

THE  
*NEXT*>>FESTIVAL  
OF EMERGING ARTISTS

Contact: Jennifer Wada Communications  
718-855-7101

[jennifer@wadacommunications.com](mailto:jennifer@wadacommunications.com)  
[www.wadacommunications.com](http://www.wadacommunications.com)

**The Next Festival of Emerging Artists Presents a Free Concert of Chamber Music on Friday, May 31, 2019, at Great Barrington's Egremont Village Inn**



*Jeffrey Zeigler, cello, and Peter Askim, conductor, at Next Festival 2015*

***“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 a free concert of chamber music as the first public performance of its seventh season on Friday, May 31, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Egremont Village Inn in Great Barrington, a 1786 country inn listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Peter Askim describes the concert: “The artists of the Festival present highly personal chamber music performances in the intimate setting of the historic Egremont Village Inn. The audience, seated just feet away from these amazing young musicians, is able to experience their passion, talent, and commitment close-up, enveloped in the sound. Witness the evolution of the next generation of classical musicians, and join us for a free post-concert reception to get to know them one-on-one!”

The Next Festival each year brings together a group of 20 string players aged 20-30 for an intensive two weeks of coaching, workshops, rehearsal, and performance. The festival also features string orchestra concerts at Music Mountain in Falls Village, CT, and at (le) poisson rouge in New York City, but this intimate concert at the Egremont Village Inn features chamber music – string duos, trios, quartets, quintets, and the like – in a program chosen and announced by the students themselves.

Admission to the concert is free; donations, which will benefit the Next Festival, are welcome.

### ***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, whose seventh season takes place this spring.

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.”

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 the 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](http://www.next-fest.org/testimonials)

Watch videos about the Next Festival and of past performances: [www.next-fest.org/video](http://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 Ansambl Zagreb, and the American Viola Society, as well as by performers such as ETHEL, cellist Jeffrey Zeigler, flutist/conductor Ransom Wilson, and violinist Timothy Fain.

[www.peteraskim.com](http://www.peteraskim.com)

---

**Friday, May 31, 2019, at 7:00 pm**

**[Egremont Village Inn](#)**

**Great Barrington, Massachusetts**

***The Next Festival of Emerging Artists: An Evening of Chamber Music***

**At this beautiful country inn, built in 1786 and on the National Register of Historic Places, the musicians of Next Festival 2019 will perform a house concert of chamber music, the program for which they will curate themselves.**

**Admission is free; donations are welcome**

---

**[www.next-fest.org](http://www.next-fest.org)**

*April 19, 2019*