

# OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

## SELECT EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS

“Founded and sequestered in a paradisiacal hamlet in southern California, the Ojai Festival closely guarded its musical glories for 65 years. Now this most unusual and forward-looking of artistic celebrations has begun to travel; thanks to a multi-year residency arrangement with events organiser Cal Performances”

- *Financial Times*

“Ojai has earned its reputation as one of the most important events on the annual American cultural calendar.”

- *Gramophone*

“No arm’s-length tolerance of new music here. Upscale locals, Los Angeles intelligentsia and out-of-towners crowd Libbey Bowl’s near-primitive outdoor facilities for four days and **devour music normal audiences might greet with bewilderment.**”

- *New York Times*

“There is nothing dutiful about the approach of either the performers or the audience, but **a truly festive spirit in the way they come together** for this annual long weekend. Few other audiences are as open-minded or curious as those who gather on the benches or lawns of Libbey Bowl in Ojai’s park.

- *Sunday Telegraph*

“The Ojai faithful – an **audience prized for its open minds** and congeniality – proved ever faithful.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“If the music wafting on this valley’s breezes tells us anything, it’s that **history lives at Ojai.**”

- *Wall Street Journal*

“No walls, no floor, no ceiling, no acoustic paneling. Just grass, trees, birds, bees, and earnest music making ... Ojai isn’t quite a fantasy island in the South Pacific, but its surreal, atmospheric beauty isn’t far removed ... Who would have though that this quiet unassuming city ... would, for one weekend a year, become **a mecca for today’s contemporary music intelligentsia** and maintain a loyal following in the process?”

- *Symphony Magazine*

“Then there are the birds and the frogs that provide their own ambient accompaniment, the sun dappling through the sycamores that overhang the Libbey Bowl, the moon rising and the

glimmer of stars, wandering the arcade and art fair, and **the camaraderie of sharing four days of music that make up the Ojai festival experience.**"

- *Los Angeles Daily News*

"Ojai is an anomaly: small but **internationally influential**, primitive yet sophisticated."

- *New York Times*

"It's [The Festival] the rubbing-together of the primitive and the sophisticated that lends Ojai its charm. The outdoor setting removes the preciousness from serious musical endeavour without compromising standards, while **its intimacy seals the performer-audience relationship...**"

- *Financial Times*

"... **legendary in new-music circles.** Here in the foothills 85 miles north of Los Angeles, Stravinsky, Copland, Boulez, Messiaen, Lukas Foss, Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Salonen, Mitsuko Uchida, Emanuel Ax, and the Emerson String Quartet have all found a brief musical haven."

- *Gramophone*

"...it's the interaction of extraordinary composers, conductors and performers that gives Ojai its symbiotic essence and makes it **a small but mighty festival.**"

- *Ventura County Star*

"...compact but wide-ranging... [one of] the summer's best performing arts festivals."

- *Travel & Leisure Magazine*

"...this extraordinary weekend, **its triumphant proclamation of the mingled roles of music and the human spirit.**"

- *LA Weekly*

"In this case, it was not Vienna, nor Berlin, but the small festival of Ojai that – as far as the interpretation of great symphonic works is concerned – could be seen as **the hub of the musical world.**"

- *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

"The annual **Ojai Festival is a miniature, less expensive California version of Salzburg** — an out-of-the-way place where passionate musicians, critics and fans can gather, schmooze and pontificate, and in between listen to some world-class music."

- *Andante*