



HELP US SET THE STAGE FOR THE 2025 SEASON

Thanks to you, world-class music thrives in the Upper Peninsula. Help us continue this legacy.



PINE MOUNTAIN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
UPPER PENINSULA, MI

ABOUT US

The Pine Mountain Music Festival (PMMF) 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.

PMMF was founded in Iron Mountain, Michigan, in 1991 by Laura Jean Deming, a cellist and member of the orchestra of Lyric Opera of Chicago. That first season was primarily chamber music, but by 1992 opera was being produced. The festival runs during mid-June in Houghton, Marquette, and Iron counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

The PMMF produces a season of professional classical music. The festival has presented 36 operas, including three commissioned world premieres: *The Children of the Keweenaw* (2001), *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* (2007), and *Rockland* (2011). It also premiered a new string quartet, *Oday Daywayigun* (2010). Educational components have been an integral part of the festival: the Orchestra Fellowship Program (1994 - 2007; 2015); the Resident Opera Artist Program (1998 - 2015); the in-school program *OPERAtion Imagination* (2002 - 2014); and *UPstarts!*, a current program providing performance opportunities for emerging young artists of the Upper Peninsula.



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LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Music Lovers,

We are once again in the throes of planning another season of the Pine Mountain Music Festival. I hope you enjoyed last summer's performances as much as I did. The Bergonzi Trio and the UPstarts! are longtime favorites and always superb! And the History of Opera performance was a wonderful and unique experience, reminding me of many past seasons.

As we look forward to next June, I want to remind you of the importance of your contributions. We continue to work to build our audience after the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, ticket sales never cover all of the expenses of the performances and the yearlong planning it takes to put the Festival together. We need grants and donations to keep the Festival going. **We want to bring you more opera in the future**, but opera is expensive. If opera and great classical music are important to you, please consider making a year-end donation.

Thank you so much for your support of the Festival,

Linda Ott
President of the Board



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?

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. 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.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making the Pine Mountain Music Festival's 2024 season a memorable success! Your enthusiasm and dedication to the arts bring our performances to life, and we are **deeply grateful for your ongoing support**. As we look forward, we invite you to help us continue PMMF's legacy by donating to the festival. Your contributions enable us to bring world-class opera and chamber music to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, nurture young talent, and plan upcoming seasons that will help the festival return to its former glory with more shows and more diverse locations.

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your generous donation helps sustain our vision of creating high-quality live performances that otherwise would not be accessible in our region. From presenting grand operas like Carmen and La Traviata to nurturing local talent through programs like UPStarts!, which provides emerging artists from the Upper Peninsula a platform to perform, your contributions help bring the arts to life. Over the years, PMMF has produced 36 full operas, including three world premieres, giving both established and up-and-coming artists the chance to shine.

This year, we plan to continue this legacy by programming a smaller season of opera and chamber music, while setting aside funds to **stage a full opera by the 2027 season**. Your donation will directly support the artistic and operational costs necessary to bring these performances to stages across the UP—including the Iron Mountain area. Whether you're a fan of classical music, opera, or chamber music, your support makes a tangible difference in sustaining our concerts and educational programs.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

KAREN BLAKE
DAVE ECHELBARGER

LINDA OTT
FRED MAYNARD
MAITRI WHITE

DENISE LANDSBERG
VICTORIA BALTEMBERGER

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT:

- **\$50 can help provide transportation for young musicians participating in UPStarts!**
- **\$100 supports educational outreach programs that bring music to local children.**
- **\$500 helps to pay artistic fees, ensuring top-quality live performances.**
- **\$1,000 will help to fund a fully staged opera by 2027**

Your contributions allow us to continue inspiring, educating, and enriching our community through the power of music. Please consider making a donation today to help PMMF continue its tradition of excellence in classical music. Together, we can ensure that music remains an integral part of life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the arts!

With gratitude,
Lara Neves
Executive Director



HOW TO DONATE

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

-Mail a check to PMMF with the enclosed Donation Form

INTRODUCING OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Joel Neves is Director of Orchestral Activities at Michigan Tech where he conducts the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. The KSO was awarded 2nd Place nationally in the American Prize in Orchestral Performance. For its recent “Season of Premieres,” the orchestra presented a world premiere on each concert, including Joel’s new tone poem—Kalaupapa—about his great-grandparents’ imprisonment in Molokai’s leper colony. Joel will conduct his Hawaiian premiere of Kalaupapa in Oahu in December 2024.

Joel is a regular guest conductor of professional, college, and all-state orchestras. He has guest conducted in China, Argentina, and Romania. Joel was assistant conductor of the Orchestra of Southern Utah for three seasons and has guest conducted the orchestras at Brigham Young University, Northern Arizona University, Metro State University of Denver, and University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. He has also conducted the Utah All-State Orchestra, Idaho All-State Orchestra, and Kentucky All-Collegiate Orchestra, and was Director of the Foster Orchestra Music Camp in Kentucky.

Equally adept at theatre, Joel has directed numerous opera, ballet, and music theatre productions. He conducted *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Carmen*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Swan Lake*, *South Pacific*, and *West Side Story*.

Joel received a Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral, choral, and opera conducting from Arizona State University and bachelors and masters degrees from Brigham Young University. He resides in Houghton, Michigan with his wife, Lara, and dog, Puccini.



UPDATES FOR OUR UPSTARTS!

Darius Morton (Tenor, UPStarts! 2024) was recently named the City of Marquette 2024 Performing Artist of the Year. During the 2024-25 season, Darius is serving as an Instructor of Voice at Northern Michigan University. This season, Darius is presenting Franz Schubert's Winterreise at various locations around the country. Morton will appear in the Houghton area for several concerts this season and is grateful to be engaged with the Pine Mountain Music Festival.



Grace Bergstrom (Tuba, UPStarts! 2024) is currently teaching K-3 elementary music in Foley, MN. She's also building connections in the Minnesota music scene, most recently playing a music education fundraiser night put together by the Above Average Tuba Quartet of the Twin Cities.



Julia Janowski (Mezzo-soprano, UPStarts! 2022) is currently based in the Boston, MA area. She graduated with her Master of Music in Opera Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee in May. Julia spent the summer as an emerging artist at the prestigious Seagle Festival, making her role debut as Ruby Thewes in Jennifer Higdon's Cold Mountain.



Maitri White (Soprano, UPStarts! 2023) is based in Ann Arbor, MI where she is pursuing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Michigan. This fall she appeared as Alicia in the orchestral workshop for Derek Bermel and Sandra Cisneros's The House on Mango Street. Next semester she looks forward to performing the role of Miss Jessel in Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw.



DO YOU KNOW AN UP-AND-COMING MUSICIAN FROM THE UP?

Encourage them to apply for our 2025 season!

www.pmmf.org/upstarts
applications due January 20, 2025

UPCOMING SEASON

Bergonzi Piano Trio- The wonderful Bergonzi Piano Trio will return to PMMF 2025 bringing their brilliant music-making with them for their formal evening concerts. 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 Piano Trio are Scott Flavin (violin), Ross Harbaugh (cello), and Lindsay Garritson (piano).

UPStarts!- 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 the U.P., meeting audiences of all sizes in different performance settings. These concerts 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.

Three Sopranos (and a Tenor!)- Stay tuned to learn more about this season's opera offering!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



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