

# Manchester Summer Chamber Music opens 8th season

**Saturday** Posted Aug 6, 2016 at 12:20 PM

Updated Aug 6, 2016 at 12:21 PM

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

Steadily making a name for itself alongside the many prestigious festivals that dot the New England landscape each year, Manchester Summer Chamber Music opens its eighth season this week.

Founded by longtime friends Sage Cole and Lorna Tsai, the four-week festival has grown from a modest series of house concerts and small events into a popular festival that brings in musicians with distinctive backgrounds.

It's a classic outgrowth of personal connections, made during the long training it takes to become a professional musician. Prep school friends and summer band camp partners, violinists Cole and Tsai have drawn on the connections they've made together, from studying and subsequently building their own careers in New York (where Cole teaches and performs) and in Canada (where Tsai sits as principal second in the Calgary Philharmonic).

Nonetheless, the steady growth of MSCM can bring surprises. "We have a lot more advance sales this year," Cole says, "that's fantastic — the fact that we do have so many new people getting in touch with us."

MSCM starts this Wednesday with a special fundraising event in the Casino at Castle Hill on Crane Beach. Limited to members of the Trustees of Reservations and for Friends of MSCM (which can be gained with a \$50 donation), the concert explores the music of Schumann.

A house concert, an annual MSCM event hosted by Steven and Isabella Bates in their Manchester studio, follows the next evening. The subsequent three Saturdays offer the mainstage MSCM events at the Barn at Castle Hill, a relaxed, intriguing setting that not only offers the quintessential

summer-time chamber experience but has gorgeous grounds overlooking the estate and marshland adjacent to Crane Beach — ideal for pre-concert picnicking.

The three Barn concerts bring a number of notable musicians to accompany Cole and Tsai. Contralto Emily Marvosh sings music of Bach and Mendelssohn, joining string players who will perform works by the same composers, on Aug. 13.

The following Saturday, flutist Sooyun Kim, whose growing career is highlighted by her inclusion in New York's Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, joins a cadre of fine musicians exploring a range of compositions from Grainger to Debussy to Beethoven.

“Sooyun went to school at New England Conservatory,” Cole says. “I hadn't met her when I first saw her in New York, at Lincoln Center. She was spectacular, playing the Brandenburg concertos with the Chamber Music Society players. I told Lorna we had to get her to come.”

The season finale, Aug. 27, examines selected movements from half a dozen composers in a survey of the string quartet literature.

Cole is quick to point out the importance of Raise the Rafters, the Ipswich-based group dedicated to bringing live performance back to Castle Hill, who began helping out MSCM with fund-raising several summers ago and has now assumed board responsibilities for the festival.

“They've made it easier for Lorna and I to broaden the base, and cultivate new hosts and audience members,” she says. “They've been phenomenal. All of our expansion plans are focused on community building, and they've made it possible for us to focus on that.”

Manchester Summer Chamber Music runs Aug. 10 through 27. For tickets and concert information visit [www.manchestersummerchambermusic.org](http://www.manchestersummerchambermusic.org) or call 978-704-1041.

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*Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR's ARTery. Follow @PowersKeith; email to [keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com](mailto:keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com)*

**If you go...**

**WHAT:** Manchester Summer Chamber Music Festival

**WHERE:** Various venues in Manchester and Ipswich

**WHEN:** Aug. 10 through 27

**TICKETS:** \$30 general. \$20 friends of MSCM and Trustees of Reservations members. Under 12 free. Visit [www.manchestersummerchambermusic.org](http://www.manchestersummerchambermusic.org) or call 978-704-1041.

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## **MSCM Schedule at a Glance**

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m. Casino at Castle Hill, Ipswich

Music of Schumann, featuring pianist Ryo Yanagitani and contralto Emily Marvosh. Program includes Op. 47 piano quartet, Die Lotusblume, Widmung, and the collaborative F-A-E Sonata. Limited to Friends of MSCM (\$50 donation in addition to tickets) and members of Trustees of Reservations.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m. House concert, 2 Masconomo St., Manchester

Annual performance in the Bates residence by pianist Yanagitani, who explores music of Schumann in discussion and performance.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m. The Barn at Castle Hill, Ipswich

Contralto Emily Marvosh sings sacred and secular music of Bach and Mendelssohn, along with music for strings by both composers.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. The Barn at Castle Hill, Ipswich

Flutist Sooyun Kim is featured in a far ranging program including Debussy's G minor quartet, and works by Beethoven, Foote, Mozart, Ginastera and Grainger.

Saturday, Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. The Barn at Castle Hill, Ipswich

Music for string quartet to close the summer season. Selected movements from Schubert, Mozart, Brahms, Haydn, Beethoven, Shostakovich and others.

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