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Christoph Ptack, Executive Director



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Peninsula Music Festival

PENINSULA MUSIC FESTIVAL'S CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES TO DEBUT AT THE DONALD AND CAROL KRESS PAVILION

EGG HARBOR, WI - The Peninsula Music Festival's Chamber Music Series is set to debut at the Donald and Carol Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor on Sunday, February 7th, with additional concerts on the 14th, and 21st, 2021. Performances begin at 2:00pm, and will last approximately an hour. Three unique concerts, six impressive musicians, and all presented in a socially distanced setting where temperature scans will be taken upon arrival/check-in, and masks will be mandatory at all times. February Fest - don't miss it!

Kicking off the Series on **February 7th** will be two esteemed members of the Festival Orchestra's First Violin section. Alex Ayers and Paul Hauer will present a unique and exciting program featuring works by Mozart, Kalliwoda, Glière, Bériot, Sarasate, and Kreisler.

Alex Ayers (*violin*) is a native of Wisconsin and has played violin with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra since 2013. Alex studied at Indiana University with Mimi Zweig and Alex Kerr. He has performed collaboratively with Joshua Bell, Alex Kerr, Jaime Laredo, Gilles Apap, and Soovin Kim at IU. Alex was a member of the Indiana University String Academy's Violin Virtuosi ensemble for two years, performing in the group's concert tours to France and Argentina. He has played at the Castleton Festival under Lorin Maazel and currently plays in the Peninsula Music Festival orchestra in the summer. Alex received an honorable mention in the 2015 ASTA National Solo Competition and was a semifinalist in the 2010 WAMSO Young Artist Competition and the 2009 Lennox Young Artist Competition. He was the grand prize winner of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Stars of Tomorrow Competition in 2006. When not playing the violin, Alex enjoys playing Scrabble, Bridge, and Hearts. He follows the tennis news closely and likes to watch the Bucks, Brewers, or Packers play.

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Paul Hauer (*violin, piano*) enjoys a diverse career as a violinist in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and freelance accompanist. His piano studies began with Charlene Reitz, and later at the Lawrence Academy of Music with Catherine Walby, Carol Leybourn, and Kyung-Ran Kim. While pursuing his violin performance degrees at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Indiana University, he accompanied the studios of Mimi Zweig and Brenda Brenner, and accompanied Alex Kerr in concert. He is currently the accompanist for Addison Teng at the Music Institute of Chicago, and the international tours with the Teng Studio have taken him to Italy, San Marino, Greece, and the Philippines.

Hauer's early violin training came from Gloria Schroeder, Ferenc Fenyő, and Stéphane Tran Ngoc. He has attended the Montecito International Music Festival, Oberlin in Italy, and International Academie de Courchevel. His principal teachers include David Bowlin, Alex Kerr, and Addison Teng. As a teacher, Mr. Hauer coaches strings at the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Maranatha Baptist University, and schools in the Milwaukee area. As a founding member of the 414 Quartet, he performs with his MSO colleagues in venues all across southeast Wisconsin. Mr. Hauer is a native of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and performs with the Peninsula Music Festival in Door County each summer.

The **February 14th** concert welcomes back a 37 year member of the Festival Orchestra's cello section, Linda Minke, and her son Victor Minke Huls who has also performed in the Orchestra's cello section. This talented mother/son duo is excited to be returning to Door County during the Winter season, and will be presenting works by Bach, Gounod, Wolf, Schumann, Barber, Schein, Tortelier, Price, Porter and Beethoven.

Linda Minke (*cello*) joined the Festival Orchestra as a graduate student in 1983 and has played every season since. Linda started her musical journey in the public schools in Rochester, Michigan. She earned two bachelor's degrees at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, one in Music Performance and the other in Music Education. She then studied at the University of Memphis with the late Peter Spurbeck (once principal cellist of the PMF) earning her master's degree in Cello Performance with a minor in Suzuki Pedagogy.

While in Memphis, Linda served as assistant principal cello with Memphis Symphony and Opera Memphis, co-founded the Rhodes (College) Piano Trio, and created a Suzuki cello program at Rhodes Music Academy. Since moving to Jacksonville, Florida in 1993, Linda has enjoyed free-lancing, teaching, and playing with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. In 2016 Linda joined Bold City Contemporary Ensemble, a group which performs music by living composers and offers residencies for student composers at various Universities in the region.

Linda's involvement with El Sistema enabled a trip to Brazil and the co-creation of Jacksonville Symphony's JumpStart Strings program. Linda's hobby playing fiddle resulted in a faculty position with the Walker Family Band Fiddle Camp in Blowing Rock, North Carolina and a few guest appearances at Bjorklund's Nordic Fiddle Fest. Thanks to Gerhard Bernard at Handverks in Sister Bay, Linda also now owns and plays a bit of Celtic harp. She remains dedicated to the teaching of cello, violin, and piano to all levels and ages, under the conviction that the study of a musical instrument leads to a healthier life.

A founding member of the Sunset String Quartet, Linda played on many of the Sunset Concert Cruises out of Gills Rock. A Door Shakespeare enthusiast, Linda performed for several of their Gala events with violinist Max Huls and their son Victor Minke Huls. Having stayed many seasons at Countryside Motel, Park Place Cottages, houses in Ephraim and Egg Harbor, Linda's favorite place on the planet is unquestionably Door County. Sharing the stage with her son on a Winter trip to the Door is definitely a dream come true.

Victor Minke Huls (*cello, conductor, counter-tenor, and pianist*) comes from a Floridian family of musicians. Raised around the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Huls has become an eclectic and avid musician. Huls earned dual-master's degrees in cello performance and orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan (2017) and has nearly completed his doctoral studies (DMA) in orchestral conducting at Northwestern University with Victor Yampolsky, the beloved director emeritus of the Peninsula Music Festival.

At Northwestern he was assistant conductor for the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Bienen String Ensemble, Alice Millar Chapel Choir, Baroque Music Ensemble, and Contemporary Music Ensemble. Some of his major projects included conducting the opera *Dog Days* by David T. Little (assisting Alan Pierson), and working on Bienen's virtual opera production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (with Dr. Stephen Alltop). Huls is passionate about contemporary music and has premiered and recorded many pieces by his friends and colleagues. Upon returning to Florida, Huls joined the Bold City Contemporary Ensemble, playing piano in their UF Residency new music recording project.

During his time in Michigan, Huls was music director of a chamber orchestra known as the Ann Arbor Camerata (2014-18), and recorded an album with Dr. Nancy King titled, "IllumiNation: New American Concertos for Oboe," released by Equilibrium Records. Huls also played cello with the Lansing, Flint, Jackson, and Toledo Symphony Orchestras. In 2015, Huls was featured cello soloist in the NAXOS recording project led by David Alan Miller at the National Orchestral Institute, playing Corigliano's First Symphony. More recently, Huls has performed as cellist with the Aspen Chamber Symphony, New World Symphony, Peninsula Music Festival, NuDeco Ensemble, Lincoln Center Stage, and Chicago Civic Orchestra, and is newly Principal Cellist of the Amarillo Symphony in Texas.

A multi-instrumentalist by hobby, Huls plays the flute, recorder, penny whistle, mandolin, guitar, and harpsichord. He grew singing as a boy soprano and has since enjoyed playing a variety of genres outside of his classical training, including Irish and Celtic, Old Time, Folk Rock, and Jazz. In his spare time, he listens to Funk, Jazz, Soul, and the music of Mother Nature.

The final concert of the 3-week Series on **February 21st** will feature the Festival Orchestra's Concertmaster and Principal Keyboardist, Amy Sims and Christi Zuniga. This blockbuster program will highlight the genius of Mozart, Stravinsky, Still, Chopin, and Brahms.

Amy Sims (*concertmaster*) hails from Los Angeles and is a busy freelance Classical and Baroque violinist currently living in Boston. She specializes in a wide range of musical genres from string quartets and intimate Baroque chamber ensembles, to large ensembles including the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Maine, where she holds the position of Assistant Concertmaster. She also performs with Boston Baroque, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Odyssey Opera, and Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Each August, Ms. Sims looks forward to returning to the Peninsula Music Festival in Door County - another home away from home.

Before venturing to New England, Amy was the Concertmaster of the Omaha Symphony from 2000 to 2010. With Bachelor and Master's degrees in Violin Performance from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music under Professor Eudice Shapiro, Ms. Sims held the position of Principal Second Violin of the Pacific Symphony from 1994 to 2000 while freelancing through the Los Angeles and Orange County area, performing and recording newly commissioned works with Southwest Chamber Music as well as studio recording for major motion picture soundtracks and television commercials.

Christi Zuniga (*principal keyboardist*) is a native of Atlanta and has held the position of Principal Keyboardist with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra since 2000. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Clayton State College where she studied with Jeannine Morrison. Later, she received a Master of Music degree in Chamber Music and Accompanying from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studied with Vladimir Sokoloff and Keiko Sato. She has previously performed with the Atlanta Symphony, Charleston Symphony, and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, which served as the resident orchestra of the Evian International Music Festival in France in 1990 under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich.

Before moving to Omaha, Zuniga was the staff accompanist and class piano instructor at Clayton State College, south of Atlanta. In addition to regular engagements with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, she also performed with fellow orchestra members and accompanied Atlanta Symphony Chorus rehearsals.

As an accompanist, she has worked with performers in master classes taught by Jean-Pierre Rampal, Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern, Lynn Harrell, Elly Ameling, David Gordon, Peter Lloyd, Bonita Boyd, and Paula Robison. She has collaborated with many visiting artists, including Joseph Alessi, Thomas Bacon, Patrick Sheridan, Cindy Ellis, and Peter Verhoyen.

In addition to her full-time position with the Omaha Symphony, Ms. Zuniga has held the position of principal keyboardist of PMF's Festival Orchestra for the past five seasons. She accompanies musicians around the greater Omaha area for various concerts and competitions, and resides in Ralston, Nebraska with her husband and their Chihuahuas.

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