

# OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Forty-eight Musicians Including Students from Cal Arts, UCSD, UCSB, Long Beach State's Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, Chapman University and The Colburn School Descend on Scenic Ojai's Libbey Park and Libbey Bowl for the West Coast Premiere of John Luther Adams' Inuksuit**

**Free Community Event Launches the 2012 Ojai Music Festival**

**June 7, 2012 at 5 PM**

**April 16, 2012** - Ojai, California — Forty-eight percussionists and piccolo players, comprised of both professional musicians and current and former students from Cal Arts, UCSD (red fish blue fish), UCSB, Cal State Long Beach's Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, Chapman University, and The Colburn School descend on scenic Ojai's Libbey Park and Libbey Bowl for the launch of the 66<sup>th</sup> Ojai Music Festival with the West Coast premiere of *Inuksuit* - an 80-minute percussion work composed by John Luther Adams. The extraordinary work was written expressly to be performed outside by between 9 and 99 percussionists and piccolo players. In Ojai, *Inuksuit* will be performed by forty-eight players stationed throughout Libbey Park and Libbey Bowl. In this truly immersive experience, the players move throughout the park, while audience members are free to wander through them as they play. This highly anticipated classical "happening" was flagged by LA Weekly as one of the top five "*Classical Music Concerts we're Most Looking Forward to in 2012.*"

*Inuksuit* is directed by percussionist/conductor Steven Schick. John Luther Adams wrote the piece as a wedding present to Schick and his wife of four years, Brenda. Commenting on the uniqueness this particular performance, Steven Schick noted, "Most other performances (that I have been involved with) have been apart from communities via a wilderness setting. This performance is designed to be an integral part of the Ojai community by being placed in the park and downtown area. I think it places *Inuksuit* at the heart of Ojai."

*Inuksuit* originally premiered in 2009 on a mountainside in Banff, Canada. Of the New York premiere in 2011 at Park Avenue Armory's Drill Hall, *New Yorker's* Alex Ross noted, "It is tricky to write about an event such as this. Because both ensemble and audience were in motion, no two perceptions of the performance were the same, and no definitive record of it can exist. Furthermore, anyone who ventures to declare in a public forum that *Inuksuit* was one of the most rapturous experiences of his listening life—that is how I felt, and I wasn't the only one—might be suspected of harboring hippie-dippie tendencies. The work is not explicitly political, nor is it the formal expression of an individual sensibility, although John Luther Adams certainly deserved the ecstatic and prolonged ovation that greeted him when he acknowledged the crowd from the center of the Drill Hall. In the end, several young couples seemed to deliver the most incisive commentary when, amid the obliterating tidal wave of sound, they began making out."

The West Coast premiere of *Inuksuit* - is preceded at 3:30 PM by the first installment of the **Ojai Talks** series moderated by former Festival Artistic Director and Dean of the Julliard School Ara Guzelimian. Titled "Music and Place – A Creative Environment," Guzelimian leads a discussion of the groundbreaking work with percussionist Steven Schick and explores Schick's musical relationship with composer John Luther Adams.

*Inuksuit* launches the 66th annual Ojai Music Festival which takes place from June 7 to June 10, 2012, and explores the musical interests of this year's music director, Leif Ove Andsnes. Joining Mr. Andsnes will be many of his favorite artistic collaborators: the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra; pianist Marc-André Hamelin; conductor/composer Reinbert de Leeuw; clarinetist Martin Fröst; violist Antoine Tamestit; mezzo-soprano Christianne Stotijn; actress Barbara Sukowa; and percussionist Steven Schick.

With an extensive series of concerts and events, the 66<sup>th</sup> Ojai Music Festival marks a convergence of

exceptional artists, stimulating and adventurous repertoire, one of the most remarkable audiences for music anywhere, and the idyllic setting of Ojai in a four-day immersion of almost continual music-making, discussion and community. In addition to the Ojai Music Festival's core concerts, Ojai offers a diverse mix of events interspersed throughout the weekend to enhance the Festival experience and further contextualize music's place in our world today.

New to 2012, the Ojai Music Festival will offer live video streaming of **Ojai Concerts** and **Ojai Talks**, moderated by a variety of hosts. **Ojai Virtual** may be accessed live, and via archives, on the Festival website at [OjaiFestival.org](http://OjaiFestival.org). In addition, broadcasts of Ojai Music Festival performances will be produced by American Public Media's *Performance Today*, America's most popular classical music radio program, with more than 1.3 million weekly listeners on more than 260 stations around the country.

From June 12-14 the Ojai Music Festival hits the road for **Ojai North!** at which Ojai programs and artists will be in residence on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley highlighting both reprises of Ojai concerts, as well as joint commissions and co-productions. 2012 marks the second year of this multi-year partnership. Additional information on *Ojai North!* can be found at [OjaiFestival.org](http://OjaiFestival.org) and [CalPerformances.org](http://CalPerformances.org).

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The Ojai Music Festival continues its unmatched musical legacy and international reputation for artistic excellence, adventurous programs, and creative artistic camaraderie. Ojai's tradition of inviting a new music director for each season guarantees variety and vitality across festivals. Choreographer Mark Morris will serve as the Festival's 2013 Music Director and pianist Jeremy Denk will return to Ojai as the 2014 Music Director. Since 1947, the Ojai Valley has remained the quintessential haven for passionate music lovers and trailblazing artists, and serves as a creative laboratory where extraordinary music-making and provocative discussions flourish. Thomas W. Morris, Artistic Director since 2004, and each appointed music director partner to create programs of wide-ranging repertoire and unexpected connections. Among the Festival's diverse music directors have been such renowned musical personalities as John Adams, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, George Benjamin, Pierre Boulez, Aaron Copland, Ingolf Dahl, Peter Maxwell Davies, eighth blackbird, Lukas Foss, John Harbison, Oliver Knussen, Kent Nagano, David Robertson, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Robert Spano, Igor Stravinsky, Michael Tilson Thomas, Mitsuko Uchida and Dawn Upshaw. Considered a highlight of the summer classical music season, the Ojai Music Festival is a four-day series of concerts, symposia, and auxiliary events set in the idyllic Ojai Valley, known as California's Shangri-la. Located 90 miles northwest of Los Angeles, Ojai Music Festival concerts take place at the newly renovated outdoor Libbey Bowl, on a site held sacred by the Chumash Indians.

Tickets, including discounted tickets for students, are available online at [OjaiFestival.org](http://OjaiFestival.org) or by calling the Box Office at 805-646-2053.

Follow Festival updates at [OjaiFestival.org](http://OjaiFestival.org), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OjaiFestival), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OjaiFestival).

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**For photos, additional bios, and Ojai information visit the press page at [OjaiFestival.org](http://OjaiFestival.org).**

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## Editors please note:

66<sup>th</sup> OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thursday, June 7- Sunday, June 10, 2012

Thomas W. Morris, Artistic Director

Leif Ove Andsnes, Music Director

## Thursday June 7, 2012

Ojai Talks

Music and Place: A Creative Environment

3:30pm-4:30pm at the Ojai Theater

Tickets: \$35

Ara Guzelimian, symposium director

Steven Schick, percussion

Ojai in the Park

*Inuksuit*

5pm throughout Libbey Park and the Libbey Bowl

FREE

Steven Schick, director, percussion

### Percussionists:

Abby Savell

Amanda Duncan, Long Beach State

Anthony Paul Garcia, UCSB

Axel Clarke, Long Beach State

Ayaka Ozaki, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Ben Donlon, UCSB

Benjamin Phelps

Bonnie Whiting Smith, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Brian Foreman, CalArts

Brietta Greger, Chapman University

Craig Shields, Chapman University

Damion Frigillana, Long Beach State

Dan Ogrodnik, CalArts

Dan Savell

Daniel Pate, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Daniel Tones, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Dave Gerhart, Long Beach State

David Johnson, CalArts

Derek Tywoniuk, Colburn School

Dominique LaRussa, CalArts

Dustin Donahue, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Eleasa Sokolski, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Eric Derr, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Isaac Watts, CalArts

Jessica Cameron, Long Beach State

Jodie Landau, CalArts

Joe Beribak, Colburn School

Jon Nathan, UCSB

Jonathan Hepfer, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Jordan Curcuruto, Chapman University

Joy Liu, Chapman University

Justin DeHart, Los Angeles Percussion Quartet

Katy La Favre, Colburn School

Kjell Nordeson, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Lauren Potts, Chapman University

Leah Bowden, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Louise Devenish, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Matt Richards, UCSB

Matthew Cook, Los Angeles Percussion Quartet

Nick Baker, CalArts

Nolan Petrehn, Chapman University

Sean Woodman, CalArts

Stephen Solook, UCSD (Red fish blue fish)

Tony Gennaro, CalArts

Yumi Lee

### Piccolo Players

Alice Teyssler, UCSD

Laura Walter

Rachel Beetz, UCSD