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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES THE 31ST ANNUAL EVENT JULY 7-22 WITH MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS OF GREAT MUSIC FROM MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MASTERWORKS AND CLASSICAL FAVORITES TO CONTEMPORARY, WORLD MUSIC AND JAZZ IN 31 CONCERTS AND EVENTS IN A SPECTACULAR SETTING**

**GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, CHORUS AND BIG BAND, THE HOUSE JACKS, CALDER QUARTET, EARLY MUSIC WITH SHIRA KAMMEN'S IN BOCCA AL LUPO, VIOLINIST JEREMY COHEN, SARAH CAHILL LOU HARRISON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, PINE LEAF BOYS, ALEX DE GRASSI WITH ANDREW YORK, COMPOSER-PIANIST JOHN NOVACEK, HAWAIIAN AND CARIBBEAN ARTISTS KANEKOA & JOAN SORIANO, OPERA *DON PASQUALE*, BAND OF HEATHENS, KIM NALLEY, AN IN-DEPTH SCHUBERT SERIES AND MORE**

Mendocino, CA, April 3, 2017 – More than 30 varied concerts and events exploring more than 1,000 years of great music will highlight the 31st Mendocino Music Festival—one of the country's most eclectic music festivals, in a breathtakingly scenic location—scheduled July 7-22 2017 centered on the headlands of the historic seaside town of Mendocino, CA. Festival Co-Founders **Allan Pollack** and **Susan Waterfall** have announced the 2017 Festival lineup including the **Festival Orchestra, Chorus and Big Band, The House Jacks, Calder Quartet, early music with Shira Kammen's In Bocca al Lupo, violinist Jeremy Cohen, Sarah Cahill Lou Harrison Centennial Celebration, Pine Leaf Boys, Alex De Grassi with Andrew York, composer-pianist John Novacek, Hawaiian and Caribbean artists Kanekoa & Joan Soriano, Opera *Don Pasquale*, Band of Heathens, Kim Nalley, an in-depth Schubert series** and more. The Festival will open Friday, July 7, with a benefit celebration at a stunning private location featuring music and food in the home and lush gardens of Fedele and Linda Bauccio. Tickets for Festival concerts are priced \$12-\$55 and go on sale April 10. A complete Festival schedule may be found below; for information and tickets, visit [www.mendocinomusic.org](http://www.mendocinomusic.org) .

"Great music and great artists transcend genres, styles and time," say Festival co-founders Allan Pollack and Susan Waterfall, whose vision together with the late Walter Green was to partner a vibrant arts community in one of the world's most scenic locations with musicians from around the world that has resulted in one of the country's "go-to" festivals. "The Festival highlights

some of Northern California's world-class musicians together with some ~~class~~ extraordinary acts from the rest of the world. It doesn't matter what it's called—classical, jazz, pop, world music—if it's great, it's on stage at the Mendocino Music Festival and audiences come from near and far to be part of the excitement and adventure."

## **2017 MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

### **Friday, July 7 ▶ 6:00 to 9:00 PM Opening Gala Sostenuto**

At the Little River home of Linda and Fedele Bauccio Celebrate all that the Festival represents - music, sustainable food, art, and nature, at the Bauccio's stunning oceanfront home, featuring fine local wine and a sumptuous al fresco dinner prepared by Bon Appétit Management Company. This year Sostenuto celebrates the cuisine and music of New Orleans, with dancing to the lively Zydeco band CZ and the Bon Vivants. The food will be presented at stations throughout the grounds, including two houses; the outdoor kitchen, grill, and fire pit, and the gardens. Organic wine provided by Frey Vineyards.

### **Saturday July 8 ▶ 2:00 PM Tent Concert Hall Calder Quartet**

Back for a fifth year of insightful and moving playing, the Calder will perform the Mendelssohn String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op.13; and the Beethoven String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op.132.

### **Saturday July 8 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall The House Jacks**

Describing themselves as a "rock band without instruments," The House Jacks have been leaders in the contemporary a cappella world for 25 years. Their arrangements were used for the smash hit movie *Pitch Perfect* and their music has been the soundtrack for NBC's *The Sing-Off* and ESPN's *Monday Night Football*. Primarily performing original music, The House Jacks have transcended simple "band" categorization and are now a thriving institution, always featuring some of the best vocalists in the world.

### **Sunday July 9 ▶ 11:00 AM Matheson Hall The House Jacks Workshop**

Watch the House Jacks singers work their magic on several local a cappella groups.

### **Sunday July 9 ▶ 2:00 PM Preston Hall Side Note**

Hip. Imaginative. Fun. Funky. Fresh. Side Note is a group of seven twenty-somethings, each from a wildly different musical background, who draw on their diversity to create an all-new sound. Performing everything from classic

60s hits to mashups of the latest chart toppers, it's contemporary a cappella pushed to the limits of pop, R&B, funk, rock, musical theater and jazz. Get ready for some hot harmonies as Side Note delivers a show unlike nearly anything else in vocal music.

**Sunday July 9 ▶ 6:00 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Festival Orchestra with violinist Jeremy Cohen**

The season opens with the exotic rhythms and sinuous melodies of Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*; Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*; and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*.

**Monday July 10 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**In Bocca al Lupo**

**Shira Kammen: A concert of medieval and Renaissance music.**

Shira has spent well over half her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music. A member for many years of Ensembles Alcatraz and Project Ars Nova, she has also worked with Sequentia, Hesperion XX, Kitka and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Shira, playing vielle, medieval harp and violin, will be joined by Allison Zelles Lloyd, medieval harp, and Peter Hallifax and Julie Jeffrey, violas da gamba.

**Monday July 10 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Double Bill: Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands and Rita Hosking**

**Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands**

A key figure in bluegrass, traditional and folk music circles, Berkeley's Laurie Lewis has established herself as one of the finest and most diverse talents in music today. A winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association award for Female Vocalist of the Year, multiple times and a Grammy winner for her contribution to True Life Blues: the Songs of Bill Monroe, it doesn't get much better than Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands.

**Rita Hosking**

Northern California's own, Hosking is a fierce and captivating country-folk voice, singing of culture clash, the working class and hope. Honors include winning the 2008 Dave Carter Memorial Songwriting Contest at the Sisters Folk Festival, finalist in the 2009 Telluride Music Festival Troubadour Contest, and honors in the International Songwriting Contest and West Coast Songwriters' Association. From NPR's Weekend Edition to Bob Harris' BBC show, Hosking is moving audiences with her soul-stirring delivery.

**Tuesday July 11 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Sarah Cahill: Stenberg/Cahill/Winant Trio**

In celebration of maverick composer Lou Harrison's 2017 centennial, violinist Kate Stenberg, pianist Sarah Cahill, and percussionist William Winant will perform a concert of Harrison's music spanning half a century – exuberant dance music from his early years, dissonant complexity from the 1940s, and substantial works from the 1980s. Their program will include Harrison's

*Varied Trio, Grand Duo, A Summerfield Set, Largo Ostinato, Tandy's Tango, Jig and Range-Song, Changing Moment, and Dance for Lisa Karon.*

**Wednesday July 12 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Kathleen Grace**

Kathleen Grace has forged a remarkable career playing for a worldwide audience whose diversity reflects her own eclectic musical tastes. A naturally exquisite singer and songwriter, her soulful instincts are skillfully honed by her experience in jazz and blues. Grace has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, an official SXSW showcase, and festivals in Europe, South America and Asia. A passionate music educator, she is currently on the faculty of her alma mater, USC Thornton School of Music.

**Wednesday July 12 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Pine Leaf Boys**

Four-time Grammy-nominated, the world-renowned Pine Leaf Boys have made a name presenting their own inimitable brand of music with youthful exuberance, reviving ancient songs and bringing them to the bandstand. Hailing from southwest Louisiana, they are known for their wild shows, thoughtful arrangements, and breathing new life into Louisiana music.

**Thursday July 13 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Piano Series**

**John Novacek**

"A commanding presence at the keyboard" and an accomplished composer, John Novacek will perform the Beethoven Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2; Schumann *Carnaval*, Op. 9; Shostakovich *Preludes and Fugues*, Op. 87, No. 1 in C Major & No. 15 in D-flat Major; Ginastera *Danzas Argentinas*, Op. 2; and Novacek *3 Concert Rags*.

**Thursday July 13 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Band of Heathens**

The term "Americana" was practically invented to describe the Band of Heathens' sound, rich with lyrical content and supported by soaring guitar work and a rock-solid rhythm section. Hailing from Austin, Texas, and together ten years, the group fuses Lone Star blues, rock, and soul sounds with influences from Southern boogie-woogie, stoned soul, heartland country-rock and all points in between.

**Friday July 14 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Zoe Ellis**

Zoe Ellis' dramatic and colorful voice is well known to music fans in the Bay Area and beyond. Described by reviewers as "a resourceful and inventive vocalist," she sang for many years with the Bay Area funk band, the Mo'Fessionals. A dynamic performer, Ellis' credits include live performances with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Donald Byrd, Phil Lesh and Friends, ZADELL music co-lead with her big brother Dave Ellis, SoVoSo, Slammin All-

Body Band, Darryl Anders AgapeSoul, and as the leader of her own quartet, The Zoe Ellis Group.

**Friday July 14 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Opera: *Don Pasquale***

**Guest conductor Jason Sherbundy**

**Stage director Ann Woodhead**

Donizetti's effervescent opera is generally regarded as one of the greatest comic operas and a melodic masterpiece. A young couple in love schemes to thwart the plans of an old buffoon who wants to marry the girl himself.

Sara LeMesh, *Norina*; Sergio Gonzalez, *Ernesto*; Bojan Knezevic, *Don Pasquale*; Ben Brady, *Dr. Malatesta*

*Ticket includes 6:30 PM pre-concert lecture by Jason Sherbundy and Ann Woodhead.*

**Saturday July 15 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Piano Series**

**ZOFO Duet**

When you sit two acclaimed soloists at one piano, "you get something energetic and electrifying... out of this world." Eva-Maria Zimmerman and Keisuke Nakagoshi have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for piano-four-hands, blazing a bold new path for four-hands groups by focusing on 20th and 21st century repertoire and by commissioning new works from noted composers each year.

**Saturday July 15 ▶ 2:30 PM Hill House Inn**

**Alex de Grassi with Andrew York**

Fingerstyle guitar master Alex de Grassi and Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist Andrew York will perform solo and duo, and will also be joined by members of the Mendocino Summer Guitar Workshop in the premier of a composition for guitar orchestra.

**Saturday July 15 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Festival Big Band with Kim Nalley**

Kim Nalley has pipes to burn, packing a 3 ½ octave range that can go from operatic to gritty blues on a dime, projection that can whisper a ballad yet is capable of filling a room with no microphone. She has been compared to all the greats, but in the end, it's Kim Nalley and no one else – an unforced instrument with clarity and jazzy musicality, effortlessly delivered, and a sense of humor to boot.

**July 16-19 Understanding Schubert: Affirmations of Individualism**

Susan Waterfall is back by popular demand, this year with lectures and narrated concerts about Franz Schubert's life and music.

**Sunday July 16 ▶ 2:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Schubert Series Opening Lecture**

In Susan Waterfall's multi-media exploration of Franz Schubert's life, you will learn how the Vienna of Mozart and Beethoven changed with an increasingly large, restricted and regimented urban middle class. Schubert's potent settings of Romantic lyric poetry thrived in bourgeois settings where there was a growing need for personal emotional freedom. The inwardness and subjectivity of Schubert's music mirrored the search for meaning and belonging in an alienating world where nature was increasingly seen as the only solace. Tenor Brian Thorsett and pianist Miles Graber will perform characteristic lieder.

**Sunday July 16 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Double Bill: Kanekoa & Joan Soriano**

**Kanekoa**

Describing its music as ukulele-powered Hawaiian reggae folk rock, Kanekoa has been playing together since 1999, melding elements of Hawaiian, rock, folk, blues, reggae and improvisation into a truly unique sound. Because their sound is based on the yet untapped potential of the electrified Hawaiian ukulele, inspired by the range of musical tastes of its players, and shaped by the land and culture of Hawai'i, Kanekoa has discovered a land of limitless musical possibility. In short, you have not seen or heard anything like this.

**Joan Soriano**

Born in the rural countryside near Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, Joan Soriano fashioned his first guitar from a tin can and fishing line and has never looked back. Soriano plays steel string bachata with equal parts romance and grit. The Afro-infused rhythm that permeates his music has made him a favorite among dancers.

**Monday July 17 ▶ 10 AM Mendocino Presbyterian Church**

**Joan Soriano Workshop**

Be inspired by Joan Soriano's work with local middle and high school students who have been participating in the Lead Guitar program.

**Monday July 17 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Schubert Chamber Music**

Susan Waterfall will play *Moments Musicaux* and discuss the significance of Schubert's "character pieces" which, like lieder, suited the Romantic goals of intimacy and daydream. Schubert's exceptional ability to portray women in lieder will be demonstrated by soprano Julie Kierstine and pianist Daniel Lockert. The Octet, modeled on Beethoven's popular Septet, is unusually outgoing, but its gaiety is outlined with Schubertian shadows. The Octet will be performed by the Festival Chamber Players.

**Tuesday July 18 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Schubert Chamber Music**

The most domestic of all genres, the four-hand piano piece, attained its pinnacle with Schubert's *Fantasy* in F minor, written in the last year of Schubert's life. It will be performed by Julian Waterfall Pollack and Susan

Waterfall. The String Quintet in C Major for quartet and an additional cello, is a work of supreme inspiration and craft, an expression of Schubert's love of life as he faced his early death.

**Tuesday July 18 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Richie Goods & Nuclear Fusion**

Bassist Richie Goods, the youngest person ever inducted into the Pittsburgh Jazz Hall of Fame, has toured with a variety of jazz and popular artists including the Headhunters, Lenny White, and Whitney Houston, among others. Goods' lengthy discography also includes Grammy award-winning and platinum albums of Alicia Keys and Common. Together with his fusion/funk band Nuclear Fusion, they ignite the stage and excite the audience in one beautiful chain reaction.

**Wednesday July 19 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Babaghanoush**

Guitarist Dimitris Mahlis, drummer Ralph Humphrey, bassist Jerry Watts and saxophonist Antti Suzuki bring life to the multi ethnic compositions of Mahlis. Mahlis' playing style has been described as soulful and unique, and his compositions have set a standard in cross-cultural pollination. Suzuki's improvisational talents have been showcased over a varied musical landscape. Humphrey's brilliant way with multiple meters, along with Watts' unique approach to non-western genres, creates a rhythm section that explores musical territory with ease.

**Wednesday July 19 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Festival Orchestra with pianist Molly Morkoski**

Our inquiry into Schubert concludes with one of his most deeply felt orchestral works, the Symphony No. 8 in B minor (*Unfinished*); Richard Strauss' *Burleske* in D minor for piano and orchestra features dazzling keyboard work; and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68 closes the concert with "a grand melody in a major key."

*Ticket includes 6:30 PM pre-concert lecture by Kayleen Asbo*

**Thursday July 20 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Julian Pollack and J3PO**

Julian Pollack brings his project and band J3PO to the Festival stage this summer. Pollack will be joined by Cale Hawkins, Justin Golder and Adam Jackson. These jazz musicians explore popular songs from the later part of the 20th century as well as originals, through the lens of talk box vocals and jazz harmony, with a nod to contemporary music production. Experience the latest New York neo-fusion -- jazz, funk and soul -- in kaleidoscopic arrangements using laptops, synthesizers, and talk box.

**Friday July 21 ▶ 4:00 PM Preston Hall**

**Emerging Artists**

The annual and much anticipated recital by the enormously talented young string players from the festival's Emerging Artists Program is one of the season's highlights.

**Friday July 21 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**San Jose Taiko**

Acknowledged as one of the premier taiko ensembles in the world, San Jose Taiko has mesmerized audiences and critics alike with the powerful, spellbinding and propulsive sounds of taiko, the Japanese drum. Founded in 1973 by young Asian Americans searching to convey their experiences as third generation Japanese Americans, and inspired by traditional Japanese drumming, company performers express the beauty and harmony of the human spirit through the voice of the taiko as they strive to create new dimensions in music and movement.

**Saturday July 22 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall**

**Piano Series**

**Molly Morkoski**

With a "refined kind of virtuosity," Molly Morkoski will perform Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2 (*Moonlight*); John Adams' *Phrygian Gates*; and Chopin's *Ballade* No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52.

**Saturday July 22 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall**

**Festival Orchestra and Chorus**

The season closes with Verdi's dramatic Requiem, a "mass written by an agnostic opera composer in memory of a dear friend and public hero." Four soloists and a massed chorus will sing the monumental work.

*Ticket includes 6:30 PM pre-concert lecture.*

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