

OJAIMUSICFESTIVAL

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Ojai Music Festival and WQXR's Q2 Music present an evening of performance and discussion at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space in New York on April 13, 2017

Ojai's 2017 Music Director Vijay Iyer and Q2 Music Host Helga Davis will highlight the upcoming Festival, along with Jennifer Koh, George Lewis, Wadada Leo Smith, and Tyshawn Sorey

For tickets to the April 13, 7:00pm event, visit www.thegreenespace.org, or watch a live video stream of the event at www.Q2Music.org

"I'm honored, as Music Director of the 2017 Ojai Music Festival, to convene this gathering of some of the most brilliant and important music-makers that I know. Our evening of music and conversation at The Greene Space offers a glimpse of the scope of this four-day event in Southern California, with a few of the incredible artists who will be on hand: George Lewis, whose opera Afterword will have its west coast premiere at the Festival; composer-trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, a collaborator and mentor of mine, will join me in duets from our project A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke; the dazzling violinist Jennifer Koh will perform some of the ancient and cutting-edge solo music from her sprawling repertoire; and multi-instrumentalist-composer Tyshawn Sorey will offer some of his latest creations." – Vijay Iyer, 2017 Music Director

(OJAI, CA) -- In advance of the upcoming 2017 Ojai Music Festival (June 8-11), the Festival and media partner WQXR's Q2 Music present an evening of discussion and performance on April 13, at 7pm, at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space in New York as part of their three-year partnership.

Q2's Helga Davis will host Ojai Music Director Vijay Iyer, alongside mentors and collaborators, to discuss and explore the upcoming 2017 Festival. In a variety of combinations, violinist Jennifer Koh, composer/trombonist George Lewis, trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, and composer/percussionist Tyshawn Sorey will join Mr. Iyer in conversation and performance. Detailed programming will be shared in coming weeks. Helga Davis, also a 2017 Ojai Music Festival guest artist in Courtney Bryan's riveting *Yet Unheard*, will focus the April 13 evening around the intersection of music composed and improvised. The groundbreaking Association for the Advancement of Creative Music (AACM) has engaged and subverted this dichotomy since its inception, and the AACM serves as an underlying thread in the April 13 event as well as the upcoming Ojai Music Festival.

This marks the second year of Ojai Music Festival events presented by Q2 Music at The Greene Space. Last spring's event featured Ojai's 2016 Music Director Peter Sellars, Dan Lippel, guitarist of the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), soprano Julia Bullock, and vocalist/pianist Leila Adu. The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space's mission is to galvanize conversations around the life, arts, and politics of New York and our world.

Tickets, April 13 at 7pm

Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased at TheGreeneSpace.org. The event will be webcast live on its website the evening of the event.

Ojai Music Festival and WQXR's Q2 Partnership

Launched in 2015, additional highlights of the 2017 partnership with WQXR's Q2 Music feature immersive access to select new music concerts at Q2Music.org beginning May 1, 2017, as well as a three-part series of special programs showcasing performances from the 2016 Festival, hosted by Ojai's 2016 Music Director Peter Sellars. Q2 Music audiences can also access performances from prior Festivals with hosts Mark Morris (2013 Music Director) and Steven Schick (2015 Music Director). Imagined as a multiyear collaboration, the Festival and Q2 Music aim to celebrate a shared artistic aesthetic, build audiences and connect respective communities.

About Q2 Music

Q2 Music is WQXR's online platform dedicated to contemporary classical composers, innovative ensembles and musical discovery. Its programming includes immersive festivals, insightful commentary from hosts such as composer Phil Kline and vocalist Helga Davis, full-length album streams, live webcasts and exclusive concert audio from local and national venues, and special events in front of live audiences at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WQXR in downtown New York City. Q2 Music produces *Meet the Composer* with host Nadia Sirota, a Peabody Award-winning interview podcast which mines the brains of today's leading composers, as well as *LPR Live*, a podcast which shares dynamic new-music performances from Greenwich Village's Le Poisson Rouge. Q2 Music is streamed live 24/7 at WQXR.org/Q2Music and is also available via the free WQXR App.

Ojai Music Festival, June 8-11, 2017

Of the upcoming Ojai Music Festival, Vijay Iyer commented, "When I was invited to take on the role of Music Director for the 2017 Ojai Music Festival, it was a shocking but validating proposition. As an

artist, I like to insert myself into situations where some might not necessarily imagine I belong. I have many different affinities musically, and also very real associations across different musical communities, generations, geographic locations, and traditions that speak to me and through me. Our 2017 Festival feels like a good opportunity to update the idea of what music is today. I know the hallowed history of this Festival and I've seen different versions of what it can be. I'm just glad that Tom Morris invited me to intervene, and to bring my people with me. I'm going to learn so much over those few days in June, and I believe everyone there will discover a great deal – not just about music, but about themselves."

For complete 2017 Ojai Music Festival information, please see the Festival calendar which follows this announcement and visit www.OjaiFestival.org. Experience the Festival in Ojai (June 8-11) or remotely via Ojai Live webcast (June 8-11); or visit Ojai at Berkeley (June 15-17).

Ojai Music Festival Tickets

Festival single tickets are available and may be purchased online at www.OjaiFestival.org or by calling (805) 646-2053. Tickets range from \$40 to \$150 for reserved seating and are \$15 for lawn tickets. Student and group discounts are also available.

Directions to Ojai and performance venues, as well as information regarding lodging, a concierge service, and other Ojai activities, are also available on the Ojai Music Festival web site.

Follow Festival updates at OjaiFestival.org, Facebook (www.Facebook.com/ojaifestival), and Twitter (@ojaifestivals).

Ojai Live webcast of 2017 Festival

Ojai Live begins on Thursday, June 8 with the evening concert at Libbey Bowl. The dynamic multi-camera live webcast brings the Ojai Music Festival to audiences around the world with live broadcasts of performances and interview segments. Watch *Ojai Live* at OjaiFestival.org.

Ojai at Berkeley

Marking the seventh year of artistic partnership, *Ojai at Berkeley* celebrates the dynamic nature of the Ojai Music Festival and of Cal Performances. As two distinct communities, Ojai and Berkeley are both known for intrepid artistic discovery, spirited intellect, and enduring engagement in the arts. Inaugurated in 2011, *Ojai at Berkeley* is a joint force that enables co-commissions and co-productions and allows artists to achieve more than could be imagined by each organization separately. *Ojai at Berkeley* follows the 2017 Ojai Music Festival and will take place from June 15-17 in Berkeley, CA. For more information visit CalPerformances.org.

Vijay Iyer, 2017 Ojai Music Festival Music Director

Composer-pianist Vijay Iyer is the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts at Harvard University. He was named *Downbeat* Magazine's Jazz Artist of the Year for 2012, 2015, and 2016, and he received a 2016 US Artists Fellowship, 2013 MacArthur Fellowship, a 2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, and a 2011 Grammy nomination. He has released twenty-one albums, including *A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke* (ECM, 2016) in duo with legendary composer-trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, named "Best New Music" by *Pitchfork*; *Break Stuff* (ECM, 2015) with the Vijay Iyer Trio, winner of the German Record Critics' Award for Album of the Year; the live score

to the film *RADHE RADHE: Rites of Holi* (ECM, 2014) by filmmaker Prashant Bhargava; and *Holding it Down: The Veterans' Dreams Project* (Pi Recordings, 2013), his third politically searing collaboration with poet-performer Mike Ladd, named Album of the Year in the *Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Iyer's compositions have been commissioned and premiered by Bang on a Can All-Stars, The Silk Road Ensemble, Ethel, Brentano Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, Imani Winds, American Composers Orchestra, International Contemporary Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra Leopoldinum, Matt Haimowitz, and Jennifer Koh. Mr. Iyer serves as Director of the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music.

About the Ojai Music Festival

From its founding in 1947, the Ojai Music Festival has created a place for groundbreaking musical experiences, bringing together innovative artists and curious audiences in an intimate, idyllic setting 80 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The Festival presents broad-ranging programs in unusual ways with an eclectic mix of rarely performed music, refreshing juxtapositions of musical styles, and works by today's composers. The four-day festival is an immersive experience with concerts, free community events, symposia, and gatherings. Considered a highlight of the international music summer season, Ojai has remained a leader in the classical music landscape for seven decades. Through its unique structure of the Artistic Director appointing an annual Music Director, Ojai has presented a "who's who" of music including Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, Olivier Messiaen, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Pierre Boulez, John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Robert Spano, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, David Robertson, Eighth Blackbird, George Benjamin, Dawn Upshaw, Leif Ove Andsnes, Mark Morris, Jeremy Denk, Steven Schick, and Peter Sellars.

The Festival, which enters its 71st year in 2017, is a nonprofit organization based in Ojai, California. The Board Chairman is David Nygren, President is Jamie Bennett, and Artistic Director is Thomas W. Morris.

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2017 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2017

2:00-5:00pm Ojai Valley Community Church

OJAI TALKS

Part I: The Art of Improvisation with Vijay Iyer and Ara Guzelimian

Part II: Music as Community with guest panelists moderated by Ara Guzelimian

8:00-10:00pm Libbey Bowl

EVENING CONCERT

VIJAY IYER *Emergence* (American premiere)

Vijay Iyer, piano

Stephan Crump, bass

Tyshawn Sorey, drums

ICE

Steven Schick, conductor

VIJAY IYER *Violin Concerto* (World premiere)
Commissioned by the Ojai Music Festival, Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, and Boston Symphony Orchestra

Jennifer Koh, violin

ICE

Steven Schick, conductor

Duo

Vijay Iyer, piano

Wadada Leo Smith, trumpet

FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2017

9:00-10:00am Zalk Theatre, Besant Hill School (*Ojai Member event*)
DAYBREAK CONCERT

JEN SHYU *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*

Jen Shyu, performer/composer

1:00-3:30pm Libbey Bowl
AFTERNOON CONCERT

PART I

Density 2036: music by Vijay Iyer, Tyshawn Sorey and others

Claire Chase, flute

PART II

Tyshawn Sorey Double Trio:

The Inner Spectrum of Variables

Tyshawn Sorey, drums

Cory Smythe, piano

Chern Hwei Fung, violin

Kyle Armbrust, viola

Rubin Kodheli, cello

Chris Tordini, bass

7:00-7:45pm Libbey Bowl

OJAI TALKS

The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM): Ongoing Impact with guest panelists moderated by Ara Guzelimian

8:00-10:00pm Libbey Bowl
EVENING CONCERT

GEORGE LEWIS *Afterword* (West Coast premiere)

Joelle Lamarre, soprano

Gwendolyn Brown, contralto

Julian Otis, tenor

ICE

Steven Schick, conductor

Sean Griffin, director

10:30-11:30pm Libbey Bowl
FREE LATE NIGHT

Bach & Beyond

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Partita in D Minor*

MISSY MAZZOLI *Dissolve, O My Heart*

LUCIANO BERIO *Sequenza* for solo violin

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN *Lachen Verlernt* for solo violin

Jennifer Koh, violin

Saturday June 10, 2017

9:00-10:00am Zalk Theatre, Besant Hill School (*Ojai Member event*)
DAYBREAK CONCERT

Nicole Mitchell, flute

ICE

1:00-3:30pm Libbey Bowl
AFTERNOON CONCERT

PART I

VIJAY IYER *Mozart Effects*

GYÖRGY KURTAG *Moments Musicaux*

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART *Quartet in Eb Major, K. 428*

Brentano Quartet

PART II

Conduction®

TYSHAWN SOREY *Autoschediasms for Creative Chamber Orchestra*

ICE

Tyshawn Sorey, leader

8:00-10:00pm Libbey Bowl
EVENING CONCERT

IGOR STRAVINSKY *Le sacre du printemps*
(arrangement by Cliff Colnot)

VIJAY IYER *RADHE RADHE: Rites of Holi*
A Film by Prashant Bhargava

Vijay Iyer, piano

Tyshawn Sorey, drums

ICE

Steven Schick, conductor

10:30-11:30pm Libbey Bowl
FREE LATE NIGHT

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Art of the Fugue* excerpts
Brentano Quartet

VIJAY IYER *Time, Place, Action*
Brentano Quartet
Vijay Iyer, piano

COURTNEY BRYAN *Yet Unheard* (WORLD PREMIERE of chamber version)
Text by Sharan Strange
Helga Davis, soprano
Joelle Lamarre, soprano
tba, contralto
Julian Otis, tenor
ICE
Steven Schick, conductor

Sunday June 11, 2017

10:00-11:00am Libbey Bowl FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

The Trio featuring
Muhai Richard Abrams, piano
Roscoe Mitchell, winds
George Lewis, trombone and electronics

1:00-3:00pm Libbey Bowl AFTERNOON CONCERT

Zakir Hussain, tabla
Vijay Iyer, piano
Rudresh Mahanthappa, saxophone
Aruna Sairam, singer

5:30-7:30pm Libbey Bowl CLOSING CONCERT

VIJAY IYER SEXTET
Vijay Iyer, piano
Stephan Crump, bass
Tyshawn Sorey, drums
Steve Lehman, alto saxophone
Graham Haynes, cornet and flugelhorn
Mark Shim, tenor saxophone

*Artists and programs subject to change.
Visit OjaiFestival.org for the latest updates.*