

STRATFORD SUMMER MUSIC

JOHN A MILLER, ARTISTIC PRODUCER

STRATFORD SUMMER MUSIC ANNOUNCES 15th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

July 20 – August 30, 2015

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Since 2001, thanks to our many donors, supporters, volunteers and audiences, Stratford Summer Music has welcomed thousands of performers and musical heritage groups from every region of our country and from 22 other nations on five continents for more than 350 different presentations, a third of which were free and with multiple performances! Now we build on this record to present our 15th anniversary season, welcoming back many favourite musical friends and introducing new events and artists to our growing audience base.

John A. Miller, Artistic Producer

Stratford Summer Music's Artistic Producer today unveiled an exciting six-week season that begins with the traditional ***Stars in the Sky*** fireworks in Lower Queens Park, set off to a score by St. Marys composer, Berthold Carrière, ***Music for a Midsummer's Night***, which is traditionally played once a year to mark the beginning of another calendar of musical events.

2015 will see more than one hundred concerts and events, some looking back to great moments since 2001 and others totally fresh and innovative.

The Highlights:

-**Classical Tattoo** with 200 of the most outstanding young musicians of North and South America and the Caribbean. The **National Youth Orchestra of Canada** is joined for one concert only by the **Youth Orchestra of the Americas** in partnership with **L'Orchestre Francophonie**. 22 nations will be represented in this event exclusive to Stratford. (Wednesday, July 22. Allman Arena)

-Return of Canadian tenor, **Ben Heppner**, as the special guest of the Grammy award-winning ensemble, **The Blind Boys of Alabama**. (Thursday, July 23. Knox Church)

-**Great Lake Swimmers**, with **Trent Severn** (Monday, August 17. Knox Church)

-Unique **choral programming**, including a recreation of the **Coronation of George II** (1727) with the famous choral anthems of G.F. Handel sung by the **Theatre of Early Music** led by Canadian countertenor **Daniel Taylor**. Featuring Stratford actor, **James Blendick**, voicing the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Thursday, August 6. St. James Church). and...

-**Music of Canadian composer, R. Murray Schafer**, including three early morning (7am) events on Tom Patterson Island and the Avon River, called **Schafer at Dawn** and a late evening candle-lit concert of Schafer's sacred music, dubbed **Schafer at Twilight**. Presented with the participation of **TorQ Percussion Quartet**. (Friday, August 7. 10pm. St. James Church)

-**Young People's Programming**, including the fourth **School of Rawk** led by the Yukon-based band, **Speed Control** (Sold Out) plus a week with the unique percussion instruments which delighted families last summer on **Tom Percussion Island**. (July 27-August 2)

-**Classical Piano Series** with recitals by international pianists, **Paul Lewis** (U.K.), **Janina Fialkowska** (Germany/Canada) and, in a special three-part series of the complete five Beethoven piano concerti, the Alberta pianist, **Jan Lisiecki** with the **Annex Quartet**. (St. Andrew's Church. July 29, August 19, August 27-29)

-**The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra** returns for two performances this year. (Monday & Tuesday, August 3,4. Arden Park Hotel Ballroom)

- **Mozart's The Magic Flute**. Three performances of the world's most popular opera, sung by young Canadian vocalists and adapted/staged for dinner and brunch presentations in Revival House. (August 14, 15, 16. Revival House, formerly The Church Restaurant)

- **The Sound of Music**. One showing only of the original movie as a **sing-a-long** with audience participation and all the lyrics on the screen. Everyone is encouraged to sing heartily, even to win prizes by dressing up as characters from the film. (Saturday, August 1. Stratford Cinemas)

-**Play Me, I'm Yours**: the return of a nine street pianos newly painted by local and regional artists. (August 6-30. City Centre & Avon parkland)

-**Bach's Sonatas and Partitas** for solo violin, played throughout the season in the full series of 12 weekend brunches by **Aislinn Nosky, Julia Wedman** and **Cristina Zacharias**, violinists of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. (July 25-August 30. Reservations made directly through The Prune Restaurant)

- **MusicBarge**. Five weeks of free outdoor performances on the floating stage docked beside the Avon River at the heart of the city. Featuring the **Sultans of String, Ontario Youth Choir, Heavyweights Brass Band, Dan Stacey & The Black Swans** and welcoming back two all-time favourites of MusicBarge audiences, **The Boys Guard Band of Tivoli Gardens**, Copenhagen, Denmark, and the **Langley Ukulele Ensemble** from British Columbia. The **Stratford Police Pipes & Drums** will play the traditional final concert, as they did at the original MusicBarge finale in 2002. (July 30-August 30. MusicBarge)

Whiskey Jack welcomes **Gordie Tapp**. A genuine Canadian country music legend joins Stompin' Tom Connors' original backup band for a Saturday night of songs, comedy and square dancing. (August 1. Royal Canadian Legion Hall)

-**Great Opera Arias**. Vocal recital by **Michael Schade**, Canada's lyric tenor to the world of opera, accompanied by **Emily Hamper**, piano. Presenting a program with repertoire newly offered for Canadian audiences. (Sunday, August 9. St. Andrew's Church)

-**Illustrated musical lectures** by music critic and CBC Radio Music producer, **Robert Harris**, on four topics related to Summer Music's 2015 programming. (Wednesday mornings throughout the festival. University of Waterloo/Stratford Campus)

- **Opera Goes to the Movies** - the annual Harry Somers Forum, presented by **Barbara Willis Sweete**, director of the Metropolitan Opera's popular international videocasts, *Live in*

HD, and founding partner of Rhombus Media. (Wednesday, August 12, University of Waterloo/Stratford Campus)

- **Stratford Summer Music Vocal Academy**, a week-long intensive training program for up to eight emerging Canadian classical singers led by Founding Faculty members, **Michael Schade**, **Phillip Addis** and **Emily Hamper**, with public master classes and a finale concert featuring all the singers hosted by former CBC radio host, **Howard Dyck**. (August 10-15. Finale at St. Andrew's Church)

-**Cabarets**. Four shows featuring singers **Rebecca Caine** (the original Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*), Canadian pop icon **Carole Pope**, **Heather Bambrick & Friends** in a Newfoundland Jazz Ceilidh, and **Micah Barnes & Friends** including former members of the Nylons *a cappella* ensemble. (Saturday nights, July & August. Revival House)

-Season Finale featuring a program of opera, operetta and Broadway favourites with six gentlemen of song – **Phillip Addis**, baritone; **Roger Honeywell**, tenor; **Gary Relyea**, bass-baritone; **Lutzen Riedstra**, baritone; **Drew Santini**, baritone; **James Westman**, baritone - all of whom have called Stratford home. With Music Director, **Emily Hamper**. (Sunday, August 30. St. Andrew's Church)

Hundreds of individual patrons and community organizations financially support the programming and activities of Stratford Summer Music as do a variety of public sector agencies, private corporations and foundations, including these major funders: Sun Life Financial, BMO, CTV, RBC, Manulife Financial, Yamaha Music Canada, Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport with the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Celebrate Ontario and Ontario Arts Council, Department of Canadian Heritage, Service Canada and the City of Stratford.

Tickets on sale now. **519 271-2101** or **1-866-288-4313** or ***stratfordsummermusic.ca***

Full information on the website: www.stratfordsummermusic.ca

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