

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

ARTISTS QUOTES ABOUT THE OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

“I like this small community, and I like the fact that this is **a very compact festival.**”

- *Pierre Boulez*

“Ojai is very different, of course. It’s really predicated upon the notion of **a very intelligent, musically aware audience** that is interested in hearing unusual works.”

- *John Adams*

“I love the town, and I admire what the festival has stood for since its inception. **It has always been a very adventurous festival**, one that has encouraged new artists and very interesting elements of the avant-garde. At the same time, it has focused on the qualities of the recognized masterpieces of the musical civilization. I don’t mean that to sound ponderous. Everything about Ojai is so relaxed and natural. That’s one of the great charms of being there.”

- *Michael Tilson Thomas*

“Looking back over Ojai history, the Festivals has a history of giving people a chance before they become really recognized for their talents. Stravinsky, Boulez, Tilson Thomas. It is an important pivotal point for a lot of artists... **And there is the unusual mingling with people. Real people. The absence of slickness. No pretense. No feigning or pretending. That is refreshing**”

- *Kent Nagano*

"Ojai's marvelous and improbably large fan-base reacted to everything that we threw at them with visible fascination, audible excitement and a spirit of adventure that I've not seen elsewhere!"

- *eighth blackbird*

“Reports over the years had lead me to believe I would enjoy Ojai – but not to the degree I experienced last week. **What an extraordinary place, what a wonderful venue to perform, what a remarkable audience**...added to that, the beauty of the valley, the glory of the light, the stars and the birdsong...”

- *George Benjamin*

"The first time I visited, in 2001, I had no idea of the beauties to be found in this eclectic small town that has played host to some of music's greatest luminaries. **There is a very special spirit of collaboration here, fostered in part by the gorgeous natural setting and also by the friendly engagement of everyone involved.** Singing the music of John Adams, Luciano Berio, and Osvaldo Golijov in three Ojai Festivals over the past decade has been a true highlight for me."

- *Dawn Upshaw*

"Ojai is like a dream. For me personally, it was a great reality where my two cultures met. I couldn't believe that I was staying right there on famous Ventura beach, the heart and soul of California surfing. **And there up the hill in Ojai was the heart and soul of American great music-making.**"

- *Richard Tognetti (Australian Chamber Orchestra)*