

THE
NEXT>>FESTIVAL
OF EMERGING ARTISTS

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**The Next Festival of Emerging Artists Presents Its Annual Benefit
Concert for the David M. Hunt Library of Falls Village –
Saturday, June 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm at Music Mountain’s Gordon Hall**



Jeffrey Zeigler, cello, and Peter Askim, conductor, at Next Festival 2015; Miranda Cuckson

“The Next Festival holds a unique place in the vastly diversifying field of new music. Peter Askim has a special gift for creating vibrant camaraderie among the most promising young musicians who are on the brink of reshaping the field.”
–Lisa Bielawa, composer

The Next Festival of Emerging Artists is a contemporary music festival that has been receiving rave reviews from its participants since its founding by composer, conductor, and bassist Peter Askim in 2013. The festival presents its annual benefit concert for the David M. Hunt Library of Falls Village, CT, on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm at Gordon Hall on the beautiful grounds of Music Mountain (225 Music Mountain Road) as part of its seventh season.

Violinist Miranda Cuckson, one of contemporary music’s biggest stars, is the guest artist for the concert. Peter Askim conducts the Next Festival string orchestra in two works featuring Ms. Cuckson: the U.S. premiere of Toshio Hosokawa’s *Hika* (2015) for violin and string orchestra; Toru Takemitsu’s *Nostalghia* (1987), also for violin and string orchestra. The concert program also features Aaron Jay Kernis’s

Sarabanda in Memoriam (2004); Reena Esmail's *Teen Murti* (2018) for string orchestra; and the world premiere of a work for string orchestra by Peter Askim.

Admission to the concert is free; all donations benefit the David M. Hunt Library, which for over 125 years has been the cultural hub of its community and an educational center. www.huntlibrary.org

The music on the program

Next Festival Artistic Director Peter Askim describes the program: “We are thrilled to work with Miranda Cuckson, one of today's foremost proponents of contemporary music, in a program that explores remembrance, tradition, and loss – and our own relation to them. We are excited to join with Miranda to present the American premiere of Hosokawa's *Hika*, which, like Takemitsu's *Nostalghia*, is a meditation on memory and its fragility. Aaron Jay Kernis' epic *Sarabanda in Memoriam* is a searing reaction to the cataclysm of 9/11. Reena Esmail's *Teen Murti* filters Hindustani musical traditions through a uniquely individual style that pays homage to the past with an eye to the future.” Completing the program is a new work by Peter Askim that he describes as “a celebration of the human spirit's ability to transcend circumstance and find hope and joy in the midst of everyday life.”

Takemitsu's *Nostalghia* draws inspiration from Andrei Tarkovsky's 1983 film of the same name, and its central theme of homesickness. Toshio Hosokawa says about *Hika*, which he based on an elegy composed for a friend, “The solo violin is a person who sings a song of sadness, and the string orchestra represents nature and the cosmos surrounding that person. The violin converses and argues with the cosmos, but ultimately melts into its resonance. Through singing about sadness, people find salvation.”

The Next Festival for Emerging Artists

“It is extremely rare,” says cellist Jeffrey Zeigler (Next Festival 2015 guest artist) “to find a festival that fosters an environment of hard work and camaraderie while at the same time making contemporary music its primary focus.” That festival is the Next Festival of Emerging Artists.

A two-week immersive experience for the modern string player, composer, and choreographer, the Next Festival for Emerging Artists provides a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurial career-building, contemporary music performance, and intensive, personalized artistic development. Over the past six years, the Next Festival has included some of the most prominent figures in new music today: guest artists including Tony Arnold, Matt Haimovitz, Jennifer Koh, Nadia Sirota, Richard Thompson, Jeffrey Zeigler, and the string quartet ETHEL; and composers including Derek Bermel, Lisa Bielawa, Liisa Hirsch, Pierre Jalbert, Aaron Jay Kernis, Phil Kline, Jessica Meyer, and Aleksandra Vrebalov; as well as choreographer Christopher D'Amboise.

What makes the Next Festival for Emerging Artists unique?

“This festival began as a manifesto,” says Peter Askim. “I wanted to prove it could be done – to assemble a group of motivated, outstanding young musicians, treat them really well, give them the freedom to work with each other and on the music they wanted, and provide the best possible guides and collaborators I could find – to give them the tools to keep making this art in today's world. And not have

them go into debt paying for it. They pay what they can, and the festival works to raise the money to make up the difference.”

Bringing together an intimate ensemble of 20 string players aged 20-30, the festival begins with a week on the grounds of Music Mountain in Falls Village, Connecticut. Here, the musicians create their own schedules of intense study, beginning with one-on-one lessons and chamber music coaching with Peter Askim in the musicians’ chosen repertoire. Student-led chamber music rehearsals, master classes and talks with guest artists and composers follow, as well as ensemble rehearsals devoted to the festival’s concert program of new works. A public performance at Music Mountain concludes the first week.

The festival moves to New York City, where the concert is performed again, often with the composers in attendance, at a prominent new music venue such as (le) poisson rouge or National Sawdust. Then, student composers invited by Grammy- and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis bring new works to be rehearsed in-depth over three days before being recorded in a professional studio. For the culmination of the festival, the young composers and student choreographers invited by Tony Award-nominated choreographer Christopher D’Amboise join the musicians in a series of workshops exploring multi-disciplinary collaboration and improvisation.

Watch a 9:54-long video about the Next Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsnBHh3m13c>

The results? Here’s the feedback...

“The precision and energy they brought to [my] piece took it to a new level.” –Christopher Theofanidis, composer

“I was amazed at the quality of musicianship from these young players, and the great skill of Peter Askim in educating, leading and coaxing the best from them.” –Richard Thompson, composer

“The students really got down to the core of my piece, Offrenes, which means offering. They treated it like a true offering, not thinking of themselves but of the music and what’s behind the music. ...The performance at (le) poisson rouge with cellist Jeff Ziegler was spellbinding and the music of these young souls on fire is ever deep in my heart!” –Peter-Anthony Togni, composer

“Everyone worked so hard and all mentioned how Peter’s coaching benefitted them in so many ways: he really changed our way of thinking.” –Violinist, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

“I wish to express here my unyielding support for [Peter Askim] and for his dream to provide a musical haven for aspiring musicians. This is particularly important to me as I have been unable to attend music festivals for several years due to financial constraints. That Peter made it his priority to raise enough funds to provide substantial scholarships to participants is something that I will never take for granted... This festival provided me with one of those rare paradigm shifts that illuminates the simple answers to a meaningful life. It has re-energized me, reawakened my creativity, and reaffirmed, despite overwhelming odds against me, why I do what I do.” –Cellist, Columbia University, Manhattan School of Music

Read more of what people had to say: www.next-fest.org/testimonials

Watch videos about the Next Festival and of past performances: www.next-fest.org/video

Peter Askim, Next Festival Founder and Artistic Director

Active as a composer, conductor and bassist, Peter Askim is Artistic Director of the Next Festival of Emerging Artists and Music Director of the Raleigh Civic Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, as well as Director of Orchestral Activities at North Carolina State University. He was previously Music Director and Composer-in-Residence of the Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra. He has also been a member of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and served on the faculty of the University of Hawaii-Manoa, where he directed the Contemporary Music Ensemble and taught theory and composition. A dedicated champion of the music of our time, he has premiered numerous works, including those by composers Richard Danielpour, Nico Muhly, Aaron Jay Kernis and Christopher Theofanidis, and has collaborated with such artists as the Miró String Quartet, Matt Haimovitz, Vijay Iyer, Jeffrey Zeigler, Nadia Sirota, and Sō Percussion. As a composer, he has been called a “modern master” by The Strad and has had commissions and performances from such groups as the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Honolulu Symphony, Cantus Ansambel Zagreb, and the American Viola Society, as well as by performers ETHEL, cellist Jeffrey Zeigler, flutist/conductor Ransom Wilson, and violinist Timothy Fain. www.peteraskim.com

Miranda Cuckson, Next Festival 2019 Guest Artist

Violinist and violist Miranda Cuckson delights listeners in the US and internationally with her versatile and expressive playing of a large range of music, from the newest creations to older pieces. She has been deeply and widely involved in contemporary music and is passionate about the creative role of the performer/interpreter in the artistic process and in communicating the music. She performs as soloist and chamber musician at concert halls and festivals, schools and universities, galleries and informal spaces. Downbeat magazine recently stated, “violinist Miranda Cuckson reaffirms her standing as one of the most sensitive and electric interpreters of new music.” Her recording of Luigi Nono’s *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura* for violin and electronics with Christopher Burns (Urlicht AV) was named one of the best albums of 2012 by The New York Times. She recently premiered a violin concerto written for her by Georg Friedrich Haas at the Suntory Festival with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, with the Staatsorchester Stuttgart, and the Orchestra of Casa da Musica in Porto. www.mirandacuckson.com

Saturday, June 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm

[Music Mountain](#)

225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Connecticut

The Next Festival of Emerging Artists

Peter Askim, conductor

Miranda Cuckson, violin

Orchestra of The Next Festival of Emerging Artists

Toshio Hosokawa	<i>Hika</i> for violin and string orchestra (2015 – <u>U.S. premiere performances</u>)
Toru Takemitsu	<i>Nostalgia</i> for violin and string orchestra (1987)
Aaron Jay Kernis	<i>Sarabanda in Memoriam</i> (2004)
Reena Esmail	<i>Teen Murti</i> for string orchestra (2018)
Peter Askim	New work for string orchestra (2019 – <u>World premiere performances</u>)

Admission is free; donations will benefit the David M. Hunt Falls Village Library

www.next-fest.org

April 19, 2019