

# OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

## ARTISTS QUOTES

"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)***

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- ***Pierre Boulez***

*"I'm incredibly grateful to the town of Ojai and the place, and all the ridiculous amount of people here who help make this mildly insane weekend of music possible."*

- ***Jeremy Denk***

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"...Ojai has the best audience in the world."

- ***Leif Ove Andsnes***

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