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Coastal Concerts Announces Its 2019-2020 Season Lineup

“Make new friends, but keep the old. The one is silver and the other is gold.” So goes the chant-like song many kids learn to sing, often around a summer campfire. How does it apply to Coastal Concerts? The 2018-2019 season was a celebration of the organization’s 20th anniversary and featured returning audience favorites. It was a “gold” season. Now Coastal Concerts is about to inaugurate a “silver” one with a lineup dominated by musicians who have never appeared on the schedule before. Yet there is one notable exception and it comes with the lead-off concert.

The Brasil Guitar Duo will bring its signature stylish and expressive sound to Coastal Concerts on October 19, 2019, at 7 p.m. This will be the 100th concert in the organization’s history and the second appearance by the award-winning pair, João Luiz and Douglas Lora, who first wowed the audience in 2013. Mr. Luiz also performed on the series in the spring of 2017 as a member of Trio Virado and is returning this season for the Trio’s February 15, 2020 concert. And there is a standout local connection: The Brasil Guitar Duo performed with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra under David Amado on a recent CD titled “The Book of Signs” which was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award.

The exciting young pianist Benjamin Hochman, an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, will make his Coastal Concerts debut November 16 at 2 p.m. After hearing Hochman in recital, New York Times music critic Anthony Tommasini wrote, “I kept thinking that classical music doesn’t get better than this.” In addition to engagements as pianist, Mr. Hochman also is pursuing a burgeoning career as a conductor. The piano recital of this multi-talented musician promises to be truly dazzling.

The Tesla String Quartet will make its Coastal Concerts debut on January 18, 2020, at 2 p.m. The Quartet, a young ensemble whose reputation is rapidly soaring, will appear in a special collaboration with Tom Gallant on oboe. The Quartet, named after the famous inventor, engineer and visionary, has recently captured top prizes at a host of international competitions. Its first and only CD to date, with music by Haydn, Ravel and Stravinsky, was given a glowing review by BBC Music Magazine and selected as the recording of choice for December 2018 in the chamber music category. This is a chance to experience an ensemble destined for ever-growing acclaim. And the addition of an oboe as part of the mix makes this concert all the more enticing.

On February 15 at 2 p.m., Trio Valtorna arrives. Taking its name from the Russian term for French horn, the Trio features an all-star combination of chamber music royalty: the renowned violinist Ida Kavafian, the horn player extraordinaire David Jolley and the much heralded...
pianist Gilles Vonsattel. Ms. Kavafian’s consummate artistry has been called “meaningful and affecting”, while the New Yorker has praised Mr. Jolley’s “richly melancholy horn solos”, and the Boston Globe has singled out the “clarity and light touch” of Mr. Vonsattel. The threesome will offer a concert of chamber music par excellence, including a performance of Brahms’ Horn Trio, Op. 40.

The 7 p.m. March 14 concert of Andrew Garland and Warren Jones will be the first time in recent history that Coastal Concerts has featured a singer and accompanist. The evening will be devoted to “Songs of Travel.” Baritone Andrew Garland, who has been praised by the New York Times for his “robust voice, lively dramatic skills” and “commanding intensity,” is widely recognized as a leader in recital work. He will be joined by the “dean” of collaborative pianists, Warren Jones, who has performed with such well-known singers as Samuel Ramey, Denyce Graves, Marilyn Horne, Stephanie Blythe, Anthony Dean Griffey, Eric Owens and John Relyea, to name only a few. The partnership between these two artists is not to be missed.

For the 8 p.m. Wild Card concert on April 18, Coastal Concerts will host another duo, violinist Tessa Lark and bassist Michael Thurber, in a genre-bending blend of bluegrass, jazz, classical, and original works brought to life in high-energy performances built on audience interaction and a fun, welcoming stage presence. This will be a reduced admission, family-oriented performance with a pre-concert talk at 6:30 by these multifaceted, entertaining and superb musicians. As in the past, the Wild Card concert will be partially underwritten by Dogfish Head Brewery.

All concerts take place in the accessible Bethel UMC Hall, 4th & Market Streets in Lewes. Tickets are $35 for general seating and $40 for premium seating where available. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.coastalconcerts.org or call 888-212-6458.

The engagement of Brasil Guitar Duo and Tom Gallant and the Tesla Quartet is made possible through the Special Presenters Initiative program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Delaware Division of the Arts.

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