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SUMMER CULTURE GUIDE

Who's coming to town this summer? The ageless Tommy Tune, film director Judd Apatow, the Juilliard String Quartet, actor Mark Ruffalo and rockers Veruca Salt, to name a few. Plus: new permanent exhibits at our major museums, highlights from Ruth Horwich's collection and more.



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MATT DEBOER

QUINCE CONTEMPORARY VOCAL ENSEMBLE: "SPATIAL PALETTES"
May 17

The preconcert announcement to "for the love of all that is holy silence your cellphone" won't apply to the four vocalists debuting iLophone, an iOS app designed by composer Levy Lorenzo for his new score, "Inside Voices." We're chuffed that audience members will be able to download this pitch-bending instrument after the show, but the program, featuring Eliza Brown's site-specific musical theater number "Prospect and Refuge" and Monte Weber's illusory, lyrical jumbler "Cruel Anvil," is what makes this season closer a prize ticket.

\$10-\$15
Constellation
3111 N. Western Ave.
(No phone)

Constellation-Chicago.com

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION: "WILD SOUND"
May 21-22

The captivating mallet-slingers of Third Coast Percussion are about to boost their indie street cred in a big way, teaming up with Wilco's Glenn Kotche. The drummer/composer has been a fixture in the contemporary music scene of late, and as the anchor of the program, his "Wild Sound" laces percussion, played on original instruments built by University of Notre Dame's School of Engineering, with an assemblage of field recordings from his many years on the tour circuit. Paired with bangers from Steve Reich and other Kotche selections, we're buzzing to hear this rambunctious coalition.

\$10-\$28
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Ave.
312-397-4010
MCAChicago.org

MYRA MELFORD AND JOHN ZORN
June 1

It may make up only a quarter of the MusicNow program, but the top-shelf jazz that will waft out of Harris Theater on June 1 is going to be burnin', and with no Green Mill-style waiting in line. Chicago-born pianist and composer Myra Melford brings her punchy "The Whole Tree Gone" to the MusicNow season closer, and though it stands as the only jazz entry on the program, legendary experimental

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BY DOYLE ARMBRUST



SAVERIO TRUGLIA

Third Coast Percussion

jazzier John Zorn is represented as well, with selections from his "Goetia" for solo violin. Shoring up this fetching bill are local minimalist Marc Mellits (with "Octet") and compositional dynamo Esa-Pekka Salonen (with "Dichotomie").

\$26
Harris Theater
205 E. Randolph Drive
312-334-7777
HarrisTheaterChicago.org



BRYAN MURRAY

Myra Melford

JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET

June 29
While the Pavilion is dishing up primarily pop acts these days (Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett should be an interesting parley), Ravinia has done a superb job of keeping its annual roster accented with world-class quartets in its indoor theaters. Certainly an excellent reason to



Juilliard String Quartet

SIMON POWIS

head to Ravinia this summer is the return of the eminent Juilliard String Quartet. Haydn's Quartet No. 29 in G major and Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" no doubt will receive sterling deliveries, but the real jackpot is Alban Berg's String Quartet, Op. 3.

\$10-\$60
Ravinia (Martin Theater)
200 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park
847-266-5100
Ravinia.org

THE KNIGHTS
July 5

The young talents of the Knights may need to purchase (or commandeer) summer homes in Highland Park, given that the New York-based chamber orchestra has become a fixture on the Ravinia season. Reliable for onstage exuberance and prismatic programming, the ensemble returns with the exquisite voice of soprano Dawn Upshaw for a slate of Berio, Dvorak, Ligeti, Schubert and Zhou Long.

\$10-\$60
Ravinia (Martin Theater)
200 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park
847-266-5100
Ravinia.org



GRANT PARK

"ROMEO AND JULIET"

July 15
The only gear necessary for the priceless—and ticketless—Grant Park Music Festival is a picnic blanket, and this season includes some sublime set lists. Under the baton of guest conductor Thierry Fischer, the orchestra lets the high drama of Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" off the leash, but what has us vying for position at the Pritzker Pavilion lawn on July

15 is Stravinsky's blustering bit of genius, Symphony in Three Movements.

Free
Pritzker Pavilion
201 E. Randolph Drive
312-742-7638
GrantParkMusicFestival.com

BRAHMS REQUIEM

July 17-18
Forget Metallica headlining Lollapalooza. The real heavy this summer comes by way of "A German Requiem." Featuring soprano Caitlin Lynch and bass-baritone Stephen Hegedus out in front of the formidable batteries of the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus, Brahms' rousing masterpiece is paired with Arnold Schoenberg's ravishing Verklarte Nacht ("Transfigured Night"). For classical music fans looking to pop the question this summer, bring those engagement rings over to Millennium Park. This is your concert.

Free
Pritzker Pavilion
201 E. Randolph Drive
312-742-7638
GrantParkMusicFestival.com



RAVINIA FESTIVAL

YEFIM BRONFMAN

Aug. 9, 11, 13
World-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman has grizzly paws for hands, and he'll need them for the Ironman-level challenge he's undertaking at Ravinia this summer. Over three August dates, the Uzbek-born soloist will trounce the entirety of the extensive Prokofiev piano sonata catalog. These pillars of the repertoire stand out for their melodic imagination and rhythmic originality, many requiring a healthy dose of tenacity and fortitude. Concerts centered on a single compositional voice often run the risk of listener oversaturation, but with "Fima" at the keys we have no doubt this will stand as a festival highlight.

\$10-\$60
Ravinia (Martin Theater)
200 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park
847-266-5100
Ravinia.org

AVALON STRING QUARTET
Aug. 11

If you missed the Avalon Quartet's recent Beethoven or Bartok cycles at the Art Institute of Chicago, your opportunity for exoneration is at hand. Northern Illinois University's ensemble-in-residence is making an appearance on the city's most effective traffic circumventor, the Rush Hour Concerts at St. James Cathedral, and Beethoven's Op. 14, No. 1 and the mighty Op. 133 "Grosse Fuge" are on the menu. These free 30-minute performances at 5:45 p.m. are preceded by refreshments, and listening to



Avalon String Quartet

TODD ROSENBERG

Avalon digging into Beethoven beats a podcast on the gridlocked Eisenhower any day.

Free
St. James Cathedral
65 E. Huron St.
312-640-7418
RushHour.org

LINCOLN TRIO
Aug. 30

The Lincoln Trio, a group that consistently serves up the fire in performance, calls Chicago home, but for its Ravinia slot this season the musicians' countries of origin provide the program's compelling launch point. Violinist Desiree Ruhstrat (Switzer-

land), cellist David Cunliffe (England) and pianist Marta Aznavoorian (Armenia) dive into the music of their homelands with Frank Martin's "Trio sur des Melodies Populaires Irlandaises," Rebecca Clarke's Piano Trio and Arno Babajanian's Piano Trio in F minor, respectively. An enticing collection of geographic and aesthetic contrasts, these pieces are slated for release on another Chicago favorite, the Cedille Records label.

\$10
Ravinia (Bennett Gordon Hall)
200 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park
847-266-5100
Ravinia.org

SPOTLIGHT: Make Music Chicago

The Chicago variant of Paris' Fete de la Musique may not yet be the day off work it is to the French, but **Make Music Chicago** is one of the most inclusive and vibrant musical events of the year. Since 2011, Rush Hour Concerts has produced this kaleidoscopic celebration every June 21, coordinating play-alongs and mini-performances at 40 sites across the city with more than 1,000 amateur and professional musicians. We caught up with Make Music Chicago director **Kuang-Hao Huang** to find out what's new and why we ought to dust off our ukulele and take to the streets.

CRAIN'S: Rush Hour Concerts are free, and Make Music Chicago is welcoming to all. Do you see a parallel between these two organizations?

KUANG-HAO HUANG: They really are for everyone. While Rush Hour is about concerts, though, Make Music Chicago is about getting people out to play or sing themselves. No matter the age, ability or genre, it's all about the joy of playing music.

As a concert pianist, what lights you up about this kind of event?

As a professional, there's a lot of pressure involved. I can't enjoy music on a major stage in the same way as when I was younger. When you're younger, performing is just fun, less self-conscious, which is the thrill of Make Music Chicago.

What are you most excited about for this year's event?

We stole a fantastic idea from Make Music New



Kuang-Hao Huang

MARI NORD

York. (Chicago composer) Mischa Zupko is writing us a hymn for Father's Day, and anyone can download a free smartphone app that will teach them the vocal parts to the song. The day of, all the apps will be synced up, and everyone will start singing along with their phones, from all corners of the city, and they'll all start walking toward Maggie Daley Park. As you approach the park, you'll run into other singers and the piece will form as everyone converges.

Let's say I'm tone deaf and don't play an instrument. How can I participate?

You can play the Harmonica Jam! For the past few years (harmonica manufacturer) Hohner has donated scores of harmonicas for Make Music Chicago, and our partner Old Town School of Folk Music has arranged a massive, public harmonica lesson. The teachers are great, making you confident you can really play something.

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