



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 21, 2010

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Opening Night at Brevard Music Center

(Brevard, NC) - This week, Keith Lockhart returns to the Brevard Music Center to open the Festival's 74th season. During the opening weekend, he will conduct two orchestral performances on Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 27. Lockhart is currently in his third year as Artistic Director. He will conduct six performances this season. Lockhart is also a Music Center alumnus, attending as a student in 1974 and 1975 and returning as a guest conductor numerous times since 1996. He has been conductor of the Boston Pops since 1995.

On Friday, June 25 at 7:30 pm, Lockhart will conduct the opening night's performance with the Brevard Music Center Orchestra featuring famed mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, who will perform selections from Canteloube's *Chants d' Auvergne*, as well as selections from opera and Broadway. Von Stade is near the completion of her farewell concert tour after announcing her upcoming retirement after 40 years of performances at the world's most notable opera houses and concert venues. The Music Center is honored to be included in her performance schedule. The concert will also feature Bizet's Suite from *Carmen*, Ravel's *Bolero*, and Chabrier's *Joyeuse Marche*.

Described by the *New York Times* as "one of America's finest artists and singers," Frederica von Stade continues to be extolled as one of the music world's most beloved figures. Known to family, friends, and fans by her nickname "Flicka," the mezzo-soprano has enriched the world of classical music for many decades.

Since her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1970, von Stade has appeared with every leading American opera company, including San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Opera. Moreover, she is regularly invited by the finest conductors, among them Claudio Abbado, James Levine, Seiji Ozawa, and Leonard Slatkin, to appear in concert with the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Symphony.

She has made over seventy recordings with every major label, including complete operas, aria albums, symphonic works, solo recital programs, and popular crossover albums. Ms. von Stade also holds honorary doctorates from Yale University, Boston University, San Francisco Conservatory of Music (which holds a Frederica von Stade Distinguished Chair in Voice), Georgetown University School of Medicine, and her alma mater, Mannes School of Music. In 1998, Ms. von Stade was awarded France's highest honor in the arts when she was appointed as an officer of *L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*.

On Sunday, June 27 at 3:00 pm, Keith Lockhart will conduct the Brevard Music Center Orchestra in an all-American program, featuring pianist Norman Krieger. The performance will include: Bernstein's Overture to *Candide*, Barber's Adagio for Strings, Copland's Symphony No. 3, and Gershwin's dazzling Concerto in F.

Pianist Norman Krieger began his training in Los Angeles under the tutelage of Esther Lipton, and became a full scholarship student of Adele Marcus at the Juilliard School at the age of 15. He received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Juilliard School. Subsequently, he studied with Alfred Brendel and Maria Curcio in London, and was awarded an artist's diploma from the New England Conservatory where he worked with Russell Sherman.

Mr. Krieger is one of the most acclaimed pianists of his generation, highly regarded as an artist of depth, sensitivity and virtuosic flair. He regularly appears with the major ensembles of world, among them the New York, Los Angeles, Hamilton and Hong Kong Philharmonics, the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Cincinnati, Honolulu, Pittsburgh, San Antonio and San Diego; the Boston Pops, Prague's Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Turkey's Presidential Symphony Orchestra and Taiwan's National Symphony Orchestra. He is currently an Associate Professor of the distinguished faculty at the University of Southern California.

Also occurring in opening weekend is "Tintypes: A Musical Revue" on Saturday, June 26 at 7:30 pm. Friday, June 25 opening night auditorium tickets are \$45, \$40, and \$35, while lawn tickets are \$15. Sunday, June 27 auditorium tickets cost \$35, \$30, and \$25. Lawn tickets are \$15. Audience members can enjoy dining through Picnics, *Presto!* Pre-orders are suggested. For more information, please visit brevardmusic.org or call (828) 862-2105.

The Brevard Music Center was founded by James Christian Pfohl in 1936. His vision to establish a music program for talented young people has since matured into one of this country's finest summer institutes and festivals for aspiring musicians. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, BMC welcomes to its 180-acre campus each year 400 students, representing over 40 states and eight foreign countries. It has, as well, 65 distinguished faculty artists drawn from America's most prestigious conservatories, universities and orchestras. Each summer, the Center invites an array of celebrated guest artists to appear in performance with the students of BMC. BMC's unique learning environment—students living and working alongside faculty and guest artists—creates an unparalleled sense of community.

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