

LOOKING FORWARD AND BACH

• Craig Hella Johnson, the Austin-based director of the world-renowned Conspirare Company of Voices, which has premiered some of Kyr’s finest works as well as that of other major composers

• Fireworks Ensemble, founded by UO music grad Brian Coughlin in 2000, the New York-based amplified chamber band that covers everything from Stravinsky (an electric “Rite of Spring”) to Zappa to techno to cartoon music to originals, and provides an example to today’s students of how to create a career in new music

• Beta Collide, the ensemble founded by UO faculty members Brian McWhorter and Molly Barth, who are among the finest players in the world on trumpet and flute, respectively, is dedicated to contemporary music by some of today’s top composers

• Stephen Hartke, the prize-winning LA-based composer whose eclectic music draws on various world music and other wide-ranging influences

The symposium’s American Creators Ensemble will perform the premieres and other new music in concerts on July 2 (choral), 5, 6 and 7 (instrumental music). In a festival primarily devoted to music of the distant past, the Composers Symposium provides listeners excellent opportunities to hear the music of today and tomorrow.

— Brett Campbell



FIREWORKS ENSEMBLE



MATTHEW HALLS LEADS THE OBF ORCHESTRA AND SINGER TAMARA WILSON ON TUESDAY, 7/2, IN EXCERPTS FROM OPERAS BY BRITTEN, WAGNER, VERDI AND MORE AT SILVA

FRIDAY, 7/12

Portland Baroque Orchestra

Maybe the top recommendation of the festival, this superb concert features Halls on harpsichord and one of the nation’s top period instrument orchestras — really an assemblage of all stars who live all around the country — playing a terrific all-Bach program of concertos, an orchestral suite and more, in the manner closest to the way the composer intended. Beall, \$15-\$49.

SATURDAY, 7/13

Hohenstaufen Quartet

Rilling’s daughters comprise half the lineup, which will play two of the most popular Romantic era string quartets: Schubert’s “Rosamunda” and Dvorak’s “American.” Beall, \$15-\$49.

SUNDAY, 7/14

Bach B Minor Mass

The festival and Rilling’s career as music director conclude with perhaps the greatest work written by history’s greatest composer, led by maybe its most experienced interpreter, Rilling. Silva, \$15-\$62.

this year, culminating in a July 10 performance of this controversial choral-orchestral masterpiece at Beall. Lectures: Soreng, \$10/\$17; performance: Beall, sold out.

MONDAY, 7/1

Anniversary Soirée

Four fine vocal soloists, including Nicholas Phan, join some OBF musicians, Robert Levin and more in music by Poulenc, Britten and others. Beall, \$15-\$49.

TUESDAY, 7/2

A Night at the Opera

For listeners who want to venture beyond Bach and

Baroque, Matthew Halls leads the OBF orchestra and singer Tamara Wilson in excerpts from operas by Britten, Wagner, Verdi and more. Silva, \$15-\$49.

WEDNESDAY, 7/3

Verdi & Wagner Transcribed

In this bicentenary tribute to one of history’s most controversial and important composer-pianists, Ya-Fei Chuang and Robert Levin (the latter also one of classical music’s expert explainers) play transcriptions of Wagner-influenced music originally written for larger forces by Faure, Chabrier, Liszt and Verdi, along with Wagner himself. Beall, \$15-\$49.

FRIDAY, 7/5

Paul Jacobs

In this recital, the great organist plays some of Bach’s most essential music. Central Lutheran Church, \$21 adv., \$28 door.

SATURDAY, 7/6

Passing of the Baton

OBF founder Helmuth Rilling and his successor, Matthew Halls, conduct the orchestra and vocal soloists in music by Brahms and Mendelssohn. Silva, \$15-\$62.

MONDAY, 7/8

Jeffrey Kahane & Chee-Yun

The orchestra plays one of Haydn’s great London symphonies, and the veteran OBF piano star and acclaimed violinist join the orchestra for a Beethoven piano concerto and a Mozart violin concerto. Silva, \$15-\$62.

THURSDAY, 7/11

Jeffrey Kahane

In this solo recital, the superb pianist plays Chopin, Schumann and music by his son, the indie classical composer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane. Plus Bach, of course. Beall, \$15-\$49.