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Rockport Chamber Music Festival opens June 3 with Menahem Pressler and Parker String Quartet

The 35th annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival begins Friday evening, June 3 at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. The opening night concert, always a memorable celebration, brings pianist Menahem Pressler to the stage with the Parker String Quartet.



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At the age of 92, Menahem Pressler will be making his Rockport Chamber Music Festival debut on June 3. COURTESY PHOTO

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

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ROCKPORT

If you go ...

WHAT: Rockport Chamber Music Festival

WHERE: Shalin Liu Performance Center, 37 Main St., Rockport

WHEN: Friday, June 3 through July 22

TICKETS: \$35-\$98. Visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

The 35th annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival begins Friday evening, June 3 at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. The opening night concert, always a memorable celebration, brings pianist Menahem Pressler to the stage with the Parker String Quartet.

Pressler, making his first RCMF appearance, began his own career 70 years ago. That's right,

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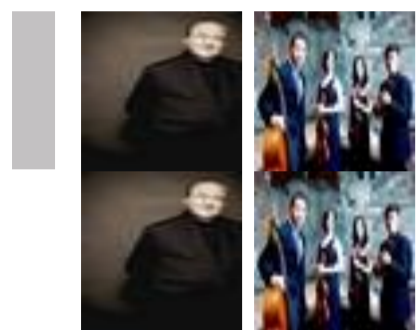
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At the age of 92, Menahem Pressler will be making his Rockport Chamber Music Festival debut on June 3. COURTESY PHOTO



70. In 1946 the German emigre won the Debussy Competition in San Francisco, and his subsequent performances, tours and collaborations are far too numerous to chronicle completely.

Pressler was the pianist and linchpin of the Beaux Arts Trio, who performed and recorded nearly all the piano trio repertory, for 55 years. Since Beaux Arts disbanded in 2008, he has continued his solo career and collaborations, including an emotional debut in 2014 with the Berlin Philharmonic, a concert that was broadcast live all over the world.

Now, at 92, Pressler joins the Parker Quartet for Dvorak's demanding A major quintet. Parker will also perform quartets by Haydn and Bartok in this substantial season opener.

The weekend continues with two ensembles also

making their RCMF debuts: NEXUS percussion ensemble on Saturday evening, and Trio Solisti on Sunday afternoon. NEXUS, formed in 1971, stands at the forefront of innovation for percussion ensembles. Their program includes works by Steve Reich, George Green and Louis Hardin.

Trio Solisti will introduce a new member, pianist Fabio Bidini, in Sunday's program, which includes piano trios by Beethoven, Brahms and Lowell Liebermann.

For tickets and complete festival information visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

WEEK ONE

Friday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Parker String Quartet, with Menahem Pressler, piano

This program is terrific: Haydn and Bartok

quartets, Dvorak A major quintet. Parker is already one of the most prestigious quartets in America. Pressler, the only member to perform with all the iterations of the Beaux Arts Trio over its 55 years, has collaborated with nearly every major chamber artist as well. No need to mention that he's 92 years old. Don't miss this.

Saturday, June 4, 8 p.m.

NEXUS percussion ensemble

The rise of outstanding percussion ensembles over the past few decades has expanded the repertory significantly. NEXUS was the first of those groups, formed in 1971, and here they present music of their own, as well as Steve Reich and others.

Sunday, June 5, 5 p.m.

Trio Solisti

Trio makes RCMF debut, as does its new pianist Fabio Bidini, with a program that includes Lowell Liebermann's third trio.

Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR's ARTery. Follow @PowersKeith; email to keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com

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Thursday, June 2, 2016



"Lettice and Lovage"

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