Pine Mountain Music Festival
Upper Peninsula, MI

PMMF Presents

Thrilling Adventures
June 3 - 21, 2023

The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace & Babbage

Music: Elena Ruehr, Libretto: Royce vanek
Produced by The Guerilla Opera
Guerillaopera.org

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GUERILLA OPERA PRESENTS A CONCERT VERSION OF THE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF LOVELACE AND BABBAGE

The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage is a new comic opera by composer Elena Ruehr and librettist Royce Vavrek based on Sydney Padua’s steampunk graphic novel. This opera presents an alternate reality in which Ada Lovelace, a peculiar proto-programmer, and Charles Babbage, an unrealized inventor of the computer, build the difference engine, program runaway economic models, battle a scourge of spelling errors and, of course, fight crime! 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. Guerilla Opera artists will perform a concert version of this opera for PMMF.

Performances: June 16 & 17 in Houghton

THE BERGONZI TRIO PERFORMS FORMAL CONCERTS AND CHILDREN’S CONCERTS

The wonderful Bergonzi Trio returns to PMMF 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. Members of the Bergonzi Trio are Scott Flavin (violin), Ross Harbaugh (cello), and Lindsay Garritson (piano).

Children’s Concerts (free admission): June 13 - Houghton, June 16 - Marquette
Evening Performances: June 13 - Houghton, June 15 - Ontonagon, June 17 - Marquette

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 shorefront, a coffee shop, an antique store, or in a photography gallery. More details to come, check pmmf.org!

Performances (free admission): June 14
Copper Harbor, Calumet, Hancock, Houghton

TICKETS INFO AT PMMF.ORG

PMMF will be going green this year for programs! You will be able to access concert programs on our website before, during, and after all festival performances!

Sign up for email updates at pmmf.org
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-André 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.

Masterclasses (free admission): June 7 - Marquette, June 11 - Houghton
Performances: June 7 - Marquette, June 8 - Ontonagon, June 10 - Houghton

UPSTARTS! CONCERTS

Since 2012, PMMF’s 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 the U.P., 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. 2023 UPstarts! performers will be Oskar Martinez (bassoon), Maitri White (soprano), Michael Halvorson (saxophone), Adam Hall (cello).

Performances: June 19 - Ontonagon, June 20 - Marquette, June 21 - Houghton

PAUL AND CHRISTINE SEITZ

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. Paul and Christine are excited to share their music this season with the Pine Mountain Music Festival community!

Performances: June 3 - Houghton, June 4 - Marquette

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, performed by the Superior String Alliance Chamber Players.

Free Performance: June 9 - Isle Royale National Park
Ticketed Performances: June 11 - Hancock, June 12 - Marquette

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, dessert, 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.

June 14 - Quincy Mine Hoist House, 8 - 10pm, $10 suggested donation at the door
We may still be surrounded by snow, but the calendar says it is spring and that means June and the Pine Mountain Music Festival is fast approaching. We have a truly exciting season to look forward to this year. We always anticipate the return of the Bergonzi Trio and their awesome performances. This year, we will also be featuring Lindsay Garritson of the Bergonzi Trio in a solo piano performance. If you saw her stunning performance with the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in December, I’m sure you, too, are eagerly awaiting her return this summer. We will have a concert by Paul and Christine Seitz, On the Town Concerts, the UPstarts! Concerts, and a special concert on Isle Royale celebrating its 80th Anniversary. And for the opera lovers among us (and those of us interested in thrilling adventures), we have a concert version of Elena Ruehr’s *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage* performed by Guerilla Opera. I can hardly wait!

A lot of time and energy goes into planning our season and bringing it to you. We hope to share the fruits of these efforts with everyone in our community who enjoys music. To ensure that ticket price is not an obstacle for anyone, we are continuing our PAYA (Pay As You’re Able) model for ticket pricing. Please attend and purchase tickets at the tier that fits within your budget.

And now my plea – as I’m sure many of you know, ticket revenues alone do not cover the costs of planning and producing the festival each summer. In addition to ticket revenue, our executive team has had success with grant-writing. But a significant portion of our production and operation budget comes from our supporters. Please consider making a donation if you are able. Donations can be made by sending a check to Pine Mountain Music Festival, PO Box 406, Hancock, MI 49930 or online at https://pinemountainmusicfestival.com/donate/. The website is also a great place to indicate your willingness to volunteer some of your time to the Festival. Just click on the Support tab on the top of the main page.

Thank you for all the ways you support the Festival. I look forward to seeing you at the performances in June.

Linda Ott, PMMF Board President
YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP PMMF CONTINUE ITS VITAL PART IN THE ARTISTIC LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY!

The Pine Mountain Music Festival is committed to connecting folks through classical music and educational programs across Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

As a community partner, PMMF relies on 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 festival events, volunteering, and spreading the word about this unique and special Festival!

Please consider making a contribution to PMMF and help keep the festival thriving for years to come!

DONATE

DONOR LEVELS
Platinum: $10,000 +  
Gold: $5,000 - $9,999  
Silver: $1,000 - $4,999  
Bronze: $500 - $999  
Patron: $100 - $499  
Friend: Under $100

Donate with credit or debit card online at www.pmmf.org/donate

or mail a check to PMMF with the enclosed donation card and envelope.

PMMF MOVES TO PAYA (PAY AS YOU'RE ABLE) TICKETING

The Pine Mountain Music Festival believes that the foundation of an equitable and inclusive arts culture requires making this collaboration accessible to all. We are committed to ensuring that everyone who wants to see our concerts are able to, which is why we are enacting a "Pay as You're Able" model for all ticketed events this season. We encourage our audience members to purchase tickets at a level comfortable for them.

Ticket revenue alone doesn’t begin to cover what it costs to pay our artists, produce the festival, and prepare and staff each production, but we believe that access to the arts is a foundational human right. We encourage patrons to select a tier in line with their means. All are welcome to select the more expensive tiers, and ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend Pine Mountain Music Festival productions!

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As winter releases its icy grip here in the Upper Peninsula, we welcome the longer days and the feeling of renewal that comes with each new season. With the appearance of these first hopeful signs of spring we are turning our attention to the exciting lineup that PMMF has in store for this summer!

We have spent the last year reviewing our core values for PMMF and thinking about how we want to move into the future. One way we did this was by carefully thinking about the PMMF mission, what our goals are and how we want to make our community a better place to be! The board and staff had many conversations about what we wish for PMMF and our community and after many iterations and much consideration, we are pleased to share the new PMMF mission statement:

**NURTURING OUR CREATIVE SPIRIT THROUGH CLASSICAL MUSIC**

*FROM THE PMMF CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023*

The Pine Mountain Music Festival is committed to nurturing the artistic vitality and creative spirit of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula through classical music by presenting innovative, inspiring, and inclusive performances, educational programs, and community engagement events.

We believe that this new mission statement encapsulates what we are trying to accomplish and we are excited about moving forward with this as the foundation for our guiding principles. We strongly believe in the creativity of our community, and presenting innovative and inspiring classical music performances is one way we can nurture that spirit. Our 2023 summer season is a reflection of this mission!

This summer we 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.
ON PITCH
AN INTERVIEW WITH ELENA RUEHR

PMMF: What is the story behind the creation of the opera?

Elena: It was sometime in the spring of 2015. I was cooking dinner while listening to NPR when I heard Sydney Padua come on to talk about her new graphic novel *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage*. So I read Sydney’s book and fell madly in love. I emailed Sydney’s agent about the idea and happily, she wrote back saying she was a big opera fan and would love to collaborate. I had wanted to work with Royce Vavrek on this and was very happy indeed that he signed on. Sydney is collaborating with us and supplying us with visual imagery.

If this had been a historical opera, it would have had a lot of dialog. Using their brilliant new invention to “fight crime in alternative universes” as a dramatic engine for a comic opera seems to take a flying departure from the historical accounts.

PMMF: How do the historic characters and situations get transformed? How comedic is this opera?

Elena: This is a VERY FUNNY show, bordering on musical theater in its blend of dance, movement, singing and etc. (there is no spoken dialogue). The transformation from historical characters to a fantasy world is done after the relatively factual (but funny) first 20 minutes, then the fantasy begins. The transformation takes place through the magic of theater!

PMMF: How do you score alternative universes from within the best of all possible worlds?

Elena: Oh it’s very fun. In this case I used harmonies based on a whole tone scale plus one extraneous note that I think is rather funny. Whole tone scales are rather funny to be honest.

PMMF: Would your music sound different if it were for a biopic?

Elena: Oh certainly. I have written two other historical operas *Toussaint Before the Spirits* and *Crafting the Bonds* and they were quite serious. In this case I use a lot of references to dance music and lighthearted rhythmic motives.
ON PITCH
AN INTERVIEW WITH PAUL AND CHRISTINE SEITZ

PMMF: How did you first get involved with PMMF?

Paul: Through Laura Deming, whom I had met when I was quite young – maybe 14 or so – when I played some classical guitar pieces during the intermission of a Racine (WI) Kiwanis Youth Symphony concert. Laura was playing cello in the orchestra of course. Christine and I had both been involved in musical things with Laura through the years and when the festival was first starting, Laura invited us both to be involved in the Strings on the Bay Festival in Escanaba where we taught and played and some of my chamber music was performed. We then continued to be involved in PMMF and, a few years later, Laura asked Christine if she’d consider directing opera – a question that was life-changing for Christine who then began a career producing and directing operas that continues to the present.

PMMF: Can you tell us about your concert program?

Christine: We are excited to present some of our favorite compositions and vocal music from repertoire that we've performed in the past, alongside brand new compositions and some favorites by other composers. Music by Paul Seitz will include two premieres - a new song cycle, Some Things That Fly, for voice and guitar, and a new Trio for violin, cello, and archtop guitar - as well as three other songs, assisted by Susan Byykkonen. Other favorites will include three lute songs by John Dowland, several selections from the great American songbook with guitar, and a set of songs of social protest.

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?

Paul: Many, many. The premiere of my piano concerto at Kingsford HS auditorium, with Robert Miller as soloist and Janis Peterson conducting, many New Chamber Music concerts in Houghton, Iron Mountain and Marquette. Christine’s first opera production - Gianni Schicchi at the Kingsford Theatre; and also time spent with generous hosts with whom we stayed, golfing with Jack Stubbs (at Spread Eagle golf course we created the local rule: “If you hit three different trees with a single shot, you win the hole.”), and, of course, the entire production of The Children of the Keweenaw, featuring so many friends made over the years.

PMMF: What do you do for fun?

Paul and Christine: Hiking, bird watching and listening, cooking and baking, and making music with friends.