



valley of the moon music festival

ERIC ZIVIAN & TANYA TOMKINS, DIRECTORS

7TH SEASON 2021

SONOMA, CA

**VALLEY OF THE MOON MUSIC FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES ITS 2021 SEASON:**

***LOVE AND LONGING: REACHING ACROSS THE
DISTANCE***

**Bringing chamber music alive on period instruments
#musicwithguts**

RSVP required at <https://valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org/>



VMMF Founders Tanya Tomkins and Eric Zivian

(Sonoma, CA, April 7, 2021) — **Valley of the Moon Music Festival** (VMMF) brings the captivating sound of period instruments to the world of Classical and Romantic chamber music for its 2021 season, **Love and Longing: Reaching Across the Distance**. A series of nine curated programs inspired by the fundamental human desire to connect, the Festival brings together artists and audiences across digital platforms and modified in-person live performances, July 17 – August 1, 2021, with a special preview concert on June 24.

RSVP is required and is now open for all virtual events. A limited number of tickets for the live, outdoor, socially-distanced concerts in Sonoma County will be available for purchase on or around May 1, 2021. Please visit <https://valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org/> to make a seating reservation.

Virtual concert subscriptions are available for a \$35 reservation fee + \$135 suggested donation, which includes 8 festival concerts, the free festival preview concert, and the free Love Letter Mini Concert (all virtual). Single virtual concert reservations are available for a \$5 reservation fee + \$20 suggestion donation.

Each Festival program tells a larger story of separation, longing, and coming together through the chamber music of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Dvořák, and more. From Clara Schumann to the American composer Harry Burleigh, art songs, inspired by their magnificent poetry, serve as another vehicle for expressing the Festival's theme.

Joining VMMF founders **Eric Zivian** and **Tanya Tomkins**, performing on fortepiano and cello, is a roster of world-renowned musicians including violinist **Elizabeth Blumenstock**, baritone **Dashon Burton**, violist **Jodi Levitz**, contralto **Emily Marvosh**, tenor **Kyle Stegall**, violinist **Rachell Ellen Wong**, and violinist **Rachel Barton Pine**, back by popular demand. VMMF also welcomes to the Festival its 2021 Apprentices: **Kako Miura** and **Vivian Mayers**, violin, **Ramón Carrero-Martínez**, viola, **Drake Driscoll**, cello, and **Suren Barry**, fortepiano. The Apprenticeship Program, a two-week, full-scholarship summer residential program for emerging professional musicians, is a key part of VMMF.

VMMF artists will perform all the music on instruments that match the period when the music was composed: gut strings rather than steel strings for the string players, and four different period pianos. The earliest and smallest fortepiano, perfect for the music of Mozart, is a copy of a Dulcken (Vienna, 1795), built in the 1980s in Berkeley by Paul Poletti and Janine Johnson. The early Romantic repertoire will be performed with an original Viennese fortepiano from 1841 by Franz Rausch, and the later songs by Debussy and others, as well as Fauré's Piano Quartet, will be performed on a Chickering piano from the 1890s, courtesy of the UC Berkeley Music Department. Finally, for the early 20th-century American program, VMMF will feature a 1901 Knabe.

Complementing the Festival's main musical programs, VMMF's Blattner Lecture Series will feature dynamic speakers who will give historic and social context of the music. Kate van Orden, Dwight P. Robinson Jr. Professor of Music at Harvard University, will host the culminating lecture, "Conversations with Kate." The complete lecture series will be announced at a later date.

"The 2021 Valley of the Moon Music Festival echoes a major theme of the pandemic period - our collective desire to reconnect and emerge from social isolation," said VMMF founder Tanya Tomkins. "In this spirit, we have curated a season of incredible music that expresses our universal need for closeness, performed by VMMF artists both near and far, allowing us to celebrate our togetherness despite the distance between us. In addition to virtual offerings, we are delighted to offer safe opportunities to experience the joy of live performance."

"This year we acknowledge the present by looking to the past," said VMMF founder Eric Zivian. "The expressions of love and longing in Classical and Romantic songs and chamber music are more relevant than ever. Thanks to the passion and perseverance of our patrons and artists, we're able to connect with audiences through timeless music."

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

LONG-DISTANCE LOVE - FREE!

Festival Preview

Thursday, June 24th, at 6 p.m.

Virtual concert

Brahms Liebeslieder + Beethoven An die Ferne Geliebte

Beethoven's celebrated song cycle, "To the Distant Beloved," is a classic paean to long distance love. Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes, for four singers and 4-hands piano, are among the most seductive music ever composed. VMMF is delighted to celebrate the beginning of a return to normalcy with this virtual presentation of multiple singers, assembled in one space for this special video recording.

Nikki Einfeld, soprano

Emily Marvosh, contralto

Kyle Stegall, tenor

Edward Nelson, baritone

Allegra Chapman and Eric Zivian, 4-hands piano

LONGING

Saturday, July 17, at 4 p.m.

Virtual concert

Mendelssohn String Quartet and German Songs

Mendelssohn's String Quartet in A Minor is one of the greatest masterpieces of all time, written when the composer was only 17. It was modeled on Beethoven's own A minor quartet - to be

featured later on the July 31 Concert - as well as on “Frage,” a romantic song by Mendelssohn himself. A selection of songs on themes of longing and loss rounds out the program.

Emily Marvosh, contralto
Eric Zivian, fortepiano

VMMF Quartet:
Anna Presler, violin
Liana Bérubé, violin
Phyllis Kamrin, viola
Tanya Tomkins, cello

ROMANCE

Sunday, July 18 at 4 p.m.

Virtual concert

Clara Schumann Romances, Mozart Piano Concerto in E flat major, K. 482 + German Songs

In Mozart’s time musicians were accustomed to arranging orchestral music for smaller groups of musicians to play in their own homes. Similarly, during the pandemic, musicians have had to find inventive ways to share their art. In this concert, pianist Apprentice Suren Barry follows in that tradition, performing one of the great Mozart Piano Concertos in a version for keyboard and string quartet, recorded in the VMMF Directors’ Berkeley living room. Rachel Barton Pine and Eric Zivian will collaborate from a distance in Clara Schumann’s exquisite *Romances*, completing this program which brings artists together in ways new and old.

Emily Marvosh, contralto
Featuring Rachel Barton Pine, violin and Suren Barry, piano

Elizabeth Blumenstock, Carla Moore, violins
Liana Bérubé, viola
Tanya Tomkins, cello
Eric Zivian, piano

MASTER CLASS - FREE!

Wednesday, July 21, at 3 p.m.

Rachel Barton Pine

VIRTUAL LOVE LETTER MINI-CONCERT - FREE!

Wednesday, July 21, at 6 p.m.

Josephine Lang Songs

Award-winning duo, tenor Kyle Stegall and Music Director Eric Zivian, plumb the depths of little-known German composer Josephine Lang, in a brief but passionate selection of her songs

on texts of love and longing. A friend of Clara Schumann and the Mendelssohns, Lang's songs embody the emerging Romanticism in the mid-19th century.

Kyle Stegall, tenor
Eric Zivian, piano

COLLABORATION

Thursday, July 22, at 6 p.m.

Virtual concert

Featuring the music of Harry Burleigh, Dvorak and others

One advantage of post-pandemic remote programming is the realization that musicians from all over the world can play for global audiences, without anyone having to leave their hometowns. In this concert, VMMF reaches across great distances, geographically and historically. In a recital delivered from Boston by the incomparable baritone, **Dashon Burton**, in collaboration with two of VMMF's East Coast pianists on a 1901 Steinway, VMMF celebrates one of America's great early 20th-century composers, Harry Burleigh, and his influence on a visiting colleague from afar, Antonín Dvořák. Burleigh, himself a baritone, composed art songs, and was also responsible for bringing the spiritual into the Classical song recital. While attending the National Conservatory of Music in New York in the 1890's he made the acquaintance of Antonin Dvořák, the school's visiting President. Dvořák, struck by the power of the spirituals he learned from Burleigh, used some of the melodies in his own music. This concert will feature the music of Burleigh, Dvořák, Leoš Janáček and other influential composers of the period.

Dashon Burton, baritone
Renana Gutman, piano
Audrey Vardanega, piano

FRIENDSHIP

Saturday, July 24, at 5 p.m. (+ livestream) and 7 p.m.

Live performance, Hanna Boys Center, Sonoma, limited capacity audience

Clara Schumann Trio, Fanny Mendelssohn Adagio, Louise Farrenc Impromptu for solo piano

VMMF takes a look back at their successful 5th season in Sonoma: *The Salonnières: Women of Power and Influence*, bringing back some the leading women composers/performers of the Romantic era. Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel were very close to their husband and brother, respectively. Love was at the core of these relationships, but they were not without competitive strain. Due to the sexism of their time, these women were prevented from achieving the full success they deserved. This concert brings their original voices to the fore, while also celebrating the incredible romance that existed between Clara and Robert.

Rachell Ellen Wong, violin
Tanya Tomkins, cello
Eric Zivian, piano

CONNECTING

Sunday, July 25, at 5 p.m. (+ livestream) and 7 p.m.

Live performance, Hanna Boys Center, Sonoma, limited capacity audience

2021 Apprentices: Schubert Grand Duo for Violin and Piano + Weber Piano Quartet

With all safety protocols in place, VMMF was determined to connect in person with all five Apprentices. From New Haven, New York and Montreal, these five extraordinary young musicians come together for the first time in beautiful Sonoma - forming new friendships, working with new mentors, and learning a fresh approach to chamber music on historical instruments. In this concert we enjoy the fruits of their labor in Schubert's Grand Duo for violin and piano, and a rarely heard gem by Carl Maria von Weber, one of the most important pioneers of Romanticism. Both of these pieces were written during the composers' early 20s, around the same age as the young performers.

Kako Miura and Vivian Mayers, violin

Ramón Carrero-Martínez, viola

Drake Driscoll, cello

Suren Barry, piano

LES SENTIMENTS

Thursday, July 29, at 6 p.m.

Virtual concert

Fauré Piano Quartet in G Minor & French Songs

The French, known for their rebellion and individuality since the time of Rameau, produced some of Classical music's most unique voices, such as Berlioz and Debussy, both featured on this program. The concert's main course is Fauré's Piano Quartet. Fauré's bold experiments with tonality foreshadowed the Impressionist music of Debussy and Ravel. The concert also includes French art songs by Bizet, Debussy and others.

Emily Marvosh, contralto

Lisa Lee, violin

Liana Bérubé, viola

Tanya Tomkins, cello

Eric Zivian, piano

TRANSFORMATION

Saturday, July 31, at 5 p.m. (+ livestream) and 7 p.m.

Live performance, [Yulupa Mountain Ranch](#), limited capacity audience

Rolla Duets, Beethoven String Quartet in A Minor, op. 132

Slowly coming out of a long pandemic period of illness and suffering, we turn to Beethoven's masterpiece, the Heiliger Dankgesang Quartet, for comfort and inspiration. Written just two years before his death, after several years of emotional and physical struggle, Beethoven found himself well enough to compose again and grateful to be alive. He titled the third movement

“Heiliger Dankgesang eines Genesenen an die Gottheit, in der Lydischen Tonart.” This translates as “Song of Thanksgiving to the Deity from a convalescent, in the Lydian mode.” It is a profound and heartfelt prayer of thanks after his illness. The quartet is preceded by a delicious appetizer of Rolla Duets for violin and viola.

Bettina Mussumeli, violin
Jodi Levitz, viola

Apprentice String Quartet:
Kako Miura and Vivian Mayers, violins
Ramon Carrero-Martinez, viola
Drake Driscoll, cello

POSSIBILITY

Sunday, August 1, at 5 p.m. (+ livestream) and 7 p.m.

Live performance, [Yulupa Mountain Ranch](#), limited capacity audience

Dvořák Miniatures, Mendelssohn Octet

Finally, we turn to youth and the future. With an abundance of optimism and inspired by the young Felix Mendelssohn’s inexhaustible energy, the Apprentice Quartet joins forces with TANK Trust Laureate and rising star violinist Rachell Wong, and other VMMF favorites, to perform Mendelssohn’s iconic Octet at Yulupa Ranch. In the spirit of hope, VMMF wraps up a season of longing and reawakening, bringing audiences into a bright future full of new talent. The program will open with Dvořák’s charming Miniatures for two violins and viola.

Rachell Ellen Wong, violin
Bettina Mussumeli, violin
Jodi Levitz, viola
Tanya Tomkins, cello
Apprentice String Quartet:
Kako Miura and Vivian Mayers, violins
Ramon Carrero-Martinez, viola
Drake Driscoll, cello

Reservations and subscriptions

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VMMF is closely watching all current restrictions and protocols due to the pandemic, and their priority is to keep both musicians and audiences safe. Masks and social distancing will be required at all times.

About Valley of the Moon Music Festival

Valley of the Moon Music Festival (VMMF) brings exceptional performances of Classical, Romantic and post-Romantic chamber music on period instruments to audiences in Sonoma, CA and beyond, and expands the horizons of up-and-coming chamber musicians with the [Apprenticeship](#) and [TANK Trust Laureate](#) Programs, ensuring this kind of performance will flourish well into the future through educational programs. Every summer, in the town of Sonoma, VMMF brings an international roster of experts in period performance together with highly talented emerging artists to showcase familiar repertoire in a brilliant new light. The concert experience is enhanced by the very popular Blattner Lecture Series that puts the listening experience into historical and cultural perspective. VMMF was born in Sonoma, and Sonoma is at the center of our artistic efforts. We are honored to have a thriving and ongoing relationship with the local community through [partnerships with local businesses](#), other non-profits, and community leaders.

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