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BREVARD MUSIC CENTER PARKER CONCERT HALL SERIES CONTINUES FROM FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY

Six Spring Concerts Complete an Inspiring 2023/24 PCH Season of Live Music

Brevard, North Carolina — Brevard Music Center (BMC) is putting the finishing touches on its acclaimed summer music festival, but area music lovers can enjoy live music right now at BMC's intimate Parker Concert Hall (PCH) — its state-of-the-art venue overlooking scenic Lake Milner. The final six performances of the twelve-concert PCH 23/24 series feature internationally acclaimed artists and a varied lineup of classical, jazz, vocal, and fusion artists. **All PCH concerts begin at 7:30pm and tickets start at \$40.** To find out more about the remaining Parker Concert Hall performances, please visit brevardmusic.org/tickets, call **828.862.2105**, or email the BMC Box Office at boxoffice@brevardmusic.org.

"The caliber of artists that take the stage during the final six concerts of the Parker Concert Hall series are nothing less than spectacular," said **Jason Posnock, President and CEO of Brevard Music Center**. "I am so proud of the artistry and excellence that this series brings to the Brevard community, as well as BMC's ability to provide music enthusiasts in our region with year-round performances in our acoustically stunning hall. Come for great music and celebrate the holidays with us. We're holding a seat for you — please join us!"

The final six concerts of the 23/24 Parker Concert Hall Series include:

Wednesday, February 14 – Valentine Romance with Halie Loren

On February 14, jazz vocalist Halie Loren takes center stage at PCH for a special Valentine's Day celebration of love and romance. Halie, an international, award-winning singer/songwriter, brings a fresh and original perspective to time-honored musical paths, channeling her innate understanding of connectedness across musical boundaries to forge bonds with diverse audiences in North America, Asia, and Europe.

A lover of global cultures and music, her repertoire is a multi-lingual one. All About Jazz notes that her songs "*fill a room with her wondrous voice when singing in English, but she also maintains a high-spirited uniqueness when singing French, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese.*" She's released nine albums to-date, garnering several national and international awards as well as significant critical and chart success along the way, with her albums consistently charting at #1 in Billboard/Japan Jazz Charts, iTunes (Canada and Japan), and Amazon Music.

Thursday, February 29 - The Israeli Chamber Project

The Israeli Chamber Project — featuring Itamar Zorman (violin), Guy Ben-Ziony (viola), Tibi Cziger (clarinet), and Assaff Weisman (piano) — has appeared at venues including London's Wigmore Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Morgan Library & Museum, Town Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, The Clark Memorial Library at UCLA, Ottawa's Chamberfest, on tour in China and Hong Kong, and has been featured on NPR's Performance Today and WQXR's Young Artist Showcase.

The Israeli Chamber Project's tours have garnered rave reviews. American Record Guide stated, "*These players have to be heard to be believed.*" and Time Out New York has noted, "*A band of world-class soloists ... in which egos dissolve and players think, breathe and play as one.*" The ensemble has also established itself as a major artistic force on both sides of the Atlantic with many premier chamber music series, whether in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, New York, or Beijing, as well as in remote towns where access to live chamber music is extremely rare. Guest artists on ICP tours have included the Guarneri String Quartet's Michael Tree and Peter Wiley, Cleveland Orchestra Principal Flutist Joshua Smith, as well as international soloists Antje Weithaas and Liza Ferschtman.

Tuesday, March 12 – St. Patrick's Day with The Derina Harvey Band

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish with The Derina Harvey Band (dHb), the award-winning Celtic Rock group led by Derina Harvey. With a show that offers a fresh take on traditional folk songs as well as a few originals, Derina's vibrant personality takes center stage with her humor, storytelling, and powerful vocals. dHb has been likened to a "rockier" version of Canada's Great Big Sea, if fronted by Adele, and has earned a reputation as a high-energy live show that leaves many an audience out-of-breath and hollering from their seats!

dHb has covered a fair amount of Canada via the performing arts and festival circuits and is now poised to do the same in the United States. They were smash hits at four juried US showcases — Arts Northwest (Best in Showcase Award), Western Arts Alliance, Performing Arts Exchange, and Ohio Arts Professionals Network. The group enjoys a huge wave of online followers from across the globe via TikTok, where there was a sea shanty craze that started in 2020. dHb's recording of Tom Lewis's "The Last Shanty" was used in thousands of videos on the platform, introducing the band to a whole new generation of listeners.

Thursday, March 28 – Chad Lawson in Concert

With over 500 million global streams, multi-award winning pianist, composer, and chart-topping recording artist, Chad Lawson, has an impressive list of accomplishments in recent years that many artists could only hope for in a lifetime. He has released seven critically acclaimed albums, worked with renowned musicians and producers, and has the distinguished honor of being a Steinway artist.

Born in North Carolina, Chad knew he wanted to be a musician at the age of five. He pursued this dream at age 18 at the Berklee College of Music, where he began his career as a studio musician, and afterward, toured with Babik Reinhardt (son of legendary jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt). Following his stint on the road, Chad formed the Chad Lawson Trio. The Trio released their self-titled debut album in 1997 followed by Dear Dorothy; The Oz Sessions (jazz trio arrangements of The Wizard of Oz) in 2002 and Unforeseen

two years later. Taking a sabbatical from the jazz trio in 2007, Lawson went on tour in Europe and South America with Julio Iglesias as a keyboardist. In 2009, Chad released his first solo album, *Set on a Hill*. The album was produced by the legendary Will Ackerman (Grammy winner/Founder of Windham Hill Records) and was voted "Album of the Year" by *Whispering Solo Piano's* 1 million listeners.

Thursday, April 11 – Verona String Quartet

Making their Brevard debut, this "outstanding ensemble ... cohesive yet full of temperament" (*The New York Times*), has firmly established itself amongst the most distinguished ensembles on the chamber music scene today. Featuring Jonathan Ong (violin), Dorothy Ro (violin), Abigail Rojansky (viola), and Jonathan Dormand (cello), the group's singular sense of purpose most recently earned them Chamber Music America's coveted 2020 Cleveland Quartet Award, and a reputation for "bold interpretive strength, robust characterization and commanding resonance" (*Calgary Herald*). The Quartet serves on the faculty of the Oberlin College and Conservatory as the Quartet-in-Residence. In addition to its position at Oberlin, the Quartet holds residencies at Nova Scotia's Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance and North Carolina's Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle (COT). As committed advocates of diverse programming, the Verona Quartet curates the UpClose Chamber Music Series on behalf of the COT, electrifying audiences from concert halls to craft breweries with their "sensational, powerhouse performance[s]." (*Classical Voice America*)

The Verona Quartet has appeared across four continents, captivating audiences at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center (New York City), Kennedy Center, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), Jordan Hall (Boston), Wigmore Hall (U.K.), and Melbourne Recital Hall (Australia), and has performed at festivals including La Jolla Summerfest, Chamber Music Northwest, Caramoor, Alpenglöw, and Bravo! Vail, and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Tuesday, May 14 – Olga Kern in Recital

Pianist Olga Kern, recognized as one of her generation's great artists, returns to Brevard to close out the 23/24 Parker Concert Hall series. With her vivid stage presence, passionately confident musicianship and extraordinary technique, the striking pianist continues to captivate fans and critics alike. Olga Kern was born into a family of musicians with direct links to Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff and began studying piano at the age of five. She jump-started her U.S. career with her historic Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas as the first woman to do so in more than thirty years.

Steinway Artist and First prize winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition at seventeen, Ms. Kern is a laureate of many international competitions. In 2016 she served as Jury Chairman of both the Seventh Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition and the first Olga Kern International Piano Competition, where she also holds the title of Artistic Director. Ms. Kern frequently gives masterclasses and since September 2017 has served on the piano faculty of the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. Additionally, Ms. Kern was recently chosen as the Virginia Arts Festival's new Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, beginning with the 2019 season.

About Brevard Music Center | Summer Institute & Festival

Founded in 1936, the Brevard Music Center stands as one of this country's premier summer classical music training programs and festivals. Each summer, over 700 gifted students come to the Music Center from across the United States and around the world to study with a distinguished faculty and renowned guest artists. Brevard's hallmark is the powerful sense of community that re-emerges each year as faculty and students present remarkable concerts and events to summer audiences.

For more information visit brevardmusic.org, "like" the Brevard Music Center on [Facebook](#), follow @brevardmusic on [Instagram](#), stream season highlights via [SoundCloud](#), and visit the Brevard Music Center [YouTube](#) channel to enjoy performance videos from previous festival seasons.

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