

Farewell, and hello: Changing of the guard at 2017 Rockport Chamber Music Festival

Thursday

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The 2017 Rockport Chamber Music Festival features, as usual, many of the greatest musicians performing today. Joshua Bell and Garrick Ohlsson; the Brentano, Escher, Jupiter and Jasper quartets; the Boston Camerata, Handel & Haydn Society, and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players will all grace the Shalin Liu Performance Center stage this summer. But tugging at the hearts of regular festival audiences will be the farewell season of outgoing artistic director David Deveau

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

If you go...

WHAT: Rockport Chamber Music Festival

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

WHEN: June 2 through July 9

TICKETS: \$19-\$1250. Subscriptions on sale March 30; single tickets April 18. Visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

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But tugging at the hearts of regular festival audiences will be the farewell season of outgoing artistic director David Deveau. In his 22 years, Deveau has overseen not only innumerable unforgettable chamber music programs, but helped Rockport Music transform itself from a summertime-only festival in an centuries-old converted barn, to a year-round music organization, performing in one of the great concert halls anywhere, built especially for chamber music.

It's been an amazing two decades, and this festival brings it to a close. Deveau has chosen many familiar faces to fill this summer's season, including multiple performances with himself collaborating on piano.

Bell adds his considerable star power to opening night, June 2, performing sonatas with pianist Alessio Bax (no slouch himself). In addition to Ohlsson, visiting pianists include Russell Sherman, Andrew Rangell, Gilles Vonsattel, Charlie Albright, Joyce Yang and Heng-Jin Park.

World premieres by Charles Shadle (a piano quartet, June 3) and RCMF co-founder David Alpher (his setting of Marsden Hartley poems, with baritone Robert Osborne, on June 24) highlight the repertory. H&H stages Purcell's "The Fairy Queen," and the Boston Camerata "Tristan and Iseut," in concert-length performances.

The final concert, July 9, will have special resonance, as Deveau takes the stage one final time as artistic director along with his replacement, violist Barry Shiffman. There will be much to enjoy this summer, capped off with this significant goodbye and hello event.

The Rockport Chamber Music Festival runs June 2 through July 9. Subscriptions go on sale March 30; single tickets April 18. Visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

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

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