



valley of the moon music festival

TANYA TOMKINS & ERIC ZIVIAN, DIRECTORS

<https://valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org>



All photos: Richard Bowditch

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Heidi L. Waterman heidilwaterman@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIAISONS: The Valley of the Moon Music Festival Announces its 11th Season July 12-27, 2025

SONOMA, CA., March 31, 2025—The Valley of the Moon Music Festival (VMMF) returns for its highly anticipated 11th season, presenting an exhilarating lineup of concerts exploring the power of personal and artistic relationships. Led by Artistic Directors Tanya Tomkins and Eric Zivian, this year's Festival, titled *Liaisons*, delves into the intricate connections between composers, genres, and eras.

Nestled in the heart of Sonoma's Wine Country, VMMF has spent over a decade bringing chamber music to life on historical instruments, offering audiences a rare opportunity to hear gems of the chamber music repertoire as the composers intended them.



The 2025 season examines the bonds that inspired creativity—from lifelong friendships and sibling rivalries to artistic mentorships and stylistic revolutions. This year’s repertoire spans centuries and continents, from Bach to Scott Joplin, revealing the inspirations and collaborations that have defined classical music.

“For our 11th season, we wanted to highlight the relationships that are crucial to music history,” said Tomkins and Zivian. “This season, we celebrate these dynamic and often complicated liaisons, brought to life by extraordinary musicians in beautiful Sonoma.”

2025 Season Highlights

- 10 chamber music concerts over 3 weekends in July featuring an intergenerational roster of musicians, including Artistic Directors Tanya Tomkins and Eric Zivian.
 - Complimentary wine receptions following each Hanna Center Auditorium performance, offering audiences the chance to meet the artists.
 - The pre-concert Blattner Lecture Series, with dynamic speakers and experts in the field hosted by renowned musicologist Kate van Orden.
 - Debut performances by the 2025 Apprentices and Fellowship Quartet—your opportunity to hear the preeminent artists of the future, today.
 - A pay-what-you-choose concert at La Luz Center, featuring works by Latin American composers and *Beneath a Tree*.
 - A free Kids & Family Concert with Grammy Award-winning jazz violinist Mads Tolling and the 2025 Apprentice Quartet.
-

The Festival opens **Saturday, July 12** with ***Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn: A Musical Family***, a poignant portrait of the deep bond between siblings Fanny Hensel and Felix Mendelssohn. The program features renowned violinists Owen Dalby (St. Lawrence String Quartet) and Jennifer Frautschi, Festival favorites Elizabeth Blumenstock and Ramón Carreño Martínez on viola, and Aaron Wolff (in his Festival debut) and VMMF Artistic Director Tanya Tomkins on cello. The program includes Mendelssohn's luminous String Quintet in A major and Hensel's show-stopping Piano Trio, alongside pieces by J.S. Bach, a composer who inspired them both.

On **Sunday, July 13**, join us for an intriguing look at the tumultuous relationship between Richard Wagner and the French Romantics (***Wagner and the French: A Love-Hate Relationship***). Initially, French composers such as Debussy and Chausson were captivated by Wagner's groundbreaking innovations, eagerly embracing his music as model and inspiration—but after the Franco-Prussian War, a surge of patriotic fervor engendered a movement toward a distinctly French musical identity. This shift coincided with a broader rebellion against Romanticism itself, pushing the French toward a new musical language that anticipated modernism.

Featuring guitarist Marc Teicholz, violist Ramón Carrero-Martínez, and baroque to folk ensemble Beneath a Tree, among others, the season's first **Alfresco Concert (Thursday, July 17)** will be held on the beautiful patio of the La Luz Center. Bask in the evening's lingering warmth as you enjoy appetizers, wine, and music by Spanish-speaking composers from Baroque to Classical and beyond, accompanied by comments from the stage in both Spanish and English.

Be transported to Paris with us on **Saturday, July 19**, as we enter the world of legendary pedagogue ***Nadia Boulanger: 20th Century Influencer***. Many young talents sought the guidance of the Grande Dame of 20th century composition, among them Astor Piazzolla, Aaron Copland, and Quincy Jones—whose works you will hear, alongside works by Stravinsky (whom she advised and admired), her sister Lili Boulanger, and the G minor Piano Quartet of her own teacher, Gabriel Fauré.

Sunday, July 20: Clara Schumann and Her Circle. In addition to being the wife of renowned composer Robert Schumann and raising their many children, Clara Schumann was one of 19th-century Europe's foremost pianists who maintained a grueling touring schedule—yet she still found time to compose. Two composers featured on this program were part of Clara's circle: Josephine Lang, for whom Clara organized a benefit concert after her husband's untimely death, and Swedish composer and violinist Amanda Maier, whom Clara befriended in her later years. According to Maier's great-granddaughter, Saskia Thiadens (who lives in Napa!), a long-lost score of Maier's was discovered in a

family member's attic! Although her music is rarely heard today, we are thrilled to share her brilliance alongside works by the Schumanns, Josephine Lang, and Johannes Brahms.

On **Tuesday, July 22**, prepare for an evening of musical fireworks at the second **Alfresco Concert** of the summer, set against the picturesque backdrop of Buena Vista Winery's charming courtyard. Arrive early to savor the beauty of the surroundings while enjoying a glass of Buena Vista wine and a leisurely picnic. The performance will begin with a delightful cello and guitar duo, featuring Angela Lee and Marc Teicholz. The night will culminate with one of the most exhilarating works of the entire chamber music repertoire—Felix Mendelssohn's Octet, composed, incredibly, when he was only 16. This vibrant masterpiece will be brought to life by the festival's Apprenticeship and Fellowship quartets, with Laureate violinist Juliette Greer at the helm.

Our third weekend of concerts begins **Friday, July 25** with **The VMMF Apprentice Concert**. Whether pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees, or already well into their professional careers, our apprentices are accomplished artists who share extraordinary promise and an eagerness to expand their horizons and hone their interpretive skills. They are mentored by world-class faculty while performing on historically accurate instruments.

Paris has long been a city that absorbs influences from across the globe, a vibrant hub where cutting-edge musical ideas flourish. On **Saturday, July 26**, **Americans in Paris** celebrates the rich musical exchange between two continents: the composers featured in this concert were either Americans who were beloved in Paris and adopted French harmonies, or, like Debussy and Ravel, were deeply influenced by the vibrant music of the Americas and embraced the rhythmic freedom of jazz with open arms. VMMF Fellow Julia Yang (cello) makes her Festival debut in this concert, alongside a returning favorite, violinist Rachell Ellen Wong.

Kids and Family Concert: on **Sunday, July 27**, bring family and friends of all ages—from 2 to 102—to the outdoor patio of the Sonoma Community Center for a fun, engaging, and educational hour featuring music from many different musical traditions. Featuring Grammy Award-winning jazz violinist Mads Tolling in his Festival debut, alongside the 2025 Apprenticeship Quartet, this concert promises to delight audiences with its energy and artistry. It's FREE for the entire community—don't miss it!

Also on **Sunday, July 27**, the Festival concludes with a flourish, in a concert aptly titled **Inspirations**. Music is passed down through generations, with each composer responding to those who preceded them—whether striving to match or surpass their predecessors' achievements, or simply to honor and incorporate their voices. This concert tells the story of one such set of musical dialogues. Hear Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, featuring

our full complement of players—faculty, Apprentices, Fellows, and Laureates—led by violinist Rachell Ellen Wong. Tchaikovsky was deeply inspired by Mozart, who in turn was profoundly influenced by Haydn—and so, before the Serenade, you will hear a Piano Trio by Mozart, as well as Haydn's ebullient string quartet op. 33, no. 5.

In addition to our concerts, renowned Harvard professor and musician Kate van Orden returns to VMMF as host of the **Blattner Lecture Series**. Each Saturday at 2:30 pm before the 4 pm concert, Kate will introduce a guest expert in musicology or music history, who will offer essential insights to deepen your concertgoing experience and take questions from the audience. These lectures are free to anyone who purchases a ticket to the afternoon concert. We heartily encourage you to take this opportunity to enrich your understanding of the music you'll hear!

Special Pre-Festival Events

To whet your appetite for the summer festival, VMMF will host several exciting concerts:

- **May 10 | Bartholomew Park | Presented by Music in Place**

A collaboration with Music in Place, this concert showcases a string quartet of Emerging Artists from the San Francisco Conservatory, following a week-long intensive coaching with VMMF's Directors Tanya Tomkins and Eric Zivian.

- **June 3 | La Luz Center**

A pay-what-you-choose concert celebrating the rich traditions of Spanish-speaking composers, ensuring accessibility for all music lovers at La Luz Center's charming outdoor patio.

- **June 22 | Benefit Concert at the Moon House Antiquarium**

An exclusive evening of chamber music in the mystical setting of the Moon House Antiquarium, featuring performances by VMMF Apprentices and Fellows in support of the VMMF's mission and education programs.

About the Valley of the Moon Music Festival

From its inception, the Valley of the Moon Music Festival's goal has been to bring historically informed post-Baroque chamber music to the music lovers of Sonoma and beyond. The Festival's vision is to produce performances of high caliber that highlight both established, mature musicians and younger artists who are inspired by the Festival's mission. With the popular Blattner Lecture Series, the Festival aims to include its audience in its broad conception of music making, enjoyment, and learning. We are deeply grateful for your participation as you play a crucial role, further expanding the network of relationships that define this summer's theme.

Tickets go on sale in early April.

For more information, visit us at <https://valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org>.



SEASON AT A GLANCE

Saturday July 12 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

FANNY AND FELIX MENDELSSOHN: A MUSICAL FAMILY

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Quintet No. 1 in A major for Two Violins, Two Violas, and Cello, Op. 18 (1826)

J.S. BACH Chorale Prelude

J.S. BACH *Aus Liebe...* arr. for Flute, Two Violas, and Voice (1727)

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Trio No. 2 in C minor for Piano, Violin, and Cello, Op. 66 (1845)

FANNY MENDELSSOHN *Italien* for Voice and Piano

FANNY MENDELSSOHN Trio in D minor for Piano, Violin, and Cello, Op. 11 (1846)

ARTISTS Nikki Einfeld, SOPRANO | Stacey Pelinka, FLUTE | Jennifer Frautschi, Owen Dalby, VIOLIN | Elizabeth Blumenstock, Ramón Carrero-Martínez, VIOLA | Aaron Wolff, Tanya Tomkins, CELLO | Audrey Vardanega, Eric Zivian, PIANO

Sunday July 13 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

WAGNER AND THE FRENCH: A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

WAGNER Siegfried Idyll arr. for Two Violins, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano, WWV 103 (1869)

DEBUSSY Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano, L.140 (1917)

CHAUSSON Concert in D Major for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet, Op. 21 (1891)

ARTISTS Anna Presler, Jennifer Frautschi, Liana Bérubé, Owen Dalby, VIOLIN | Phyllis Kamrin, Ramón Carrero-Martínez, VIOLA | Aaron Wolff, Tanya Tomkins, CELLO | Dan Turkos, BASS | Audrey Vardanega, Eric Zivian, PIANO

Thursday July 17 | 7:00 PM | La Luz Center Patio

ALFRESCO CONCERT I

Works by Ximénez, Ponce and special performance by *Beneath a Tree*.

Exact works to be announced later in the Spring.

ARTISTS Marc Teicholz, GUITAR | Daria Adams, Elizabeth Blumenstock, Gail Hernández Rosa, VIOLIN | Ramón Carrero-Martínez, VIOLA | Aaron Wolff, CELLO | Dan Turkos, BASS

Saturday July 19 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

NADIA BOULANGER: 20TH CENTURY INFLUENCER

BOULANGER Three Pieces for Cello and Piano, Piece 1 (1914)

PIAZZOLA Oblivion for Cello and Piano (1982)

COPLAND AND LILI BOULANGER Songs for Voice and Piano

FRANCAIX Sonatine for Violin and Piano (1934)
COPLAND Two Pieces for String Quartet (1928)
QUINCY JONES Soul Bossa Nova arr. for String Quartet (1962)
FAURÉ Quartet No. 2 in G minor for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello, Op. 45 (1887)

ARTISTS Nikki Einfeld, SOPRANO | Daria Adams, Gail Hernández Rosa, Juliette Greer, Liana Bérubé, VIOLIN | Rose Nelis, VIOLA | Clara Abel, Nick Reeves, Tanya Tomkins, CELLO | Audrey Vardanega, Eric Zivian, PIANO

Sunday July 20 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

CLARA SCHUMANN AND HER CIRCLE

CLARA SCHUMANN Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann for Piano, Op. 20 (1853) BRAHMS Sonatensatz: Scherzo in C minor for Violin and Piano (1853)
LANG/CLARA/ROBERT/JOHANNES/MAIER Songs
AMANDA MAIER Quartet in E minor for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello (1891)
CLARA SCHUMANN Romance from Piano Concerto in A minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 7 (1835)
ROBERT SCHUMANN Quartet in F major for Strings, Op. 41, No. 2 (1842)

ARTISTS Clara Osowski, SOPRANO | Juliette Greer, Soyoung Choi, VIOLIN | Phyllis Kamrin, Rose Nelis, VIOLA | Clara Abel, Tonya Tomkins, CELLO | Audrey Vardanega, Eric Zivian, PIANO

Tuesday July 22 | 7:00 PM | Buena Vista Winery

ALFRESCO CONCERT 2

MENDELSSOHN Octet in E-flat Major for Four Violins, Two Violas, and Two Cellos, Op. 20 (1825)
Selections for Violin and Guitar (*to be announced in the spring*)

ARTISTS Marc Teicholz, GUITAR | Juliette Greer, Soyoung Choi, VIOLIN | Rose Nelis, VIOLA | Angela Lee, Clara Abel, CELLO | Apprentice Quartet

Friday July 25 | 7:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

2025 APPRENTICE CONCERT

Details to be announced later in the spring

Saturday July 26 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium

AMERICANS IN PARIS

GERSHWIN Lullaby for Two Violins, Viola, and Cello (1920)
DEBUSSY Première rhapsodie for Clarinet and Piano (1910)
WHITE Violin Pieces

ELLINGTON Don't Get Around Much Anymore, arr. for violin (1940)
BAKER Sous les Ponts de Paris, arr for string trio (1962)
MILHAUD La création du monde, Arr. for Two Violins, Viola, Cello, and Piano, Op. 81a (1923)
JOPLIN Swipesy Cakewalk (1900)
DEBUSSY Debussy: Préludes, Book 2: VI. General Lavine - Eccentric (1912)
STRAVINSKY Piano-Rag-Music (1919)
COPLAND Four Piano Blues, No. 4 (1948)
RAVEL Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano (1927)

ARTISTS Jerome Simas, CLARINET | Daria Adams, Giancarlo Latta, Mads Tolling, Rachell E. Wong, VIOLIN | Gail Hernández Rosa, VIOLA | Julia Yang, Nick Reeves, CELLO | Allegra Chapman, Audrey Vardanega, Eric Zivian, Elizabeth Dorman, PIANO

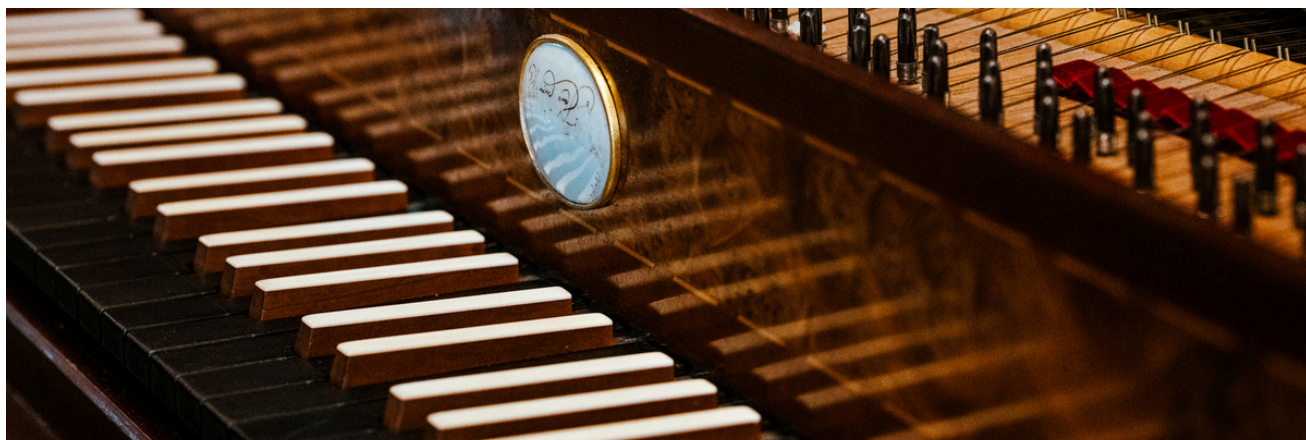
Sunday July 27 | 11:00 AM | Sonoma Community Center Patio
KIDS AND FAMILY CONCERT

ARTISTS Mads Tolling, VIOLIN | Apprentice Quartet

Sunday July 27 | 4:00 PM | Hanna Center Auditorium
FINAL CONCERT: INSPIRATIONS

MOZART Piano Trio TBD
HAYDN Quartet in G major for Strings, Op. 33, No. 5 (1781)
TCHAIKOVSKY Trio in A minor for Piano, Violin, and Cello, Variations (1882)
TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings in C major, Op. 48 (1880)

ARTISTS Festival Apprentices | Elizabeth Blumenstock, Giancarlo Latta, Juliette Greer, Rachell E. Wong, Soyoung Choi, VIOLIN | Rose Nelis, VIOLA | Clara Abel, Julia Yang, Tanya Tomkins, CELLO | Dan Turkos, BASS | Eric Zivian, PIANO



FESTIVAL ARTISTS

Allegra Chapman, *Piano* • Anna Presler, *Violin* • Aaron Wolff (Fellow), *Cello* • Angela Lee, *Cello* • Audrey Vardanega, *Piano* • Clara Abel (Fellowship Quartet), *Cello* • Clara Osowski, *Soprano* • Daria Adams, *Violin* • Dan Turkos, *Bass* • Elizabeth Blumenstock, *Violin* • Elizabeth Dorman, *Piano* • Eric Zivian, *Piano* • Gail Hernández Rosa, *Violin* • Giancarlo Latta (Laureate), *Violin* • Jerome Simas, *Clarinet* • Juliette Greer (Fellowship Quartet), *Violin* • Julia Yang (Fellow), *Cello* • Liana Bérubé, *Violin* • Mads Tolling, *Violin* • Marc Teicholz, *Guitar* • Nick Reeves (Emerging Artist), *Cello* • Phyllis Kamrin, *Viola* • Ramón Carrero-Martínez (Laureate), *Viola* • Rachell E. Wong, *Violin* • Rosemary Nelis (Fellowship Quartet), *Viola* • Soyoung Choi (Fellowship Quartet), *Violin* • Stacey Pelinka, *Flute* • Tanya Tomkins, *Cello* • Jennifer Frautschi, *Violin* • Nikki Einfeld, *Soprano*

All concerts and artists subject to change.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit us at
<https://valleyofthemoonmusicfestival.org>.

