

JUNE 9-12, 2011

65th OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

THOMAS W. MORRIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DAWN UPSHAW MUSIC DIRECTOR

ARTISTS BIOS

PETER SELLARS, director

Renowned theater, opera, and festival director Peter Sellars is one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the performing arts in America and abroad. A visionary artist, Mr. Sellars is known for groundbreaking interpretations of classic works. Whether it is Mozart, Handel, Shakespeare, Sophocles, or the 16th-century Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, Peter Sellars strikes a universal chord with audiences, engaging contemporary social and political issues.

Mr. Sellars has staged operas at the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival, the Netherlands Opera, Opéra National de Paris, the Salzburg Festival, San Francisco Opera, and Santa Fe Opera, among others, establishing a reputation for bringing 20th-century and contemporary operas to the stage, including works by Olivier Messiaen, Paul Hindemith, and György Ligeti. Inspired by the compositions of Kaija Saariaho, Osvaldo Golijov, and Tan Dun, he has guided the creation of productions of their work that have expanded the repertoire of modern opera. He has been a driving force in the creation of many new works with longtime collaborator John Adams, including *Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, *El Niño*, and *Doctor Atomic*.

Recent Mr. Sellars projects include a staging of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex/Symphony of Psalms* for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Sydney Festival; a production of Shakespeare's *Othello* performed in Vienna, Bochum, Germany, and New York; and a critically acclaimed staging of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion* for the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra seen in Salzburg and Berlin.

Mr. Sellars has led several major arts festivals, including the 1990 and 1993 Los Angeles Festivals. In 2006, he was Artistic Director of New Crowned Hope, a month-long festival in Vienna for the city of Vienna's Mozart Year celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. His last appearance in Ojai was in 1992 directing the staged version of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with Music Director Pierre Boulez.

Peter Sellars is a professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA and Resident Curator of the Telluride Film Festival. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Erasmus Prize, the Sundance Institute Risk-Takers Award, and the Gish Prize, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Internationally renowned for inspired programming and the rapturous response of audiences and critics, the Australian Chamber Orchestra is a product of the country's vibrant, adventurous and inquiring spirit. In performances around Australia, around the world and on many recordings, the ACO moves hearts and stimulates minds with repertoire spanning six centuries and a vitality and virtuosity unmatched by other ensembles.

The ACO was founded in 1975 by John Painter. Every year, this ensemble presents performances of the highest standard to audiences around the world, including 10,000 subscribers across Australia. The ACO's

unique artistic style encompasses not only the masterworks of the classical repertoire, but innovative cross-artform projects and a vigorous commissioning program.

The outstanding Australian musician Richard Tognetti was appointed as Artistic Director and Lead Violin in 1989. Under his inspiring leadership, the ACO has performed as a flexible and versatile 'ensemble of soloists', on modern and period instruments, as a small chamber group, a small symphony orchestra, and as an electro-acoustic collective. In a nod to past traditions, only the cellists are seated – the resulting sense of energy and individuality is one of the most commented-upon elements of an ACO concert experience.

Regular international tours to Asia, Europe and the USA have drawn outstanding reviews for the ACO's performances at many of the world's prestigious concert halls, including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, London's Wigmore Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Vienna's Musikverein, Birmingham's Symphony Hall and Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center. Recent festival appearances include the BBC Proms, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Interlochen and New York's Mostly Mozart. The Australian Government recognizes the ACO's achievements by designating it as an international flagship arts company.

The ACO's dedication and musicianship has created warm relationships with such celebrated soloists as Emmanuel Pahud, Steven Isserlis, Dawn Upshaw, Imogen Cooper, Christian Lindberg, Joseph Tawadros, Melvyn Tan and Pieter Wispelwey. The ACO is renowned for collaborating with artists from diverse genres, including singers Tim Freedman, Neil Finn, Katie Noonan, Paul Capsis, Danny Spooner and Barry Humphries and visual artists Michael Leunig, Bill Henson, Shaun Tan and Jon Frank. Committed to Australian composition, the ACO has given 1700 performances of over 250 works by 80 Australian composers.

The ACO has made many acclaimed recordings, for labels including BIS, ABC Classics, Sony, Channel Classics, Hyperion, EMI, Chandos and Orfeo. In 2005 the Orchestra collaborated with pianist Angela Hewitt on the final instalment of her 10-year project to record all of Bach's keyboard music. This double-CD set for Hyperion was 'CD of the Month' for Gramophone magazine. Similar critical praise was lavished on the ACO's recording with Emmanuel Pahud of Vivaldi's flute concertos for EMI. Richard Tognetti and the ACO recorded Bach's violin concertos for ABC Classics (2006), winning one of three consecutive ARIA Awards for Richard Tognetti's Bach recordings. The ACO is featured in the documentary *Musical Renegades*, the *Classical Destinations II* television series screened internationally in 2008-9 and *Musica Surfica*, which has won awards at film festivals in Europe and America in 2008-9. In 2009, ABC Classics released a 2CD compilation celebrating Richard Tognetti's 20th anniversary with the ACO. The ACO currently records for the prestigious European label BIS.

Richard Tognetti, artistic director of ACO/violin

Australian violinist and conductor Richard Tognetti has established an international reputation for his compelling performances and artistic individualism. He studied at the Sydney Conservatorium with Alice Waten, in his home town of Wollongong with William Primrose, and at the Berne Conservatory (Switzerland) with Igor Ozim, where he was awarded the Tschumi Prize as the top graduate soloist in 1989. Later that year he returned to lead several performances of the ACO, and in November was appointed as Leader. He was subsequently appointed Artistic Director of the Orchestra.

Highlights of his career as director, soloist or chamber music partner include the Sydney Festival (as conductor of Mozart's opera *Mitridate*); and appearances with the Handel & Haydn Society (Boston), Hong Kong Philharmonic, Camerata Salzburg, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Nordic Chamber Orchestra. He is currently artistic director of the Maribor Festival in Slovenia; the first festival under his leadership was held in September 2008 and featured collaborations with European and Australian musicians and the European premiere of *Luminous*.

As a soloist Richard Tognetti has appeared on many occasions with the ACO and with the major Australian

symphonies, including the Australian premiere of Ligeti's Violin Concerto with the Sydney Symphony in 1998. He has collaborated with colleagues across various art forms and artistic styles, including Joseph Tawadros, Dawn Upshaw, James Crabb, Emmanuel Pahud, actor Jack Thompson, singers Katie Noonan, Neil Finn, Tim Freedman and Paul Capsis, photographer Bill Henson and poet/cartoonist Michael Leunig. In 2003, He was co-composer of the score for Peter Weir's *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*; violin tutor for its star, Russell Crowe; and he can also be heard performing on the award-winning soundtrack. In 2005, together with Michael Yezerksi he co-composed the soundtrack to Tom Carroll's surf film *Horrorscopes* and, in 2008, created *The Red Tree*, inspired by illustrator Shaun Tan's book.

Along with numerous recordings with the ACO, Richard Tognetti has recently recorded Bach's solo violin repertoire for ABC Classics. The unaccompanied sonatas and partitas were released in 2005 to critical acclaim and awarded the 2006 ARIA Award for Best Classical Album. The concertos were released in 2006 and awarded the 2007 ARIA for Best Classical Album. The final installment, the accompanied sonatas, was released in 2007 and recently collected the 2008 ARIA for Best Classical Album. Future recordings include a set of Mozart concertante violin works and the Dvorak Violin Concerto for the BIS label.

A passionate advocate for music education, Mr. Tognetti established the ACO's Education and Emerging Artists programs in 2005 and toured regional Australia with a concert based on the inspiring documentary film, *Musica Surfica* (recently awarded best feature at the New York Surf Film Festival). Richard Tognetti holds honorary doctorates from three Australian universities and was made a National Living Treasure in 1999.

MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA

Maria Schneider's music has been hailed by critics as "evocative, majestic, magical, heartstoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization."

She became widely known through the orchestra she founded in 1992. They appeared at Visiones in Greenwich Village every Monday night for a stretch of five years. Subsequently, the Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed at festivals and concert halls worldwide, and Ms. Schneider has commissioned works and appeared as a frequent guest-conductor throughout Europe, South America, Australia, and the U.S.

Commissions include the Norrbotten Big Band's and Danish Radio Orchestra's commission to arrange and conduct concerts with Toots Thielemans. Other commissioning organizations include the Metropole Orchestra in The Netherlands, Stuttgart Jazz Orchestra, Orchestre National de Jazz (*Recapitulation*), Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra (*El Viento*), Monterey Jazz Festival (*Scenes from Childhood, Willow Lake*), University of Miami Concert Jazz Band (*Three Romances*), Hunter College (*Concert in the Garden, Sky Blue*), Jazz at Lincoln Center (*Bulería, Soleá y Rumba*), Los Angeles Philharmonic Association (*Aires de Lando*) and Peter Sellars' New Crowned Hope Festival (*Cerulean Skies*).

Maria Schneider was also the recipient of a Doris Duke award to compose a dance work (*Dissolution*) in collaboration with Pilobolus. Her most recent work, *Carlos Drummond de Andrade Stories*, was commissioned by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for soprano Dawn Upshaw. She's presently working on a piece commissioned by the Kronos Quartet for a 2010 premiere. Schneider has a distinguished recording career as well. Her debut recording, *Evanescence*, was nominated for two 1995 GRAMMY Awards. Her second and third recordings, *Coming About* and *Allégresse* were also GRAMMY nominated, *Allégresse* being chosen by Time and Billboard magazines in their Top Ten Recordings of 2000, inclusive of all genres of music.

Her most recent recordings have brought two GRAMMY Awards, the first for *Concert in the Garden* (Best Large Ensemble Album), released only through her website (an ArtistShare® site). It became historic as the first record to win a GRAMMY with Internet-only sales. The second

GRAMMY was awarded for *Cerulean Skies* (Best Instrumental Composition). *Concert in the Garden* and her orchestra's latest album, *Sky Blue* (on which *Cerulean Skies* was recorded) were both named "Jazz Album of the Year" by the Jazz Journalists Association and the Downbeat Critics Poll. 2008 and 2009 brought further honors as she and her orchestra were awarded "Best Composer, Best Arranger and Best Big Band" from both the Jazz Journalist Association and the Downbeat Critics Poll.

RED FISH BLUE FISH, percussion ensemble

red fish blue fish is the resident percussion ensemble of the University of California, San Diego and functions as a laboratory for the development of new percussion techniques, sounds and music. The group has toured widely including performances at Lincoln Center and the Henry Street Settlement in New York City, the Agora Festival (Paris), the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella Series, the National Gallery of Art, the Centro des Bellas Artes in Mexico City, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and the Tapei International Percussion Conference, in addition to a regular series of concerts at the University of California, San Diego. The group has recorded for "Tzadik" and Mode Records. A recently released a 3CD set of the complete percussion works of Iannis Xenakis on Mode records was received with great critical acclaim. A DVD of Roger Reynold's "Sanctuary" for percussion quartet and soloist was released by Mode Records in late 2010, and another DVD of the entire early percussion music of Karlheinz Stockhausen will be released by red fish blue fish on Mode Records in 2011.

GILBERT KALISH, piano

Gilbert Kalish leads a musical life of unusual variety and breadth. His profound influence on the musical community as educator, and as pianist in myriad performances and recordings, has established him as a major figure in American music making. A native New Yorker and graduate of Columbia College, Mr. Kalish studied with Leonard Shure, Julius Hereford and Isabella Vengerova. He was the pianist of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players for 30 years and was a founding member of the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, a group devoted to new music that flourished during the 1960's and 70's. He is a frequent guest artist with many of the world's most distinguished chamber ensembles. His thirty-year partnership with the great mezzo-soprano Jan DeGaetani was universally recognized as one of the most remarkable artistic collaborations of our time. He maintains longstanding duos with the cellists Timothy Eddy and Joel Krosnick, and he appears frequently with soprano Dawn Upshaw and was last seen in Ojai with Ms. Upshaw in 2008.

As an educator he is Distinguished Professor and Head of Performance Activities at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. From 1968-1997 he was a faculty member of the Tanglewood Music Center and served as the "Chairman of the Faculty" at Tanglewood from 1985-1997. He often serves as guest artist at distinguished music institutions such as The Banff Centre, and the Steans Institute at Ravinia, and the Marlboro Festival. Mr. Kalish's discography of some 100 recordings encompasses classical repertory, 20th century masterworks and new compositions. Of special note are his solo recordings of Charles Ives' Concord Sonata and Sonatas of Joseph Haydn, an immense discography of vocal music with Jan DeGaetani and landmarks of the 20th century by composers such as Carter, Crumb, Shapey and Schoenberg. In 2002, he was the recipient of Chamber Music America's Service Award for his exceptional contributions in the field of chamber music.

For more artist information, visit the [Ojai Festival website](#).

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Ojai Music Festival: Gina Gutierrez, ggutierrez@ojaifestival.org
National/International: Nikki Scandalios, nikki@scandaliospr.com
Regional: Laura Cohen, lcmediapr@gmail.com

(805) 646-2094
(704) 340-4094
(310) 867-3897