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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED JULY 12–27

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CONCERTS IN TWO WEEKS, FROM CLASSICAL, OPERA AND CHAMBER MUSIC TO CAJUN, BLUEGRASS AND JAZZ

HEADLINERS: FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, CHORUS AND BIG BAND WITH CONDUCTOR ALLAN POLLACK; BEAUSOLEIL WITH MICHAEL DOUCET, PIANISTS STEPHEN PRUTSMAN, ROBIN SUTHERLAND, ROBERT SCHWARTZ, SPENCER MYER, CAROLYN STEINBUCK AND SUSAN WATERFALL; VOCALISTS SHELEÁ, MARIO DIAZ-MORESCO, KATHLEEN GRACE, KIM NALLEY, RUTHIE FOSTER, CAROLYN WONDERLAND; CALDER STRING QUARTET, LE VENT DU NORD, BADI ASAD AND DIEGO FIGUEIREDO, ALEX DE GRASSI & ANDREW YORK, PETER ROWAN BLUEGRASS BAND, THE ODD DOGS, SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK®, BRAHMS SERIES, *OPERA: ELIXIR OF LOVE*, BUSINESS CASUAL PLUS SPECIAL EVENTS

TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 25 FOR 33RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN STUNNING SCENIC LOCALE

Mendocino, CA, March 15, 2019 – The 2019 Mendocino Music Festival will fill the historic seaside town of Mendocino, CA, July 12 through 27 with more than 30 exceptionally diverse concerts and special events energizing performers and audiences with a deep passion for live music, Festival Co-Founders **Allan Pollack** and **Susan Waterfall** have announced. The 33rd Mendocino Music Festival—one of the country’s most eclectic music festivals in a breathtaking scenic location—will feature a music-lover’s dream lineup including classical, chamber music, jazz, big band, bluegrass, Cajun and even an opera and a mini-series devoted to Brahms, with beloved artists returning to the Festival as well as the introduction of new artists to Festival audiences. The Festival will open Friday, July 12, with a benefit celebration at a stunning private location featuring music and food. In addition to the concerts and opening benefit, other events are featured before and during the Festival—consult the schedule and website. Tickets for Festival concerts are priced \$15-\$55 and go on sale to the general public on March 25. A complete Festival schedule may be found below; for information and tickets, visit www.mendocinomusic.org.

The Mendocino Music Festival: A Passionate Coming Together of Performers, Audience and Community

For more than three decades, the Mendocino Music Festival has brought together a

passionate group of committed professional musicians—some of them have been with the Festival since the beginning—guest artists and an extraordinarily devoted audience from all over Northern California and beyond. This mix of passion, live music and one of North America's most spectacular coastal towns makes the Mendocino Music Festival a destination and a top annual music event.

"it's all about the relationships," 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. The result has been one of the country's "go-to" festivals for 33 years. "The whole town is electrified with the presence of musicians from all over—we get to see familiar faces and new ones—this gorgeous location and wonderful community hosts this amazing group of talented artists and it makes these two weeks every July an exceptional experience for everyone. If you've been to the Festival before, make sure to return this year. If you have never been, this is a great year to experience it!"

2019 Mendocino Music Festival Schedule **Allan Pollack and Susan Waterfall, Co-Founders**

Friday, July 12 – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Opening Gala

Sostenuto 2019: From Memphis to Motown

A celebration of sustainability to launch the 2019 Festival!

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**.

Organic wine provided by **Frey Vineyards**. \$195 per person, limited seating. All proceeds directly benefit the Festival. 707.937.2044 or www.mendocinomusic.org for tickets and information

Saturday July 13 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

BeauSoleil has been making some of the most potent and popular Cajun music on the planet. Born out of the rich Acadian ancestry of its members and created and driven by bandleader Michael Doucet's spellbinding fiddle playing and soulful vocals, BeauSoleil's distinctive sound derives from the distilled spirits of New Orleans jazz, blues, rock, folk, swamp pop, Cajun, country and bluegrass.

Sunday July 14 ▶ 6:00 PM Tent Concert Hall

Festival Orchestra with pianist Stephen Prutsman

To open the classical festival, Maestro Allan Pollack will lead the orchestra in Respighi's evocative tone poem, *Pines of Rome*; Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 with pianist Stephen Prutsman; and *Pictures at an Exhibition*, the stunning suite Mussorgsky wrote in honor of a painter friend who died young.

Monday July 15 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Piano Series with Robert Schwartz

Robert Schwartz is an active performer and a teacher in the Bay Area. His wide-ranging program will include Haydn's Sonata in E-flat Major; Chopin's Impromptus in G-flat Major and A-flat Major; Chopin's *Barcarolle* Op. 60; and Brahms' 8 *Klavierstücke* Op. 76.

Monday July 15 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Shelée

With hands that effortlessly glide over the keys and a voice that will carry you to the moon, Shelée's musical mastery makes her one of the most exhilarating up and coming artists today. While donning multiple hats of vocalist, songwriter, pianist, arranger and producer, Shelée evokes the sultry energy of Whitney Houston and the piano chops and writing prowess of Alicia Keys.

Tuesday July 16 ▶ 2:30 PM Mendocino Presbyterian Church

Calder Quartet

Back for a seventh year of sensitive and eloquent playing, the Calder will perform Ravel's String Quartet in F Major; Daniel Bjarnason's *Still Shot*; and Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major Op. 130 (with Finale).

Tuesday July 16 ▶ 4:00 PM Hill House Inn

Coro Wine Tasting

Wednesday July 17 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Piano Series with Robin Sutherland

Most known for his playing of Bach and his longstanding role as Principle Pianist with the San Francisco Symphony, Robin Sutherland will contrast some Bach works with pieces by other composers in the same key. Titled *By Tonality Joined* the recital will pair Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C-sharp Major (BWV 848) with "partners," the menuet movement of Ravel's *Sonatine*, among others. After intermission, he will take us on an excursion from Bach's Partita No. 2 in C minor (BWV 826) to Haydn's Sonata in C minor (Hob XVI/20).

Wednesday July 17 4 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Le Vent du Nord

The award-winning and highly acclaimed band Le Vent du Nord is a leading force in Quebec's progressive francophone folk movement. The group's vast repertoire draws from both traditional sources and original compositions, while enhancing its hard-driving soulful music (rooted in the Celtic diaspora) with a broad range of global influences.

Thursday, July 18 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Piano Series

Mario Diaz-Moresco, baritone & Spencer Myer, piano

An afternoon of songs, old and new: Brahms, Schubert, and Barber will make up the first half; gems by Respighi, John Musto and Amy Beach will round out the program.

Thursday July 18 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Double Bill: Badi Assad /Diego Figueiredo

Brazil's Badi Assad is lauded as one of the world's most unique performance artists of this generation. She transcends traditional styles of her native Brazilian music with a mixture of pop, jazz and world/ethnic sounds from around the world. Combining an extraordinary guitar talent, a unique mouth percussion and beautiful singing, Assad creates an exciting, fresh sound.

Brazilian Diego Figueiredo, a virtuoso with an infectious, joyful feeling, is a fast-rising star among the world's greatest jazz guitarists. His superb technique and imagination have made him one of the hottest international names and he unites a fusion of Brazilian music with jazz. Twice a winner at the Montreux Jazz Competition, Figueiredo is also a producer, arranger, orchestrator and multi-instrumentalist.

Friday July 19 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Kathleen Grace

Kathleen Grace has forged a remarkable career that has sent her around the globe playing for audiences who appreciate her eclectic musical tastes that range from jazz, to blues, to indie folk. Following a year recording with the iconic Jim James (of My Morning Jacket) and performing with the chart-topping rock band, Portugal. The Man, Grace returns to the Music Festival performing her nostalgia-driven songs. Her upcoming albums, *Tie Me to You* and *Like a Radio*, feature unique collaborations with legendary jazz pianist Larry Goldings (James Taylor), violinist Gabe Witcher (The Punch Brothers), and other innovative newcomers on the indie folk scene.

Friday July 19 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Opera: *L'Elisir d'Amore*

Guest conductor Mary Chun

Stage director Ann Woodhead

Donizetti's enduringly popular comic opera features a spunky and beautiful landowner, a poor but good-hearted country boy and a puffed-up sergeant who vie with each other for her affections, and a quack doctor who specializes in love potions that may bring two of them together. But which two? Beautiful arias and duets fill this two-act opera.

Aurelie Veruni, *Adina*; Kevin Gino, *Nemorino*; Daniel Cilli, *Belcore*; Bojan Knezevic, *Dulcamara*; Ana Lucas, *Gianetta*; and the Festival Chorale.

Saturday July 20 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Alex de Grassi & Andrew York

Fingerstyle guitar master Alex de Grassi is the founder of the Mendocino Summer Guitar Workshop which runs concurrently with the Mendocino Music Festival. Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist, composer and guest workshop teacher Andrew York joins him again this year in a concert program featuring their solo and duo compositions and arrangements that blend the sonorities of steel-string and classical guitar. They will be joined by members of the Mendocino Summer Guitar

Workshop in the premier of a composition for guitar orchestra.

Saturday July 20 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall
Festival Big Band with Kim Nalley
Tribute to Aretha

With a reputation as one of the world's best jazz & blues vocalists, Kim Nalley is back to join the big band musicians in a tribute to the incomparable Aretha Franklin. She has pipes to burn, a 3½ octave range that can go from operatic to gritty blues on a dime, and projection that can whisper a ballad yet is capable of filling a room with no microphone.

July 21-25 ▶ Brahms: His Life and Times

Susan Waterfall is back by popular demand, this year with lectures and narrated concerts about the enigmatic but beloved Johannes Brahms.

Sunday July 21 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall
Brahms Series Opening Lecture

During his long and productive life, Johannes Brahms (1833-97) interacted with most of the significant musicians and artists of 19th century. His momentous meeting with Clara and Robert Schumann, when he was only 20, forged a bond of love and familial connection that lasted throughout Brahms' and Clara's lifetimes. Susan's lecture will be supplemented with images and recorded examples. The two chamber concerts divide Brahms' life roughly in half: before and after 1878, when he grew the bushy beard he was able to hide behind for the rest of his life.

Sunday July 21 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall
Ruthie Foster

Hailing from rural Texas, Foster is a singer-songwriter of blues and folk music. Mixing a wide palette of American song forms, from gospel and blues to jazz, folk and soul, she is often compared to Bonnie Raitt. Drawing influence from legendary acts like Mavis Staples and Aretha Franklin, Foster has developed a unique sound not contained in a single genre. That sound echoes a common theme in Ruthie's life and career—marching to the beat of her own drum.

Tuesday July 23 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall
Clean-Shaven Brahms

Susan Waterfall will play the *Four Ballades* Op. 10; Miles Graber, Larry Lowe, and Jay Zhong will essay the Horn Trio in E-flat Major Op. 40; and Carolyn Steinbuck, Jay Zhong, Tammie Dyer, Susan Freier, and Stephen Harrison will interpret the F minor Piano Quintet Op. 34.

Tuesday July 23 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall
Carolyn Wonderland

A musical force equipped with the soulful vocals of Janis and the guitar slinging skills of Stevie Ray, Carolyn Wonderland reaches into the depths of the Texas blues tradition with the wit of a poet. She hits the stage with unmatched presence, a true legend in her time.

Wednesday July 24 ▶ 2:30 PM Hill House

The Odd Dogs

The Odd Dogs' sound is a melting pot of dynamic rock and world music, expressed through jazz and improvisational sensibilities. The band draws from a rich pallet of musical influences: Rush, Tool, Pink Floyd, Jeff Beck, Joe Zawinul, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Frank Zappa, and Thelonious Monk. Each an accomplished musician in his own right, the members of The Odd Dogs have a combined 200+ years in the music world. Their versatility and experience is exactly what made it possible for them to create the music heard on their new disc, *Beneath the Surface*. (Manasus Music)

Wednesday July 24 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Festival Orchestra with pianist Spencer Myer

The concert will open with Mendelssohn's evocative concert overture, *The Hebrides*; long-time crowd favorite Spencer Myer will bring his warm and intelligent interpretation of Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor Op. 54; and Brahms' last symphony, No. 4 in E minor Op. 98 will wrap up the evening.

Thursday July 25 ▶ 2:30 PM Preston Hall

Bearded Brahms

Susan Waterfall and Eric Kritz will play the Clarinet Sonata No. 1 in F minor Op. 120; Christòphenen Nomura and Daniel Lockert will sing *Vier Ernste Gesänge*; and Jay Zhong, Tammie Dyer, Susan Freier, Stephen Harrison, and Danny Sheu will play the String Quintet No. 2 in G Major Op. 111, "Prater."

Thursday July 25 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band

Grammy-award winner Peter Rowan is a singer-songwriter who started his career as a Blue Grass Boy in 1964. By Bill Monroe's own admission, Peter sounded a lot like him and when the two harmonized, they were said to have reached "heavenly heights." The Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band is made up of outstanding musicians; joining guitarist Peter Rowan are Keith Little, banjo; Paul Knight, bass; Chris Henry, mandolin; and Blaine Sprouse, fiddle. The band plays original songs written by Rowan along with Carter Family and Bill Monroe favorites.

Friday July 26 ▶ 4:00 PM Preston Hall

Emerging Artists Chamber Music

The annual recital by the enormously talented young string players from the festival's Emerging Artists Program is anticipated by all who love chamber music.

Friday July 26 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall

Sweet Honey in the Rock®

Sweet Honey is a well-known Grammy Award-winning (and many times nominated) a cappella ensemble that expresses its history as African American women through song, dance, and sign language. Rooted in the hymns, gospel music, and spirituals, the troupe seeks to preserve and extend the traditions of African American vocal music while addressing the critical issues of our time. There will be a sign language interpreter; please choose seats on the left side of the concert hall.

**Saturday July 27 ▶ 2:30 PM Hill House Inn
Business Casual**

Bay Area vocal band Business Casual explores a wide range of genres including pop, jazz, soul, folk and swing to produce fresh a cappella versions of vintage chart toppers, today's top 40 hits, and award-winning original songs. In 2018, Business Casual was named National Champion at the Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival and their first original single, "Ain't No Way," was released. With the powerful leads, floor-thumping bass, and sizzling beats in this energetic show, audiences can't believe the singers are using only their voices!

**Saturday July 27 ▶ 7:30 PM Tent Concert Hall
Festival Orchestra and Chorus**

The season finale will feature Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major; Brahms' orchestrally accompanied choral work, *Schicksalslied* Op. 54; and Beethoven's great choral Symphony No. 9 in D minor Op. 125, with soloists Shawnette Sulker, Betany Coffland, Christòpheren Nomura, and Isaiah Musik-Alaya.

Additional Festival Events and Activities

Thursday, April 25 – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Winemaker's Dinner at the MacCallum House Restaurant

A perfect pairing: scrumptious food from MacCallum House's celebrated chef Alan Kantor and elegant wines from **Navarro Vineyards**.

\$125 per person, limited seating

707.937.2044 or www.mendocinomusic.org for tickets and information

Sunday, May 12 – 2:30 to 5:00 pm

**The Festival Chorale presents
Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes**

Jenny Matteucci, conductor. Daniel Lockert and Susan Waterfall will play the duo-piano accompaniment.

Preston Hall, Mendocino

Enjoy the delights of Brahms' Vienna, with pastries and a lovely springtime concert on Mother's Day.

\$50 per person

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Organic wine provided by **Frey Vineyards**.

\$195 per person, limited seating. All proceeds directly benefit the Festival.
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Tuesday, July 16 – 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Coro Wine Tasting

Hill House Inn, Mendocino

Coro means choir or one voice in Spanish, Italian and Latin. It is one voice that brings together the best of Mendocino County grapes and wine. The wineries participating include, Barra of Mendocino, Brutocao Family Vineyards, DNA Vineyards, Clos du Bois, Graziano Family of Wines, Greenwood Ridge, Golden Vineyards, Jaxon Keys, McFadden, Parducci and Testa. Join us for nibbles and a taste of these extraordinary wines.

\$80 per person

707.937.2044 or www.mendocinomusic.org for tickets and information

Monday, July 22– 6:00 pm

Ledford House Dinner

The iconic Festival dinner party at *The Ledford House Restaurant*

Enjoy a delightful evening of gourmet food and music at one of the area's leading restaurants. Premium wines generously supplied by **Husch Vinyards**.

\$100 per person, limited seating.

707.937.2044 or www.mendocinomusic.org for tickets and information

About the Mendocino Music Festival

Established in 1986, the Mendocino Music Festival was the dream of Allan Pollack, Susan Waterfall and former principal bassoonist of the San Francisco Symphony, Walter Green. The Festival is a magical blend of fine music by outstanding performers in one of the most enchanting sites in Northern California. Evenings include orchestra concerts, Big Band, chamber music ensembles, dance, blues, jazz, world, folk, bluegrass and popular contemporary music. Daytime concerts include lecture/recitals at the Piano Series, a performance by participants in the Emerging Artists Program, and small concerts in intimate venues throughout the historic town of Mendocino.