



JUNE 29-AUGUST 20, 2017

AMFS in the news

The Aspen Music Festival and School has appeared in a variety of national publications over the past month, including beautiful spreads in *BBC Music Magazine's* [April issue](#) and *Symphony Magazine's* [summer festivals issue](#) and travel pieces in *Vogue*, the *Dallas News*, and *Elevation Outdoors*.

The AMFS was also featured on the Aspen Chamber Resort Association's blog with the article, "[5 ways to experience the Aspen Music Festival and School for free.](#)"

Also note a 2016 *Aspen Times* article, "[Class Conduct.](#)" won a Best Education Story prize from the Colorado Press Association last month.

Buy a pass this summer and **SAVE!**

Experience the most music for the best value this summer with an AMFS pass! Passes offer many options for **convenience** and **savings**.

[Visit the passes page](#) online for a run-down of all the options available, and find the deal that's right for you!

TOMORROW: P.A.L.S. application deadline!

And learn more about other kids programming!



The deadline for [P.A.L.S.](#) (Passes and Lessons Scholarship program) applications is **TOMORROW**, May 3, at 10 pm MDT. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity for young musicians to study with top AMFS student teachers throughout the summer! P.A.L.S. is for musicians entering **grades six through twelve**. Little P.A.L.S. is for musicians

57 Days to Festival Opening!

Harris Hall Box office opens May 22

Selling Fast, Buy Now!

Garrison Keillor, Rufus Wainwright, Sarah Chang, opera

The season opens next month, and tickets are selling fast for a few not-to-be-missed events! Don't wait to purchase tickets to the Aspen Opera Center's production of Verdi's *La traviata*, one of the most beloved works in the repertoire ([July 15](#), [17](#), and [18](#));

Sarah Chang's Special Event performance of **Vivaldi's brilliant *The Four Seasons*** ([July 19](#)); **Rufus Wainwright's** Special Event recital ([July 24](#)); and **Garrison Keillor's** Special Event: Prairie Home "Love and Comedy" Show, co-presented with Belly Up Aspen ([August 14](#)).

Purchase tickets to these and other events [online](#) or by calling the AMFS Box Office at 970-925-9042.



Storyteller, comedian, and radio personality Garrison Keillor returns to Aspen for his Prairie Home "Love and Comedy" Show on August 14. Co-presented by the Belly Up Aspen and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

FREE Salon Signature Event: How Music can Change Your Brain - May 11

The Aspen Music Festival and School's Salon and the Aspen Country Day School's Speaker Series invite you to a conversation with AMFS President and CEO **Alan Fletcher**, **Katie Hone Wiltgen**, director of education and community programming, and journalist **Daniel Shaw** on how music can change your brain.

The **FREE** event will take place at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 11, in Edlis Neeson Hall on the Bucksbaum Campus.

Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP [here](#).



Alan Fletcher

entering **grades one through five**.

Also, be sure to check out [Sing Play Move](#), for **infants through age five**, and the [Maroon Bel Canto Children's Chorus Festival Summer Camp](#), for singers entering **grades four through eight**.

Beginning Strings Showcase on Friday!



This Friday, **May 5**, at 6:30 pm, the young students in the AMFS's Beginning Strings AfterWorks program take to the Harris Hall stage for the Beginning Strings Showcase, the final performance of the school year. Featuring students from seventeen different schools, the concert is **FREE** and open to the public!

Before the performance, all Beginning Strings parents, siblings, and supporters are invited to the upper Harris Hall lobby for a reception with light food and drinks. Please join us to celebrate the musical success of these 104 budding string players!

In Memoriam: Robert Schoppert

The AMFS community is saddened by the passing on April 21 of Robert Schoppert, who was head piano technician at the AMFS for thirty-eight years. In this role, he serviced hundreds of pianos each summer, mentored many young piano technicians, and ran the Steinway piano sale at the end of each summer season. He also made deep, lasting friendships and brought so much personality to the full Aspen community. He is survived by his wife, four children, and ten grandchildren. There will be a celebration of his life on May 6 in Broomfield, Colorado. [Click here](#) to read more.

Learn more about the Salon [here](#).

Summer benefits tickets on sale

Tickets to the AMFS's annual Opera Benefit, *La traviata* in **Aspen (July 17)**, and the annual Season Benefit, *An Enchanted Feast of Music (August 7, honoring AMFS Board Chair Robert J. Hurst)*, are on sale now. Follow the links or call Jenny McDonough at 970-205-5063 for tickets and more information.

Alumni news

Mezzo-soprano **Samantha Hankey** (Aspen Opera Center 2012-15; Abbess in *Suor Angelica* in 2013, Mercedes in *Carmen* in 2014, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* in 2015) has been named a recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund, earning her \$50,000 in grant money.

Drew Peterson (piano 2015) has won the American Pianist Award, worth \$50,000 in cash and an additional \$50,000 worth



Eric Tran

of career accoutrements including professional guidance, performance dates, and a recording contract with Steinway & Sons. **Eric Tran** (piano 2014-17) and **Nathan Cheung** (piano 2014-15; Collaborative Piano 2017) won the Ellis Duo Competition, earning them \$20,000, as well as \$1,000 for the Abild American Music Award for the best performance of an American composition. The prize also comes with concert engagements around the country as well as promotion for at least two years. **Alvin Zhu** (piano 2008, 2016) was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Beijing for the 2017-18 academic year.

Jessica Fellows (violin 2012-16) is serving as a sub for the New York Philharmonic through the end of the 2017 season. **Charles Latshaw** (Aspen Conducting Academy 2011) has been announced as the new music director of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra, effective July 1. **Edson Sheid** (violin 2012-14) was featured in a *New York Times* article, "[Getting inside the mind of Bach.](#)" **Barbara LaFitte** (oboe 1976-79) is the featured English horn soloist on the soundtrack album for the recently premiered *Boston: The Documentary*, chronicling the history of the Boston Marathon.

ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

225 Music School Road
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Administration 970 925 3254
Box Office 970 925 9042

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