 4. Tues, Aug 3 at 1 p.m. at Four Square Church in Whitefish. Those from the public wishing to attend might want to come a few minutes early and are asked to refrain from talking during the hour long rehearsal.

The Festival’s guest artists also offer their experience during the week to both students and the public through master classes and insightful talks about the creative process of making music. Festival Music Director, John Zoltek adds that “We encourage the students to interact with the artists as much as possible and the artists are always gracious in their critique of the budding musicians.”

This year, pianist Joel Fan, a former member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Tour, and a Festival artist, will offer his perspective to students in a master class setting. Though the camp focuses on strings players, many of them also play piano as a second instrument. The class will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. at NVMS, 432 Spokane, Ave. in Whitefish. The public is invited to sit in and observe.

On Thursday, Aug. 5, at 3:30 p.m. the Canadian duo of Lorna McGhee, flute and Heidi Krutzen, harp will share stories about their life as professional musicians in a “Making Music Together” talk. The workshop will be held at Four Square Church, 233 Kalispell Ave, Whitefish. This talk is open to the public for free.

Adults will also get some free educational opportunities as well during the week. On Thursday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m. Diane Volkman will present a talk about “Arts and the Brain” offering her expertise The talk will be in the O’Shaughnessy Ctr. Immediately before the Chamber Night 3 concert. Ms. Volkman will be teaching a NVMS piano camp also during the Festival.

On Friday, Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m. the students of Camp Festival Amadeus will have their time in the spotlight when they present a “student showcase” concert at the O’Shaughnessy Ctr. It is a delightful hour of music making, when they all perform with their peers and teachers.

Alan Satterlee, Glacier Symphony and Chorale’s Executive Director, says the Festival’s education component reflects the nonprofit music organization’s goal to make classical music more approachable for the entire community and demonstrates the importance GSC places on education and accessibility.

“Festival Amadeus is a great way to introduce kids to music while providing a wide array of educational offerings for adults and kids to get a ‘behind the scenes’ view of what a rehearsal is like for our performers,” Satterlee explains.

He adds that for GSC’s 2010-11 season free Masterworks concert tickets for youth up to grade 12 will be making, the symphony much more affordable for families. “We hope that we can encourage more parents to bring their children to concerts over the course of this year.”

For a schedule of daily concerts and events go to the website (<http://www.gscmusic.org>). For Camp information go to <http://www.northvalleymusicschool.org>