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## **Boulder Symphony Announces Inaugural Summer Festival**

*A week of classes and performances with renowned faculty from across North America, in collaboration with the Boulder Music Institute and Flatirons Strings Academy*

BOULDER (Feb. 28, 2018) — Boulder Symphony, Boulder Music Institute, and Flatirons Strings Academy have partnered to create their first ever collaborative Summer Festival. This Festival realizes Boulder Symphony's goal of providing the Greater Boulder community with educational programming that showcases the depth, creativity, and ingenuity of classical music.

The weeklong program will run from June 25-30, 2018, and will include a tuition-based course for local amateur or semi-professional musicians focused on string ensemble playing and vocal music. Participants will work with renowned faculty in multiple settings that include individual coachings, group rehearsals, public masterclasses, and workshops in Alexander Technique, Acting, Performance Psychology and Movement. Courses are aimed at offering local musicians of varying ages and abilities the opportunity to hone their skills and learn from renowned faculty while building community amongst fellow musicians.

Faculty have been secured from across North America, and include Keynes Chen, Rosemary Box, Charles Lee, Devin Patrick Hughes, Allan Armstrong, and Cherity Koepke. Faculty biographies are included below.

In culmination of the Festival, Boulder Symphony will present a public concert series that features Festival participants, faculty, and Boulder Symphony musicians.

Classes, including public masterclasses, and performances featuring faculty and students will take place at **First Presbyterian Church**, located at 16th and Canyon. Additional pop-up performances will take place along the **Pearl Street Mall** during the Boulder Fine Art Show. Tickets will range from free admission at pop-up performances to \$20 for the faculty concert.

Applications to participate in the Festival are now open. Application materials are available at <https://www.bouldersymphony.org/summer-festival-2018-application/>.

## Festival Faculty Bio Highlights

### **Keynes Chen, Violin - Boulder Symphony**

Yin-Feng Keynes Chen began his violin study at four, and entered Chongqing School of the Arts at the age of eleven, then the prestigious Shanghai Music Conservatory when he was thirteen. In 1995 he moved his violin study to CU-Boulder, where he received Masters Degree in Music Performance. Throughout his career Mr. Chen has received numerous awards including the Denes Koromzay Chamber Music Award, CU College of Music's Concerto Competition, the State and Regional Music Teachers' National Association Music Competition, and first prize-winner in the 2002 Bruce Ekstrand Competition with the Nacht Quartet. He was chosen to attend the Takács Quartet seminar both in 1999 and 2001, was awarded a full scholarship to the Australian Chamber Music Festival in 1998, and the Aspen Music festival in 1999. He was a first violin sectional member of the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and led as concertmaster for their tour in 2000–2001. His frequent regional performances have included performances with CU-Boulder, Colorado Music Festival, Colorado Symphony, Kitaro, Backyard Arts Series, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, and Boulder Philharmonic.

In addition to performing, Mr. Chen has been teaching since 1994 and has received complete Suzuki pedagogy training under famed Suzuki Pedagogue Dr. William Starr. Mr. Chen was the principal violin teacher for Englewood Arts' Strings Attached program at five different Englewood public schools from 2003-2005. Mr. Chen Currently serves as the Music Director for Longmont Youth Symphony, and has also served as Artistic Director for Boulder Youth Symphony and Conductor for Colorado Youth Symphony's Sinfonia Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra. In the summer of 2010, Mr. Chen led a successful youth symphony tour in China. He also serves as the Executive Director of A Mid-Summer Day's Dream String Camp in Boulder. Starting the summer of 2006, Mr. Chen became the first violinist for the Illuminati Quartet who performs and teaches for the String Quartet Program of Northern Colorado in both Greeley and Fort Collins. Because of his passion for music education, Mr. Chen and his wife Regan Kane, co-founded the high-standard music school in the Boulder area called Flatirons Strings Academy in 2007.

### **Rosemary Box, Viola - Orchestra Symphonique de Montreal**

Rosemary Shaw is a member of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. She has played in every chair in the viola section, and frequently as its Principal violist. Her musical life began at the Canberra School of Music, Australia, as a full scholarship student when she was five years old. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from CU Boulder and a double Artist Diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Rosemary's principal musical influences include Denes Koromzay, The Takacs Quartet, Judith Glyde and Rennie Regehr. The Aspen Music Festival was influential as well for many wonderful summers.

As a frequent solo recitalist, Rosemary enjoys promoting the viola with its speciality repertoire. This year, a six movement suite for viola and double bass was written for her by the Scottish composer Geoffrey Palmer. The Suite will be recorded and performed in Scotland and Canada. Notably, Rosemary's chamber music group was the feature in a Bravo documentary film on location in Canna, Italy. Other European accomplishments include a summer as co-concertmaster of the Rome Festival Orchestra.

Rosemary's future projects include the release of an album of entirely British-composed viola and piano music. When she isn't reading the alto clef, you might find Rosemary on her downhill skis, at yoga class, or running around her country home with her twins and a large dog.

### **Charles Lee, Cello - Boulder Philharmonic**

Dr. Charles C. Lee, cellist/composer/conductor, received his bachelor's degree in composition/piano from the Eastman School of Music where he won the Bernard Rogers composition award. After receiving a master's degree in cello performance at Temple University under Jeffrey Solow, he moved to Boulder to pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree under Judith Glyde at the University of Colorado, which he received in 2004. Dr. Lee has been principal cellist of the Boulder Philharmonic orchestra since 1998, and principal cellist of Colorado Ballet Orchestra since 2002. In addition to performing actively in the region as a chamber musician, he also appears frequently with the Central City Opera House and the Colorado Symphony Orchestras. Dr. Lee is currently serving as instructor of cello, conductor of the string ensemble and director of chamber music at the Regis University in Denver.

### **Devin Patrick Hughes, Conductor**

Devin Patrick Hughes is defined as a Musical Architect and is recognized for his exhilarating score interpretations, advocacy for music accessibility, innate passion with spiritual curiosity and entrepreneurial vigor. He currently serves as Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic, Boulder Symphony, and Civic Youth Orchestra of Denver; and has held positions with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, and Denver Contemporary Chamber Players.

Devin was recently featured in Maestro, the Solti International Conducting Competition as a semi-finalist, was the only American selected with eleven other conductors worldwide to compete in the Toscanini International Conducting Competition, and was a conducting fellow at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen. He has conducted orchestras across North America and Europe including the Winnipeg Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Des Moines Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, San Antonio Symphony, Green Bay Symphony, Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini in Italy and Orchestra of the Hungarian State Opera.

As a civically minded citizen, Devin was appointed by the Boulder City Council to serve as an Arts & Culture Commissioner for the City of Boulder and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Devin's education includes studies at Ithaca College, University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, Grinnell College, Vienna Conservatory of Music, and Ball State University. Devin lives in Colorado with his wife, an Alexander Technique practitioner and singer, along with their cat.

### **Allan Armstong, Coach/Accompanist**

Pianist and vocal coach Allan Armstrong is Visiting Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano (Instrumental and Vocal) at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He is the official accompanist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions for the Colorado/Wyoming district and Rocky Mountain Region. Previously he served on the applied piano faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley where he co-directed the nationally award-winning UTRGV Bravo Opera Company. Allan is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing as a coach/collaborative pianist.

Allan has been principal production coach at Eugene Opera, Opera on the Avalon, and Spotlight on Opera. In 2015 he was the rehearsal pianist and coach at the Colorado Music Festival. He was the pianist and coach for Sugar Creek Symphony and Song's production of The Magic

Flute and worked for nine seasons with Sherrill Milnes' Savannah Voice Festival. From 2010-2014 Allan served as a pianist/coach with the International Vocal Arts Institute in Blacksburg, VA. Allan was also the resident coach/accompanist for Opera Colorado where his performance highlights included the world premiere of the abridged version of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter* and a gala concert with soprano Elizabeth Futral.

Allan took a non-traditional route to music; he didn't begin studying the piano until the age of nineteen. His teachers include the late pianist/composer Robert Helps and Svetozar Ivanov at the University of South Florida. Allan's academic pursuits aside from music include Italian Literature and Art Criticism. In 2010 he was awarded a residency at the Arrigo Pedrolla Conservatory in Vicenza, Italy. There he performed chamber, lieder, and solo piano concerts. When he is not at the piano, Allan is an avid mountain climber and runner.

### **Cherity Koepke, Vocal Coach**

Stage Director Cherity Koepke comes from a diverse performance background ranging from opera to musical theater to cabaret. Her classical roles include Katherine (*Taming of the Shrew*), Ophelia (*Hamlet*) and Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*). Her operatic work began in 2002 with the Santa Fe Opera as a resident artist where she sang various roles including Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Liu (*Turandot*), Musetta (*La Bohème*) and Norma (*Norma*). In 2006, Ms. Koepke turned the focus of her career to stage directing. Well-versed in the genres of opera, musicals and theater, Ms. Koepke has directed productions such as *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Equus* and *A Lion in Winter*.

Ms. Koepke began working with Opera Colorado in 2007, where she serves as the Director of the Opera Colorado Young Artist Program. In addition to abridging and designing productions for the company's "Opera on Tour" program, she has served as stage director for Opera Colorado's touring productions of Rossini's *Cinderella*, Gounod's *Romeo and Juliette*, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. In 2012, Koepke directed the student matinee production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. In February of 2015, Koepke directed the world premiere concert reading of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter*.