OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL
0610-0613 2027
CHRIS THILE MUSIC DIRECTOR

2027 Music Director Chris Thile and Festival Artistic Director Teddy Abrams Announce the 81st Ojai Music Festival: June 10-13, 2027



Ojai welcomes new and returning collaborators to the 2027 Festival: ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra), Roomful of Teeth, Wild Up, Ambrose Akinmusire (trumpet), Timo Andres (composer/piano), Mingjia Chen (composer/vocalist), Gabriel Kahane (composer/conductor), David Kaplan (piano), Carla Kihlstedt (composer/violin), Sullivan Fortner (composer/piano), Edgar Meyer (composer/bass), Cécile McLorin Salvant (composer/singer-songwriter), and Caroline Shaw (composer/violinist/singer)

Highlights of the 2027 Festival Programming:

- **Eight world premieres of Ojai commissions including new works by Mingjia Chen, Carla Kihlstedt, Andrew Norman, Gabriel Kahane, and Timo Andres as well as a revised version of a work by Andrew Norman and a new concert version of Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* with Cécile McLorin Salvant, Sullivan Fortner, and Chris Thile; and the West C oast premiere of a new work for string orchestra by Edgar Meyer**
- **Multiple new works add to the mandolin repertoire centered on a new solo piece by Andrew Norman, a mandolin and piano sonata by Timo Andres, and a work by Carla Kihlstedt for violin, bass, and mandolin**
- **Featured throughout the Festival are works by Caroline Shaw, Bartók, Gérard Grisey, Edgar Meyer, Carla Kihlstedt, Gabriel Kahane, Beethoven, Timo Andres, and others**
- **Diverse offerings wrap the music with films, discussions, music pop-ups, gatherings, moments of respite, and family-friendly programming**

"For adventurous musicians and concertgoers, the Ojai Music Festival is a kind of Atlantis: emerging annually to remind us that our wildest hopes and dreams of music that expands our world — and a world that expands our music — are not only possible but waiting for us, one step ahead of summer, the sea, and anything we've heard before.

"I pinched myself all through the call where Teddy Abrams asked if I would consider being the Music Director for the 2027 edition. A mandate to share music and musicians who have challenged and changed my perception of what great music can be/do with a community of listeners who crave exactly that in a performance experience? YES, PLEASE.

"And so, Teddy and I have embarked on the most euphoria-inducing of curatorial quests. The thought of witnessing new work from Andrew and Cécile, performing Shaw and Meyer WITH SHAW AND MEYER, as they seemingly coax the sound up from the soil of that preposterously beautiful valley and then out through their fellow musical explorers' mouths and hands… heaven. The echo of next year's Ojai Music Festival is already dancing through our heads, and I can't wait for you to hear it."
— Chris Thile, 2027 Music Director

(Ojai CA – November 17, 2026) – The 81st Ojai Music Festival, taking place June 10 to 13, 2027, welcomes GRAMMY Award–winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and MacArthur Fellow Chris Thile as Music Director. Together with Festival Artistic and Executive Director Teddy Abrams, Thile announces initial programming highlights for the upcoming Festival, which marks his first Ojai appearance. Since the late 1940s, the Ojai Music Festival has selected a new Music Director each year, bringing renewed vitality and diverse programming to each Festival.

“We are thrilled to announce details of the 2027 Festival with the brilliant Chris Thile as Music Director,” said Artistic and Executive Director Teddy Abrams. “The programming covers a remarkably broad range of musical styles and formats, offering a window into Chris’s mind and creative genius. Patterns in programming emerge, from Ojai-commissioned projects by composer-performers such as Edgar Meyer, Caroline Shaw, Gabriel Kahane, and Timo Andres, to a series of large-scale dramatic compositions including a new version of Kurt Weill’s *The Threepenny Opera* and Carla Kihlstedt’s *26 Little Deaths*.”

“Chris Thile’s varied musical interests are represented by the programming of some of his favorite contemporary and classical composers: Grisey, Thomas Adès, and Andrew Norman sit comfortably with Bach, Bartok, and Beethoven as a musical world unfolds throughout the Festival,” added Abrams. “It is particularly exciting to announce the exceptional resident ensembles: ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra), Roomful of Teeth, and Wild Up, plus a full lineup of some of the world’s most exciting and dynamic composers all coming to Ojai to make music at this legendary, singular Festival.”

THE MUSIC

Central to the 2027 Festival, which welcomes composer-performers as resident artists, are eight world premieres of works commissioned by Ojai. The opening concert of the Festival weekend will include a new celebratory work by Mingjia Chen written for the entire Ojai 2027 artist roster. Thile, who is at the forefront of the mandolin renaissance, adds multiple new works to the instrument’s repertoire during the upcoming Festival. A mandolin and piano sonata by Timo Andres; a work by Carla Kihlstedt for violin, bass, and mandolin; and a work by Andrew Norman dramatically expand the catalogue of compositions for mandolin into the modern era.

In their first collaborations with Ojai, Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner are working with Thile to develop a new concert version of Kurt Weill’s *The Threepenny Opera*, which will receive its world premiere at the 2027 Festival. Salvant has famously championed songs (such as “Pirate Jenny”) from Weill’s *Threepenny Opera,* a satire of capitalism set in London’s criminal underworld.

Threaded through the Festival are new works by Edgar Meyer, who redefined the double bass, inspiring a generation of players with his technical innovation, genre-crossing artistry, and compositions that have expanded the instrument’s role in contemporary music. In addition to her new work for violin, bass, and mandolin, the Festival will showcase Carla Kihlstedt’s *26 Little Deaths*, an hour-long cycle of 26 darkly humorous miniatures for singing violinist and chamber orchestra, inspired by Edward Gorey’s macabre alphabet book *The Gashlycrumb Tinies*.

A new concerto by Gabriel Kahane for trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire will offer a blend of improvisation with more formal compositional elements and represents Kahane’s first concerto for trumpet. Co-commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Timo Andres’s new work for piano and strings will be performed by Andres as soloist with ECCO. The group will present the West Coast premiere of a new work for string orchestra by Edgar Meyer, which is co-commissioned by Ojai Music

Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, Music Mondays (NYC), Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Skaneateles Festival.

Throughout the Festival, additional works by 2027 composer-performers will be heard including pieces by Caroline Shaw, Edgar Meyer, Carla Kihlstedt, Gabriel Kahane, Timo Andres, and others. These stand alongside works by Beethoven, Béla Bartók, and Gérard Grisey with his landmark *Vortex Temporum* for piano and five instruments, which spins a simple whirling arpeggio borrowed from Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* through three different scales of time, from the slow breathing of whales to the frantic pace of insects, to explore how we perceive musical time.

Additional programming details will be announced in spring 2027.

2027 RESIDENT ARTISTS

Composer/trumpeter **Ambrose Akinmusire** is an artist in the truest sense of the word. Akinmusire has spent the last 20 years connecting worlds, bringing diverse influences and an intutitive flair for innovation to his work, whether garnering four GRAMMY nominations, releasing albums on labels like Blue Note and Nonesuch, collaborating with choreographers and filmmakers, or as an educator in his position as Director of Jazz at Stanford University. Widely acclaimed, he is shaping the cultural conversation beyond music as one of the most urgent creative voices in contemporary America.

Timo Andres's current season centers on a collaboration with pianist Aaron Diehl: a two-piano recital featuring a new Andres work at Carnegie Hall, plus Diehl's performances of Andres's 2024 concerto *Made of Tunes* with the Minnesota and Cleveland Orchestras. Andres will perform his concerto *The Blind Banister* with the Maryland Symphony and is writing new commissions for several artists. Recent highlights include a sold-out Carnegie Hall solo debut, a Tony nomination, a GRAMMY Award nomination, and international performances. Andres last appeared in Ojai for the 75th Festival held in September 2021 with John Adams as Music Director.

Mingjia Chen sings, composes, improvises, writes songs, and makes drawings in Los Angeles/ Toronto. In addition to solo singing, she is a member of Roomful of Teeth and frequent performer of works by Meara O'Reilly and Ted Hearne (Big Ears, Toronto Jazz Festival, LACMA, Barbican, MET). As a composer, she has been commissioned by Roomful of Teeth, the American Composers' Forum, NOW Ensemble, and Isaura Quartet (LA Phil's Noon to Midnight Festival). Her debut solo LP *star, star* came out in 2023 on New Amsterdam Records. She is described as "one to watch" by *I Care If You Listen,* "(possessing a) velvety soprano" by *NPR music*, and "beautiful, mature and exceptionally coherent" by the *Whole Note*.

For more than a decade, **Sullivan Fortner** has been stretching deep-rooted talents as a pianist, composer, band leader, and uncompromising individualist. The GRAMMY Award–winning artist and recipient of the 2026 Larry J. Bell Jazz Artist Award has garnered international praise as a leader and a fierce collaborator.

Composer/singer-songwriter/theatre actor/writer **Gabriel Kahane** has established a diverse career that has brought him from rock clubs and concert halls to off-Broadway theaters and beyond, where he is known for tackling politically thorny subject matter with grace and complexity. His wide-ranging discography includes five albums as a singer-songwriter, several orchestral projects, and a disc of chamber music, as well as various other collaborative albums. He has worked with an array of artists spanning the aesthetic gamut.

David Kaplan is an acclaimed pianist and chamber musician. Based in Los Angeles, he has garnered praise for his performances, being described as "excellent and adventurous" by *The New York Times* and noted for his “grace and fire” by the *Boston Globe*. Kaplan has consistently drawn critical acclaim for programs that creatively interweave classical, contemporary, and newly commissioned works. He currently serves as the Assistant Professor and Inaugural Shapiro Family Chair in Piano Performance at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Carla Kihlstedt is a composer, collaborator, violinist, singer, improviser, educator, and instigator. Her musical voice is grounded in the economy and immediacy of song form, which allows her to explore complex worlds — the ocean, dreams, imaginary creatures, the machine age, quarantine — through many different lenses. Her last Ojai Music Festival appearance was in 2016 with Music Director Peter Sellars.

In demand as both a bassist and a composer, **Edgar Meyer** has formed a role in the music world unlike any other. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as “…the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively un-chronicled history of his instrument,” Meyer’s unparalleled technique and musicianship in combination with his gift for composition have brought him to the fore, where he is appreciated by a vast, varied audience. His uniqueness in the field was recognized by a MacArthur Award in 2002.

Andrew Norman is a composer, educator, and advocate for the music of others. Recently praised as “the leading American composer of his generation” by the *Los Angeles Times*, and “one of the most gifted and respected composers of his generation” by *The New York Times*, Norman has established himself as a significant voice in American classical music. Norman’s work was last performed at the 2026 Festival with Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and during the 2014 Festival with Music Director Jeremy Denk.

Cécile McLorin Salvant, a 2020 MacArthur Fellow and three-time GRAMMY Award winner, is a singer and composer bringing historical perspective, a renewed sense of drama, and an enlightened musical understanding to both jazz standards and her own compositions. Classically trained, steeped in jazz, blues, and folk, and drawing from musical theater and vaudeville, Salvant embraces a wide-ranging repertoire that broadens the possibilities for live performance.

Caroline Shaw is a musician who moves among roles, genres, and mediums, trying to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She works often in collaboration

with others, as producer, composer, violinist, and vocalist. Shaw is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Music, several GRAMMY Awards, and an honorary doctorate from Yale. Shaw's work was featured during four prior Ojai Festivals with music directors Peter Sellars (2016), John Adams (2021), AMOC (2022), and Rhiannon Giddens (2023).

The critically acclaimed **ECCO** (**East Coast Chamber Orchestra**) is a collective of dynamic like-minded artists who convene for select periods each year to explore musical works and perform concerts of the highest artistic quality. Drawing from some of the world's finest orchestras, chamber groups, and young soloists, ECCO strives for vitality and musical integrity. As a self-governing organization, each member is equal and has a voice in every step of the artistic process, from programming to performance.

Roomful of Teeth is a GRAMMY Award–winning vocal band dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. By engaging collaboratively with artists, thinkers, and community leaders from around the world, the group seeks to uplift and amplify voices old and new while creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music. Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, the band was incubated at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Through experimentation, exploration, and plenty of failures, the group learned that the boundaries of the human voice are never what they seem, that rules can be bent, even broken — and perhaps they should be.

Wild Up has been called "a raucous, grungy, irresistibly exuberant … fun-loving, exceptionally virtuosic family" (*The New York Times*). Wild Up has been lauded as one of new music's most exciting groups by virtually every significant institution and critic within earshot. Artistic Director Christopher Rountree founded the orchestral collective in 2010 to challenge traditional concert practices by experimenting with diverse methodologies, approaches, and contexts.

CELEBRATING THE OJAI COMMUNITY

An integral part of the immersive Ojai Music Festival experience is the array of free community activities in Libbey Park and throughout Ojai. The 2027 Festival will welcome the Ojai community with free Morning Meditations, Music Pop-Ups, and a Family Concert for the young and the young-at-heart.

OJAI FILMS

The Ojai Music Festival continues its annual curated film series in partnership with the Ojai Playhouse, which reopened in 2024. Each year, the Music Director selects the films; Chris Thile's selections will be announced in spring 2027. Opened in 1914, the Ojai Playhouse is a historic 200-seat, single-screen theater in Ojai, California, presenting digital and 35mm films as well as curated music, comedy, variety programming, and more.

BEYOND OJAI: ONLINE OFFERINGS

The Ojai Music Festival extends beyond its flagship four-day June gathering through digital programs that connect audiences worldwide. Offerings include livestreams and on-demand concert archives; Virtual Ojai Talks, featuring online conversations with Festival artists and alumni leading up to the

Festival; and OjaiCast, a podcast series offering insights into upcoming programs. Online offerings can be found at OjaiFestival.org.

"Ojai On the Air," produced in partnership with WQXR/New Sounds and hosted by John Schaefer, connects audiences with artists exploring adventurous contemporary music. Archived programs are available through WQXR, and the past 2026 Festival edition will launch this fall.

BETWEEN THE JUNES: YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

Launched in 2023, the Festival's Between the Junes programs present performances throughout the year at venues in Ojai and neighboring cities, extending the Ojai experience. The series deepens connections with longtime patrons while introducing new audiences to the Festival. This year's events and performances will take place in Ojai and Los Angeles. A listing will be made available at OjaiFestival.org.

SERIES PASSES FOR 2027 OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

2027 Libbey Bowl series passes are available and may be purchased online at OjaiFestival.org or by calling 805 646 2053. Passes range from $220 to $1,235 for reserved seating. Lawn seating Libbey Bowl passes start at $95. Beyond the Bowl add-on events are $65. Single tickets and day passes will go on sale in spring 2027.

Programs and artists are subject to change. For updates visit OjaiFestival.org.

CHRIS THILE, 2027 MUSIC DIRECTOR

Acclaimed GRAMMY Award–winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and MacArthur Fellow recipient of the prestigious "Genius Grant," Chris Thile is a multifaceted musical talent, described by *The Guardian* as "that rare being: an all-round musician," and hailed by NPR as a "genre-defying musical genius." Thile is a founding member of the highly influential string bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek and has collaborated with countless luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Fiona Apple to Brad Mehldau. For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite "Live from Here with Chris Thile" (formerly known as "A Prairie Home Companion").

With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener "one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty," (*The New York Times*). Over the last couple of years, Thile toured with Nickel Creek in support of the critically acclaimed 2023 release *Celebrants*. Most recently, he has been captivating audiences with a playfully ambitious biographical composition entitled ATTENTION! (a narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra) and has been focused on the production of a new musical variety show, "The Energy Curfew Music Hour." Created with Claire Coffee and featuring Punch Brothers, Season One is available on all podcast platforms, with Season Two exclusively out on Audible.

TEDDY ABRAMS, ARTISTIC AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Teddy Abrams began his tenure as the Ojai Music Festival's Artistic and Executive Director on September 1, 2026, with the 2027 Festival in partnership with Music Director Chris Thile. Abrams joins the ranks of such distinguished predecessors as Lawrence Morton, Ernest Fleischmann, Thomas W. Morris, and Ara Guzelimian. Hailed by *The New York Times* as a "maestro of the people" who "has embedded himself in his community," Abrams was chosen as *Musical America*'s 2022 Conductor of the Year, and his work has been profiled by "CBS Sunday Morning," "PBS NewsHour," NPR, *The New Yorker*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Also a prolific and GRAMMY Award–winning composer, Abrams's music embraces influences from across the stylistic spectrum.

Since inaugurating his tenure as Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra (LO) in September 2014, Abrams's manifold achievements in Kentucky include the Louisville Orchestra Creators Corps, which provides a fully funded residency for three composers, and the In Harmony Tour, a multi-season, grand-scale community-building project funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky that takes the orchestra to all corners of the state.

As the Aspen Institute Arts Program's 2025–26 Harman/Eisner Artist-in-Residence, Abrams offered his artistic vision to policy programs, events, leadership activities, and more in Aspen, New York, and Washington D.C. He was awarded the 2025 National Award as part of the Governor's Awards in the Arts in Kentucky, and as an Artist in Residence at Mammoth Cave National Park in 2023, he won an Excellence in Volunteerism Award when he crafted a distinctive park experience by amplifying the stories of underrepresented communities. In summer 2023, he concluded his decade-long tenure as Music Director and Conductor of Oregon's Britt Festival Orchestra, a partnership highlighted in the PBS documentary *Symphony for Nature*.

In the 2026–27 season, Abrams conducts the world premiere of his own composition *Seasons in America* for violin and orchestra, with soloist Ray Chen and the co-commissioning Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has written numerous works for the Louisville Orchestra, including *Mammoth*, premiered with Yo-Yo Ma and Davóne Tines at Kentucky's Mammoth Cave National Park; *Unified Field*, a ballet presented with the Louisville Ballet; and a piano concerto for Yuja Wang, the recording of which won the pianist and Abrams GRAMMY Awards.

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

For eight decades, the Ojai Music Festival has championed adventurous, open-minded programming in an intimate and welcoming setting. Each June, innovative artists and curious audiences gather in Ojai for thought-provoking musical experiences. Guided annually by a different Music Director, each Festival reflects a distinctive artistic vision and brings renewed vitality to this enduring creative laboratory.

Throughout each year, the Ojai Music Festival contributes to Southern California's cultural landscape with in-person and online programming as well as robust educational offerings that serve thousands of public-school students and seniors. The organization's apex is the world-renowned Festival, which takes place over four days in Ojai, a breathtaking valley 75 miles from Los Angeles, which is a

perennial platform for the fresh and unexpected. During the immersive experience, a mingling of the most curious take part in concerts, symposia, free community events, and social gatherings. The intimate Festival weekend, considered a highlight of the international summer music season, welcomes up to 5,000 patrons and reaches exponentially more audiences worldwide through streaming and broadcasts of concerts and discussions throughout the year.

Since its founding in 1947, the Ojai Music Festival has presented expansive programming in unusual ways with an eclectic mix of new and rarely performed music, as well as refreshing juxtapositions of musical styles. Through its signature structure of the Artistic Director appointing a different Music Director each year, Ojai has presented a “who’s who” of music including Mitsuko Uchida, Rhiannon Giddens, American Modern Opera Company (AMOC*), Vijay Iyer, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and Barbara Hannigan in recent years; throughout its history, featured artists have included Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, 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, Steven Schick, Matthias Pintscher, and Peter Sellars.

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OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL
0610–0613 2027
CHRIS THILE MUSIC DIRECTOR

THURSDAY 06.10

3:00PM | OJAI TALKS
Location TBA

In conversation with Artistic and Executive Director Teddy Abrams, Music Director Chris Thile, and Festival artists

6:30PM | MUSIC POP-UP (Free event)
Libbey Park Gazebo

Festival artists TBA

8:00PM | OPENING NIGHT
Libbey Bowl

Chris Thile, mandolin | Roomful of Teeth | ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra) | Festival artists

Béla BARTÓK *Divertimento*, Sz. 113
Mingjia CHEN New work for large ensemble, co-commissioned by Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting
World Premiere
Caroline SHAW *Partita for 8 Voices*

The opening concert features works by Béla Bartók and Caroline Shaw, two of Chris Thile's favorite composers. Bartók's combination of folk influence and boundary-pushing compositional techniques are the two major ingredients in his string-orchestra work *Divertimento*, which will be performed, unconducted, by ECCO. Caroline Shaw's landmark composition *Partita* won her a Pulitzer Prize in 2013 and brought international attention to Roomful of Teeth. The program comes together with a world premiere by composer Mingjia Chen with a new work written for the entire Ojai 2027 artist roster.

FRIDAY 06.11

8:00AM | OJAI DAWNS
Location TBA

Chris Rountree, conductor | Wild Up

Gérard GRISEY *Vortex Temporum*

In their Ojai Music Festival debut, the new music ensemble Wild Up performs one of the great masterpieces of the past 50 years, Gérard Grisey's *Vortex Temporum*, a work that has fascinated Chris Thile and has proven deeply influential. *Vortex Temporum* is an example of the Spectralist style, which is defined by utilizing the hidden acoustical properties of notes to generate musical material. While this method may feel mathematical and technical, Grisey uses this system to create an otherworldly sonic experience, alternately visceral and meditative. Familiar instruments sound new in Grisey's hands, time moves in a warped manner, and listeners have the sense that they are peering into the inner workings of a matrix-like system that produces the sounds normally heard.

10:30AM | MORNING CONCERT
Libbey Bowl

Carla Kihlstedt, violin | Chris Thile, mandolin | Edgar Meyer, bass | ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra)

Edgar Meyer and Chris Thile duo set
Edgar MEYER New work for strings, co-commissioned by Ojai Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, Music Mondays, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Skaneateles Festival ***West Coast Premiere***
Carla KIHLSTEDT New work for violin, bass, and mandolin ***World Premiere***

Edgar Meyer has redefined the double bass. His technical innovations and his ability to move between musical genres freely and authentically have influenced and inspired every bass player alive. His work as a composer has dramatically broadened the way the bass is used in contemporary music, and this special Ojai performance will celebrate Edgar Meyer in all these capacities. Meyer and Chris Thile have long been close collaborators and friends, and they share a dual love of American folk music and contemporary classical work. Their duo performances are exhilarating and extraordinarily beautiful, and we will present a set of their work together on this show, which will also feature a major new piece Ojai is co-commissioning from Edgar Meyer for resident string orchestra ECCO. In addition, we will experience a world premiere by returning Festival artist Carla Kihlstedt, who is developing a trio for herself, Meyer, and Thile — a group of three genre-crossing, multi-talented musicians in an inaugural, magical collaboration.

1:00PM | OJAI FILMS
Ojai Playhouse

A film series curated by Chris Thile

3:30PM | BEYOND THE BOWL ADD-ON
Greenberg Center, Ojai Valley School

Gabriel Kahane, vocals, keyboards, guitar | Roomful of Teeth

Gabriel KAHANE *Elevator Songs*

Gabriel Kahane walks in many musical worlds. He is equally comfortable as a singer-songwriter, a contemporary classical composer, a theatrical performer, and as a brilliant and insightful writer on

musical and culture. Many of his compositions blend these skills, and his work frequently features intriguing and provocative premises. *Elevator Songs* is a major and important song cycle, recently written specifically for Kahane and Roomful of Teeth to perform together. Each song within the cycle highlights the unique talents of Roomful of Teeth's constituent members, as a mysterious and magical hotel elevator transports the listener to a series of tableaus and micro-dramas. The piece has a unique blend of vocal brilliance, theatricality, and a multi-genre aesthetic that is classic Gabriel Kahane.

6:00PM | OJAI CHATS & MUSIC POP-UP (Free event)
Libbey Park Gazebo

Festival artists TBA

8:00PM | EVENING CONCERT
Libbey Bowl

Ambrose Akinmusire, trumpet | Roomful of Teeth | ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra) | Festival artists

Caroline SHAW *The Isle*
Andrew NORMAN *Difference* ***World Premiere*** *of revised version for string sextet*
Gabriel KAHANE Trumpet Concerto — title work TBA, co-commissioned by Sonia Alden Foundation and John Robinson ***World Premiere***

The program highlights a particularly special element of the 2027 Festival: the wealth of resident, world-class composers all coming to Ojai to develop new work and share a wide range of their music throughout the week. Roomful of Teeth presents a pairing with Thursday's performance of Caroline Shaw's *Partita* — this evening we hear Shaw's *The Isle*, a vocal masterwork inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Caroline Shaw has redefined vocal technique and pushed choral textures into imaginative new territories; she uses these elements to set three monologues from Shakespeare's play in spectacularly moving and evocative ways. Andrew Norman also has a compositional style that is unique and instantly recognizable. His work, *Difference,* will be presented in a world premiere version arranged for string sextet. The program ends with the world premiere of a new concerto by Gabriel Kahane for trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, a blend of improvisation with more formal compositional elements.

SATURDAY 06.12

8:00AM | MORNING MEDITATION (Free event)
Ojai Meadows Preserve

A Festival tradition of enjoying a concert in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Ojai Meadows Preserve. A partnership with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

10:30AM | MORNING CONCERT
Libbey Bowl

Chris Thile, mandolin | Timo Andres, piano | ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra)

BEETHOVEN String Quartet Op. 95, Mvts. I and II arranged for String Orchestra
Timo ANDRES Mandolin Sonata *, co-commissioned by Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting* ***World Premiere***
BEETHOVEN String Quartet Op. 95, Mvts. III and IV arranged for String Orchestra

Beethoven's Op. 95 String Quartet opened the gates to the composer's late period of experimentation, innovation, and transcendence. ECCO performs this work in their traditional unconducted format, and the piece (split into two segments) bookends a program that will explore a wide range of historical and contemporary sonatas and deployments of sonata form (the generative principle of music from the Classical era and beyond). Between the works by Beethoven will be a world premiere by resident composer Timo Andres, a duo Sonata for mandolin and piano that Thile and Andres will perform together, a historic moment in the development of the modern mandolin repertoire.

1:00 PM | OJAI FILMS
Ojai Playhouse

A film series curated by Chris Thile

3:30PM | BEYOND THE BOWL ADD-ON
Greenberg Center, Ojai Valley School

Timo Andres and David Kaplan, piano

Timo ANDRES *Shy & Mighty*

This is the 20th anniversary of the premiere of Timo Andres's *Shy & Mighty*, a monumental and brilliant work for two pianos that Andres composed for himself and David Kaplan. The Festival will celebrate this major American composition at Ojai in the intimate setting of the Greenberg Center. *Shy & Mighty* covers an exceptionally broad range of emotional and stylistic territory across its 10 movements.

6:00PM | OJAI CHAT+MUSIC POP-UP (Free event)
Libbey Park Gazebo

Festival artists TBA

8:00PM | EVENING CONCERT
The Threepenny Opera Reimagined
Libbey Bowl

Cécile McLorin Salvant, vocals | Chris Thile, mandolin | Timo Andres, piano | Sullivan Fortner, piano | Chris Rountree, conductor | Wild Up | ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra)

Thomas ADÈS *Living Toys*
Timo ANDRES New work for piano and strings, co-commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra ***World Premiere***
Kurt WEILL *The Threepenny Opera* ***World Premiere*** *of adaptation*

Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner are two of the most dynamic and celebrated jazz performers in the world. Salvant has famously championed songs (such as "Pirate Jenny") from Kurt Weill's beloved *Threepenny Opera*. Ojai is a place where artists' dreams take shape, and the Saturday evening performance will be the premiere of this new version of Weill's dramatic composition. In addition, we will present a work by one of Chris Thile's all-time favorite composers, Thomas Adès. *Living Toys* is an early, ingenious Adés work that depicts a child's dreams of adventures and heroism with cinematic energy and stunning, precise musical detail. The concert will also feature another world premiere of a new piece by Timo Andres, composing for himself as soloist with ECCO.

SUNDAY 06.13

8:00AM | MORNING MEDITATION (Free event)
Location TBA

Program TBA

10:30AM | MORNING Concert
Libbey Bowl

Carla Kihlstedt, vocals and violin | Gabriel Kahane, conductor | Festival artists

Carla KIHLSTEDT *26 Little Deaths*

The legendary author and illustrator Edward Gorey was famous for his macabre, uncanny, and distinctively haunting aesthetic. His seminal publication *The Gashlycrumb Tinies* is the perfect example of his style: a work, in the form of a children's picture book, that depicts untimely and grisly deaths for all 26 letters of the alphabet. The imagination and eeriness of Gorey's illustrations inspired Carla Kihlstedt to create a musical setting for each of the miniature tableaus — hence her dramatic song cycle *26 Little Deaths*. The 60-minute work is a combination of theater, cabaret, and contemporary classical music, with various populist and folky flavors integrated throughout the work — the perfect pairing with Saturday evening's *The Threepenny Opera*.

12:00PM | FAMILY CONCERT (Free event)
Libbey Park Gazebo

A family-friendly concert for the young and young at heart

1:00PM | OJAI FILMS
Ojai Playhouse

A film series curated by Chris Thile

2:30PM | BEYOND THE BOWL ADD-ON
Greenberg Center, Ojai Valley School

Program TBA

5:30PM | FINALE
Libbey Bowl

Cécile McLorin Salvant, vocals | Chris Thile, mandolin | Sullivan Fortner, piano | Festival artists

BACH Concerto for Two Violins in D minor ("Double Concerto"), BWV 1043
Andrew NORMAN New mandolin solo work ***World Premiere***
A special set with Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner

The 2027 Festival closes with a celebration of Chris Thile's unparalleled dynamism, virtuosity, and the pure joy in music-making that he brings to the stage. Thile will present the premiere of a newly commissioned work by Andrew Norman for solo mandolin, which brings the Festival full circle from the opening where audiences will hear Bach's solo violin works adapted for the mandolin. A new work by Andrew Norman will be a highlight of the finale and will be an opportunity for the mandolin's solo repertoire to dramatically expand into the modern era. Thile will collaborate with ECCO to present one of Bach's most popular works, his "Double Concerto" for Two Violins, and the finale will host a jazz set performed by Cécile McLorin Salvant and Sullivan Fortner.

Schedule as of 11/17/2026. Programs and artists are subject to change. For updates visit OjaiFestival.org.