



YOUR GIFT MAKES THE 2026 SEASON POSSIBLE

Thank you for your support this year. With your help, the Pine Mountain Music Festival will continue bringing classical music to the U.P. for many years to come!

A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS

WITH DARRIUS MORTON



MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MARQUETTE

Celebrate the season with tenor Darrius Morton and pianist Jan Brodersen as they perform a beautiful blend of classical favorites and beloved carols with a few sing-alongs for the audience! All proceeds support the Pine Mountain Music Festival, helping us continue to bring world-class music to the Upper Peninsula.

Suggested donation: \$30 at the door.

PINE MOUNTAIN
MUSIC FESTIVAL

The logo features a stylized bar chart with vertical bars of varying heights, set against a background of a piano keyboard. The text 'PINE MOUNTAIN' is in a large, white, serif font, and 'MUSIC FESTIVAL' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

UPPER PENINSULA, MI

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Music Lovers,

It's that time of year when many of us are looking forward to time with friends and family over the upcoming holidays. Meanwhile some of us are quietly (or maybe not quietly) complaining about the cold and darkness that descends upon the Copper Country this time of year. But time really does seem to fly, and it won't be long before the days are getting lighter and warmer. As summer approaches, I hope all of you will be looking forward to our next Pine Mountain Music Festival season. I truly enjoyed this past season. The Bergonzi Trio is always a joy to hear; we heard some excellent local talent in Three Sopranos (and a Tenor); and the young artists in our UPstarts! shows were amazing. It was particularly exciting to return to Iron Mountain, bringing all three performances to the Iron Mountain and Crystal Falls area.

Although the next Festival is months away, the PMMF Board and staff are busy planning our upcoming season. A major obstacle as we plan is the uncertainty around funding, particularly government grants. We have worked hard to cut unnecessary expenses to mitigate some of the funding uncertainty. But more than ever we need your support. If you've given before, we ask that you give a bit more this year. If you haven't previously donated, please consider a donation. Even small donations do make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support, both financially and with your presence at our concerts. Looking forward to seeing you in June!

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 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hello PMMF Friends!

I wanted to report on our successful 2025 season and give a sneak peek into the 2026 festival and beyond. Our effort to reconnect with the festival's roots in Iron Mountain was an inspired initiative, with the UPstarts! headlining The Braumart's 100th anniversary season and the Bergonzi Trio giving an outstanding performance at Iron Mountain High School (with Laura Jean Deming, PMMF founder, in attendance). Our Three Sopranos (and a Tenor) opera recital series was a smashing success, with our highest ticketed event (120 patrons) being at their St. Paul's Episcopal Church concert in Marquette. I am immensely proud that all participants in UPstarts! and Three Sopranos were Yooper musicians, showing the outstanding local talent that PMMF highlights and champions!

We have an exciting festival planned for 2026, which is our 35th season! The wonderful Bergonzis and UPstarts! will return, plus an exciting twist on our opera recital series that you do not want to miss. We are excited to announce that—in an effort to highlight the many historic religious spaces in the U.P. —all 2026 PMMF events will take place in local churches in Houghton, Marquette, and Dickinson counties. We are in conversation with multiple local pastors who are thrilled about partnering with PMMF – if you want the festival to perform at your church, please let us know :)

Finally, as promised, we are planning on returning fully-staged opera to the Pine Mountain Music Festival for the 2027 season (our last opera was Carmen in 2018). It will definitely “take a village” to pool the significant financial resources to make this happen, so we would so appreciate your generous support toward bringing opera back to the festival.

Thanks for all you do as a cherished friend of the Pine Mountain Music Festival. We couldn't do it without you!

All my best,

Joel Neves
Artistic Director



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Pine Mountain Music Festival,

As we enter the new year, I want to take a moment to thank you. Your generosity last year helped make our 2025 Festival a resounding success — from the incredible performances by world-class artists to the inspiring work of our UPstarts! young performers. None of it would have been possible without the support of donors like you.

At this writing, the federal government remains shut down, and many arts-related grants — including those from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council — are still up in the air. These uncertainties make your support more vital than ever.

In times like these, we're reminded just how essential arts and culture truly are. Music and performance connect us, comfort us, and remind us of our shared humanity. The arts strengthen communities, spark creativity in our young people, and bring joy and meaning to everyday life. Especially when the world feels uncertain, the arts give us hope and a reason to come together.

Last year, Pine Mountain Music Festival received a Michigan Arts and Culture grant that helped us fulfill our mission of bringing live classical music to communities across the Upper Peninsula. If each person receiving this letter were to donate just \$40, it would equal the full amount of that grant. Imagine the impact if you were able to double, triple, or even quadruple that gift!

Every donation, no matter the size, helps us fulfill our mission and keep live music thriving in the UP. Your gift supports both the behind-the-scenes essentials and the inspiring artistry that makes our festival so special.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

KAREN BLAKE
DAVE ECHELBARGER

LINDA OTT
FRED MAYNARD
MAITRI WHITE

DENISE LANDSBERG
VICTORIA BALTENSBERGER
JON ENSMINGER

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT:

- **\$10** – Covers postage to mail thank-you notes and donor receipts
- **\$25** – Prints programs or posters for performances
- **\$35** – Pays for a year of our website domain hosting
- **\$50** – Contributes toward our annual insurance premium
- **\$75** – Helps with accounting and tax preparation services
- **\$100** – Covers a night of local lodging for an artist
- **\$200** – Pays for an artist’s travel throughout the U.P. during the festival
- **\$350** – Covers one month of office rent
- **\$500** – Supports a talented UPstarts! artist
- **\$1,000** – Covers a venue rental for a concert
- **\$2,000** – Will help us to fund a fully-staged opera in 2027
- **\$3,000** – Brings in a member of the renowned Bergonzi Trio

Every dollar truly makes a difference, whether it’s helping us pay for the “boring” but necessary operational costs or the “exciting” expenses that put live music in front of our audiences.

Please consider making a year-end gift to Pine Mountain Music Festival today. Your support ensures that the music continues to inspire, uplift, and connect our communities across the Upper Peninsula.

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

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Cristina Bakhoun Sanchez (Resident Opera Artist 2013)

In 2025 Cristina was a featured soloist in Amelia Island Opera's A Night at the Opera, and will finish the year with her company debut with Opera Southwest, where she will create the role of Dolores in Héctor Armienta's world premiere *The Farolitos of Christmas*—a holiday opera based on Rudolfo Anaya's cherished tale. Her recent roles with opera companies across the country include Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, The Foreign Princess in *Rusalka*, Mimì in *La Bohème*, and Clementina in *The Desert Song*.



Bernard Holcomb (Resident Opera Artist 2009, 2010)

In the 2024/25 season, Bernard returned to the Metropolitan Opera in a highly anticipated new production of *Salome*. Additionally, Bernard will perform as the Duke in Verdi's iconic *Rigoletto*, make his debut in the world premiere of *The Pigeon Keeper* with Opera Parallèle. Previously, he has been seen on the Metropolitan Opera stage in *X: The Life and Times of Malcom X* and *Fire Shut Up In My Bones*.



Miles Myykanen (UPStarts! 2012, Resident Opera Artist 2014, 2015)

Miles just wrapped up the world premiere of *The Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* at the Metropolitan Opera where he created the role of Sam Clay. In January he will perform a solo recital at Carnegie Hall in New York City. You can catch him in Ann Arbor this December 6 and 7 as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.



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

Encourage them to apply as an UPstart! for our 2026 season!

www.pmmf.org/upstarts

applications due January 1, 2026

UPCOMING SEASON

Bergonzi Trio

If funding allows, we look forward to welcoming the beloved Bergonzi Piano Trio back to PMMF in 2026. Their artistry and dynamic performances have long been an audience favorite, and we're eager to share their brilliance once again in formal evening concerts. For our youngest music lovers, the Trio will also offer free interactive children's concerts. The ensemble features 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.



Stay tuned to learn more about this season's opera offering!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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