

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

2017 Ojai Music Festival Music Director Vijay Iyer shares initial programming for 71st Festival June 8-11, 2017

“Musical genre is a twentieth-century concept. Today we can move beyond the dated classification of music into genres like 'jazz,' 'classical,' 'experimental,' and so on; instead there are only communities, and their different ways of making, sharing, and experiencing music. Communities are fluid, porous, and dynamic and can intersect or overlap; you might participate in multiple communities at once. What you will see and hear next year at Ojai is a spectrum of master musicians from disparate communities – composers, performers, improvisers – whose work spans many different systems and approaches. What they have in common, and what binds all of us, is that we listen to each other, and we find ways of making music together.”
- Vijay Iyer, 2017 Music Director.

(June 7, 2016– Ojai, California) – As the Ojai Music Festival anticipates this week’s 70th Festival (June 9-12, 2016) with Music Director Peter Sellars, the Festival’s 2017 Music Director Vijay Iyer and Artistic Director Thomas W. Morris share initial programming for the 71st Festival, June 8-11, 2017.

“Vijay Iyer is one of the most creative artists I know, and his breadth of musicianship, intellect, and curiosity made him an irresistible choice to be the 2017 Music Director. Not only does Vijay possess an extraordinary range of musical collaborators, many of whom will join him in Ojai, but he is devising a program centered on the very creativity of producing music – from composition to performing to improvising,” said Thomas W. Morris. “Joining him will be returning Ojai family, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) with conductor, and Ojai’s 2015 Music Director, Steven Schick, Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam, and percussionist Tyshawn Sorey. Among the artists who will make their Ojai debuts in 2017 are violinist Jennifer Koh, the Vijay Iyer Trio and Sextet, and composer-performers Wadada Leo Smith and Steve Lehman.”

2017 Festival programming will feature the world premiere of a commissioned violin concerto by Vijay Iyer for violinist Jennifer Koh; the West Coast premiere of George Lewis’ *Afterword: The AACM (as) Opera*, based on his award-winning book *A Power Stronger than Itself*; Stravinsky’s *Le Sacré du Printemps* in a new arrangement for ICE by Cliff Colnot; and *Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi* – film by Prashant Bhargava with music by Vijay Iyer, performed with ICE. Additional programming will be announced in the fall.

Vijay Iyer

The 2017 Festival introduces composer-pianist Vijay Iyer (pronounced “VID-jay EYE-yer”) as Music Director. A Grammy nominee, Iyer was named *DownBeat* Magazine’s 2015 Artist of the Year and 2014 Pianist of the Year, a 2013 MacArthur Fellow, and a 2012 Doris Duke

Performing Artist. He has released over twenty recordings under his own name. The latest, on the ECM label, include *A Cosmic Rhythm With Each Stroke* (2016), a duo recording with trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith; *Mutations*, featuring his compositions for piano, string quartet, and electronics; *Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi*, a film by Prashant Bhargava, with Iyer's score performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE); and *Break Stuff*, featuring the Vijay Iyer Trio. Iyer is the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts in the Department of Music at Harvard University, and the director of the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music. His compositions have been commissioned by Arturo O'Farrill, American Composers Orchestra, Bang on a Can All-Stars, Brentano Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, Imani Winds, ICE, Jennifer Koh, Matt Haimovitz, and Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. He is a Steinway artist.

Thomas W. Morris, Artistic Director

Thomas W. Morris was appointed Artistic Director of the Ojai Music Festival starting with the 2004 Festival. Morris is recognized as one of the most innovative leaders in the orchestra industry and served as the long-time chief executive of both The Cleveland Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He is currently active nationally and internationally as a consultant, lecturer, teacher, and writer.

As Artistic Director of the 70-year-old Festival, Morris is responsible for artistic planning and each year appoints a music director with whom he collaborates on shaping the Festival's programming. During his decade-long tenure, audiences have increased and the scope of the Festival has expanded, most recently to include a collaborative partnership, Ojai at Berkeley, with Cal Performances at UC Berkeley.

Morris was a founding director of Spring for Music at New York's Carnegie Hall and served as the project's artistic director. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Interlochen Center for the Arts. He is also an accomplished percussionist.

About the Ojai Music Festival

From its founding in 1947, the Ojai Music Festival has created a place for groundbreaking musical experiences, bringing together innovative artists and curious audiences in an intimate, idyllic setting 80 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The Festival presents broad-ranging programs in unusual ways with an eclectic mix of rarely performed music, refreshing juxtapositions of musical styles, and works by today's composers. The four-day festival is a complete immersive experience with concerts, free community events, symposia, and gatherings. Considered a highlight of the international music summer season, Ojai has remained a leader in the classical music landscape for seven decades.

Through its unique structure of the Artistic Director appointing an annual Music Director, Ojai has presented a "who's who" of music including: Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, Olivier Messiaen, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Pierre Boulez, John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Robert Spano, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, David Robertson, eighth blackbird, George Benjamin, Dawn Upshaw, Leif Ove Andsnes, Mark Morris, Jeremy Denk, and Steven Schick.

Following the upcoming 70th Festival with Peter Sellars, Ojai will welcome MacArthur Fellow Vijay Iyer in 2017 (June 8-11). Future music directors are Esa-Pekka Salonen (June 7-10, 2018), soprano/conductor Barbara Hannigan (June 6-9, 2019), violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja (June 11-14, 2020), and pianist Mitsuko Uchida (June 10-13, 2021).

Remote Access to the Ojai Music Festival

The Ojai Music Festival continues to draw thousands of curious and engaged music enthusiasts from across the country. As tickets remain in high demand, Ojai now includes free digital access to the Festival experience through live video streaming at www.Ojaifestival.org and on the radio with media partners Classical KUSC and WQXR's Q2. Visit www.Ojaifestival.org for more details.

Series Passes for 2017 Ojai Music Festival

Advance 2017 series subscriptions will be available for purchase during the Festival weekend and online immediately after the 2016 Festival at www.Ojaifestival.org.

Single Tickets for 2016 Ojai Music Festival

Single tickets for the 2016 Ojai Music Festival, June 9-12, are on sale online at OjaiFestival.org and by calling (805) 646-2053. Tickets start at \$40 for reserved seating, lawn tickets at \$15, and \$45 for Ojai Talks.

Directions to Ojai and Libbey Bowl, as well as information about lodging, concierge services for visitors, and other Ojai activities, are available on the Festival website. Follow Festival updates at OjaiFestival.org, Facebook ([Facebook.com/ojaifestival](https://www.facebook.com/ojaifestival)), and Twitter ([@ojaifestivals](https://twitter.com/ojaifestivals)).

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