



Chamber Music Northwest: Inspiring musical experiences that bring culture and artistry to the community



Five weeks, 28 different mainstage concerts, over 100 musicians, 125 pieces of music, at many locations across the Portland area.” And that’s just this summer so far! declares Peter Bilotta, Executive Director of **Chamber Music Northwest (CMNW)**. He fell in love as an audience member before he took the reins of the organization in 2013, and is proud to champion the amazing work they do. “It is the most diverse, dynamic, varied musical program in the country,” he explains. “It is a really unusual organization, unlike anything else in the nation.” Chamber Music Northwest brings world-class music and musicians across Portland and the region, staging concerts with world-renowned musicians, providing educational opportunities for promising young professional musicians, and taking music out into the community.

What is chamber music?

Chamber music is music played by a small group in an intimate space, with one musician on each part, but beyond that, there are few boundaries defining chamber music.

Every year, Chamber Music Northwest brings in roughly 100 of the highest caliber musicians from around the world to play with other world-class musicians they may never otherwise meet, and to play music that may be outside their normal repertoire. Each group is comprised of a broadly diverse collection of musicians with varying specialties and backgrounds, ranging from young rising stars to seasoned profession-



Opening night of the CMNW 2022 Summer Festival: Artistic Director Emeritus David Shifrin with Executive Director Peter Bilotta, and Artistic Directors Gloria Chien and Soovin Kim

als. Artistic Directors Gloria Chien and Soovin Kim scour the globe to build each year’s CMNW artist community, and it’s not unusual to find Grammy winners and famous names among them. CMNW has a unique residency arrangement, set up with a summer camp-like atmosphere, and resident musicians perform in a wide variety of venues and in various combinations.



CHAMBER MUSIC N O R T H W E S T





Chamber Music Northwest Performances

CMNW hosts classical music concerts, of course, but that’s just the beginning. Their schedule this summer included Eastern Inspirations — Asian-inspired pieces — string, percussion and saxophone quartets, a piano quintet, and operatic vocals work, among other solo and ensemble pieces. And their musicians play everywhere; venues such as The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, free community concerts in Portland-area parks, The Armory at Portland Center Stage, and several college auditoriums. CMNW even includes a unique AT-HOME series, hosting online virtual concerts available in audience living rooms. And while CMNW may be best known for its summer festival, featuring more than 100 events and activities, the organization hosts events and concerts year-round as well.



Sinta Saxophone Quartet

The CMNW program also features original music the organization commissions from composers. Chamber Music Northwest has commissioned work from composers at the highest level of their profession and from young hopefuls just beginning their careers. They premiere these original pieces in concerts and festivals, recording them and making them available to stream and purchase. CMNW is, in fact, one of the largest commissioners of new chamber music in the United States.

CMNW Educational and Community Programs

Chamber Music Northwest is about more than performances; CMNW is also dedicated to bringing music to the community and fostering the next generation of musical leaders. A large portion of its events and concerts are performed free in parks, community centers, educational

“CMNW exists to offer listeners and musicians musical encounters that inspire collective appreciation and joy.”

~from CMNW’s mission statement



Opening night of the CMNW 2022 Summer Festival (Artistic Director Gloria Chien, center)

institutions, retirement communities, and health-care settings. They work hard to cover as much geographical ground as possible in the Northwest, ranging from Eugene up to Vancouver, WA.

CMNW records and shares Masterclasses, in which resident artists coach younger musicians, making them available to view in person or streaming online. Its educational efforts are also focused on two major programs, detailed below:

Protégé Project

The Protégé Project, currently in its 12th successful year, brings early career musicians to CMNW to cultivate their remarkable talent and provide opportunities to perform with resident musicians. This program has turned out numerous internationally renowned artists, and nearly all program alumni have gone on to professional musical careers; you can learn about past Protégé Project artists [here](#).

Young Artist Institute

This year, 2022, was the inaugural year for the Young Artist Institute (YAI), a three-week intensive program for young string musicians ages 14-17. The students selected for the program are some of the most advanced



CMNW 2022 Summer Festival Finale: Love & Transformation



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS: Chamber Music Northwest



Artists from “Colors of Debussy and Crumb” take a bow

talents from around the world, and after mentorship from the program’s esteemed faculty, they become elevated to near-professional standards. The first-year graduates came from all over the world and country, including artists hailing from Taiwan, South Korea, China, Texas, and Tennessee. YAI musicians are featured in CMNW’s Summer Festival free performances, both as soloists and in string quartets.



Brentano Quartet

Experience Chamber Music Northwest

For readers who have not experienced a CMNW performance, you have a wonderful treat in store. To experience live events, summer festival subscriptions are available with tickets, you can purchase single tickets to any concerts or events, or find a free community performance to attend. You can find CMNW’s full performance and event schedule [here](#).

From now through August 31, you can watch five of the 2022 Summer Festival concerts from home [here](#).

Get involved

Chamber Music Northwest delivers experiences and entertainment of world-class quality, elevating the region’s appeal to both musicians and music-lovers. The organization helps to propel the careers of young talented artists, and offers a unique experience to musicians in residency.

Ticket sales to events support about 35 percent of the organization’s costs, and the rest comes from supporters. Donors can sponsor particular programs that inspire them, be part of commissioning new music, attend a benefit performance, or simply give to support CMNW’s ongoing mission. CMNW also welcomes volunteers! Learn more about ways to support CMNW [here](#).

Executive Director Peter Bilotta sums up what CMNW provides to the community: “it’s the world’s greatest music and musicians in a fun and casual atmosphere.” Be part of bringing this culture, artistry, and inspiration to the Northwest. Learn more at www.cmnw.org.



Viano Quartet and Gloria Chien

