

THRILLING ADVENTURES IN STORE FOR PMMF IN 2023! FROM THE PMMF CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

We are so pleased to be announcing the 2023 PMMF season and we are equally excited to unveil the new PMMF logo!

This past year has seen some big changes for the Pine Mountain Music Festival. As we've considered the PMMF mission and future, our executive team has discussed the role of the Festival in our communities, the value and power of classical music and its continued relevance in our lives, and a desire to share the arts with a new generation of audiences. The 2023 season is a reflection of these values and will prove to be thrilling!

The coming summer will see the return of devoted friends like the Bergonzi Trio and Paul and Christine Seitz, as well as premieres of new works by Elena Ruehr, Libby Meyer (this time wearing a composer hat), and Katherine Bergman. We are absolutely thrilled to be presenting a concert version of Elena Ruehr's opera *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage* with the award winning, innovative, Boston-based Guerilla Opera. Our free children's concerts, masterclasses and On the Town concerts will delight, surprise and welcome new audiences to PMMF. Performances will take place in beautiful locations like Isle Royale National Park and Copper Harbor, historic theaters such as the Crystal Falls Theater and the Orpheum, and marvelous concert halls like the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to our new logo, we are working to develop a new mission statement that will be the guiding force for the direction of the future of PMMF. One of the core values of PMMF is to nurture the artistic vitality and creative spirit of our local communities. But just stating this commitment is not enough. We need to put these words into action. We strongly believe that access to the arts should be available to all and it is our aim to remove as many barriers to attendance at our events as possible. To take this one step further, we will also be streaming most of our performances that take place in Houghton. Live performances are always the best way to experience classical music but we understand that this may not be an option for everyone. We hope that streaming these events and making them affordable and accessible will go a long way in supporting the new mission of PMMF.

Please continue to look for our monthly emails and check the PMMF website for updates about next season. Our 2023 season will have something for everyone and it promises to be thrilling!

Libby Meyer and Danielle Simandl, Co-Executive Directors



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

ON PITCH AN INTERVIEW WITH PIANO TUNER CHARLES WHITE

A festival like the Pine Mountain Music Festival takes a lot of work to plan and implement. It couldn't possibly happen without all the wonderful people who believe in our mission and the power of classical music. Charles White is one of those wonderful people who works behind the scenes and keeps our pianos (and pianists) sounding brilliant!



We asked Charles a few questions about his work as a piano tuner and his involvement with PMMF.

PMMF: How long have you been tuning pianos and how did you get into this line of work?

Charles: I have been tuning pianos since October 2003. Martin Sotala, my piano technician, convinced me to learn. My wife, Kirsten, took over as business manager in 2012, enabling an expansion of our business into Marquette.

PMMF: What's your favorite aspect of piano tuning?

Charles: People are happy to see me! I help people by making their pianos sound better, and leave with a check in my back pocket.

PMMF: You've been with the Festival for a long time, do you have any fond memories of the Pine Mountain Music Festival that you'd like to share?

Charles: Meeting and working with Christine Seitz on opera projects. First I was asked to play timpani for the Magic Flute. After that, I worked with Christine on Pagliacci. Many opera projects followed in successive years. Christine gave so much to our communities, it was amazing!

PMMF: When you're not tuning pianos, what do you like to do for fun?

Charles: Since 2020, I have been excited to collaborate with musicians across the country and around the world on music projects intended for licensing for use in films, tv, and ads. I also like hiking, biking, horseback riding, and skiing in the winter with my wonderful wife, Kirsten!

PMMF: Anything else?

Charles: The Pine Mountain Music Festival has made our community a much richer place.



PO Box 406
Hancock, MI 49930

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER FROM THE PMMF PRESIDENT

As the days get shorter and we prepare for winter here in the Copper Country, it may seem that summer and the Pine Mountain Music Festival are a long way off. But it's a busy time for our PMMF team and exciting plans are coming together for a truly unique festival this June. Along with the return of the Bergonzi Trio and UPstarts!, we'll be part of the Isle Royale National Park's 80th anniversary celebration. And we have a new (concert) opera, *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage*, to which we look forward. I'm personally quite excited to hear this opera composed by Houghton native, Elena Ruehr. After all, being a female computer scientist myself, how cool will it be to hear an opera about the first computer programmer who was also female? And it's a comic opera – should be fun for everyone!

In the background, our executive team continues to execute the myriad tasks that are needed to ensure the festival is on solid footing for years to come. Besides planning the Festival, grants and reports have been written. Our PMMF office was cleaned so we now know what we have. Our printed and digital look has been refreshed. And we had a great fundraising event at the Quincy Mine in September. Thank you to Libby and Dani, the PMMF Co-Executive Directors!

Finally, I encourage each of you to consider applying to join our PMMF Board of Trustees. It's important for the success of the Festival that our PMMF Board have a broad representation of our community. If you are interested in great classical music and would like to be part of making sure that the PMMF Festival continues to serve our communities, please consider submitting the Prospective Board Member form on our website. Young or old, a musician or simply a music lover, all are welcome to apply. We are particularly eager to get new Board members from beyond the Houghton and Marquette areas to better serve more of the Upper Peninsula. Our monthly meetings are held over Zoom so distance isn't an issue. I'm happy to chat with anyone who would like to know more about serving on the PMMF Board. Email me at linda@mtu.edu.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our concerts next June. In the meantime, enjoy the winter!

Linda Ott, PMMF Board President

WINTER FUNDRAISER

CAROLING WITH THE UPSTARTS! ALL STARS

Please join PMMF for a marvelous holiday gathering and fundraiser performance! Featuring past UPstarts! Artists, this performance will include beautifully sung renditions of well-known holiday music. Audience members will join on a few tunes, so bring your singing voice!

DATE Tuesday, December 27, 2022
TIME 7:30 p.m.
PLACE St. Paul's Episcopal Church
201 E Ridge St, Marquette, MI
TICKETS \$50 each, sold at the door. Cash or check only.



PMMF'S NEW LOOK UNVEILED

During the past year we have been working with Chris at Peach Bomb Creative to create a new logo, color palette and mission statement to give PMMF a more contemporary look. Through this process we've considered the importance and value of this festival to our community and how we want to represent PMMF moving forward. We are working to develop new audiences, create an accessible festival, and highlight the thriving artistic community that exists in the Upper Peninsula. The future of PMMF is looking bright and this new brand is part of bringing PMMF into the next decade. We hope you are as excited about this new brand as we are!

SUMMER HOUSING - PMMF NEEDS YOU!

Do you have a spare private room or apartment (or even a whole house) that you would be willing to share? PMMF is in need of housing for our 2023 musicians during June in Houghton, Marquette, and Crystal Falls. If you are interested in helping out PMMF in a huge way, please contact PMMF Director of Operations, Lara Neves at lkneves@mtu.edu



LINDSAY GARRITSON PLAYS RACHMANINOFF WITH THE KSO

The Bergonzi Trio's own Lindsay Garritson will be performing the beautiful Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra on December 10 at 7:30pm in the Rozsa Center. Tickets can be purchased by calling 906-487-2073 or visit www.mtu.edu/rozsa.



PMMF RECEIVES A MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL GRANT

We are pleased to announce that PMMF has received \$16,250 from the MACC Operational Support program. This funding allows us to continue bringing the highest quality classical music performances to next summer's PMMF season!

GET INVOLVED WITH PMMF

JOIN OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Are you a supporter of PMMF and looking for ways to become more involved? Are you interested in seeing classical music performances thrive in the Upper Peninsula? Are you looking to join a great organization that makes our community a better place to live? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the PMMF Board of Trustees wants you! The PMMF Board of Trustees is a dedicated group of volunteers that is committed to strengthening connections within the UP through classical music performances, workshops, and community engagement events. The PMMF Board meets monthly and works with the Executive Team, PMMF staff and volunteers, and serves to provide direction, planning and oversight for the Festival. If you are interested in helping to continue making the PMMF a success, fill out the "Prospective Board Member" form on the PMMF website. For more information or questions, please contact PMMF Board President, Linda Ott at linda@mtu.edu.



UPSTARTS! ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS

Do you know of a talented musician from the UP who is pursuing a career in music? UPstarts! Is a premier young artist program for musicians who grew up or currently reside in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Since 2012, the PMMF UPstarts! program has provided young emerging singers and instrumentalists from Michigan's Upper Peninsula the opportunity to perform in a professional music festival. Chosen by audition, the PMMF UPstarts! artists tour all three areas of the PMMF festival (Keweenaw, Marquette, Iron counties), meeting audiences of all sizes in different performance settings. UPstarts! artists receive coaching from professional musicians involved with PMMF, gain important experiences on the concert stage, and give audiences a chance to enjoy the impressive level of talent that comes from our local communities. UPstarts! artists must be from or currently living in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, between the ages of 16-30, and in pursuit of a career in music or majoring in music at university. Audition details and requirements can be found on the PMMF website. Audition materials are due on January 7, 2023.



YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP TO CONTINUE TO MAKE PMMF A SUCCESS

The Pine Mountain Music Festival continues to provide the highest quality classical music performances and experiences for communities in the Upper Peninsula. As a community partner, PMMF relies on the generous support from community members, businesses, and government organizations. If you have contributed in the past, THANK YOU! We encourage you to continue your support through financial contributions, attending events, volunteering and spreading the word about this unique and special Festival!

Donations can be made by visiting pmmf.org (you can use the QR code to the right) or mailing to PMMF, PO Box 406, Hancock, MI 49930. Please consider making a contribution to PMMF and help keep the festival thriving for years to come!



PMMF FESTIVAL 2023

PMMF PRESENTS THRILLING ADVENTURES

GUERRILLA OPERA PRESENTS A CONCERT VERSION OF ELENA RUEHR'S THE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF LOVELACE AND BABBAGE, AN OPERA BASED ON THE STEAMPUNK GRAPHIC NOVEL BY SYDNEY PADUA!

Meet Victorian London's dynamic duo: Charles Babbage, unrealized inventor of the computer and his accomplice, Ada Lovelace, a peculiar proto-programmer. Lovelace translated a description of Babbage's plans for an enormous mechanical calculating machine in 1842, with annotations three times longer than the original work. Her footnotes contained the first appearance of general computing theory a century before an actual computer was built. Sadly, Lovelace died a decade after publishing her paper and Babbage never built his machines. The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage presents an alternate reality in which Lovelace and Babbage build the difference engine, program runaway economic models, battle a scourge of spelling errors and, of course, fight crime!

Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage is a new comic opera by composer Elena Ruehr and librettist Royce Vavrek based on Sydney Padua's graphic novel. The opera utilizes sounds from the only working difference engine in the world, recorded in Seattle. The clicks and clacks of the machine are morphed into a percussion section and mapped onto a midi marimba so that the sounds are played as part of the opera. Unlike traditional opera companies, Guerilla Opera artists perform without a conductor or formal music director. This is unusual and distinguishes them in the field of opera. This practice requires extraordinary awareness and communication skills that can only be honed through consistent practice by a group of artists working together over time.

THE BERGONZI TRIO PRESENTS FORMAL CONCERTS AND CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

The wonderful Bergonzi Trio returns bringing their brilliant music-making with them in an exciting program including works by Tailleferre and Haydn, and the stunning Ravel Piano Trio. This concert will definitely prove to be an adventure! For the younger members of our audience (or those who are young at heart), there will also be free interactive children's concerts.

LINDSAY GARRITSON PRESENTS SOLO PERFORMANCE, REIMAGINED

Lindsay Garritson of the Bergonzi Trio will perform a solo piano concert entitled *Reimagined* featuring works by Handel/Liszt, Beethoven, Cecil Chaminade, Maurice Ravel, Reena Esmail, Tania León, Astora Piazzolla, and Marc-Andre Hamelin. Each piece is a reimagining of something, whether it's an opera of Handel, Beethoven's variations on his original theme, an etude of Chaminade inspired by autumn, Ravel's inspiration from the waltz, Esmail's inspiration from Indian classical music, Tania Leon's incorporation/inspiration of the Habanera dance (native to her homeland of Cuba), Piazzolla with the Argentine Tango, or Hamelin's inspiration from Paganini's 24th Caprice. Lindsay will also teach several masterclasses for local students during her PMMF residency. We will share the details for these masterclasses in the coming months.



PAUL AND CHRISTINE SEITZ RETURN TO PMMF!

Soprano Christine Seitz and composer/guitarist Paul Seitz will draw on their wide ranging repertoire of music from centuries past to the present moment. The program will include art songs by Paul Seitz with pianist Susan Byykkonen, the world premieres of two new works by Paul, the song cycle *Some Things That Fly* for voice and guitar, and a new chamber work for violin, guitar, and cello. The premieres, as well as additional sets of American songs about stage, screen, and social protest, will feature the archtop guitar in this concert setting. Paul and Christine are excited to share their music this season with the Pine Mountain Music Festival community!

ISLE ROYALE CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGH MUSIC

In 2020 Isle Royale National Park had planned a large celebration of the 80th anniversary of the park by commissioning Artists-In-Residence Libby Meyer and Katherine Bergman to compose string quartets to be premiered that year. Unfortunately, the global pandemic had other plans. This year PMMF is excited to join forces with Isle Royale National Park to premiere these quartets alongside Elena Ruehr's stunning Keweenaw Quartet on Isle Royale, performed by the Superior String Alliance Chamber Players. If you are looking for an adventure, come to Isle Royale for an evening of beautiful, place-inspired music! If that might be a little too adventurous, you can also hear this wonderful music at other "mainland" locations during the festival.

ON THE TOWN CONCERTS

Back by popular demand, these free 30 - 45 minute chamber music concerts will happen around the Keweenaw Peninsula for one day during the Festival. The On the Town concerts will feature performances by PMMF musicians from different groups mixed together! Catch a short performance in a unique place like the canal waterfront, a coffee shop, an antique store, or in a photography gallery. More details to come!

UPSTARTS! CONCERTS

Since 2012, the UPstarts! program has provided young emerging singers and instrumentalists from the Upper Peninsula the opportunity to perform in a professional music festival. Chosen by audition, the young artists tour all three areas of the festival (Houghton, Marquette, and Iron counties), meeting audiences of all sizes in different performance settings. These concerts (accompanied by Susie Byykkonen, UPstarts! Director) provide the artists with important experiences on the concert stage and give audiences a chance to enjoy the impressive level of talent that comes from our local communities. Our 2023 UPstarts! will be announced in February!

PMMF STEAMPUNK GALA

In keeping with the steampunk theme of our opera this season, we are planning a steampunk themed event at the Quincy Mine Hoist House that will include music, food and great conversation! Wear your favorite steampunk themed outfit and join the fun! For inquiring minds: steampunk is a design style inspired by Victorian-era industrialism; think steam-powered machinery, Victorian era clothing, and anachronistic accessories for science fiction flair. Google 'steampunk' if you want to know more about the genre, look, and vibe! This thrilling event will take place during the festival. Check the PMMF website for more details!

