

Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival

Floyd, Virginia



Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival 2012-2015

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2015 Season May 27- June 9th
Floyd, Virginia

David Stewart Wiley
Artistic Director

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Welcome to highlights of "Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival" 2012-2014. We invite you to settle in and enjoy our album highlighting events of the inaugural 2013 Music Festival. Experience a dynamic community, supporting and making classical music in the mountains.

We hope you will get the sense of joyful energy and wonder that we experienced. Our outstanding Artistic Director, David Stewart Wiley, skilled and supportive mentors, talented Fellows, a dedicated Board of Directors and staff and a flotilla of enthusiastic volunteers worked tirelessly together to produce our inaugural Music Festival. The results were quite magical.



'Handel's Water Music', Floyd EcoVillage

David Stewart Wiley, Conductor

Barbara von Claparede recalls with delight, "The feast for the senses that the Festival presented everyone involved, from the outdoor performance of 'Handel's Water Music' (above) timed perfectly with the sunset to the final performance of Elgar's 'Enigma' Variations, brought almost everyone to tears in the huge gym of Floyd County High School, including the musicians".



The music of the 2013 Music Festival began on May 31, with an informal wind and brass ensemble at the busy Friday evening Artisan Market in Floyd. Buyers, sellers and visitors listened appreciatively.

And the buzz about the Festival escalated as we continued to announce our presence with a resounding Fanfare standing on the sidewalk of Locust Street.



Music continued from the pavilion at Lineberry Park across the street in downtown Floyd. (Opposite page)



A woodwind ensemble performs for visitors.







An enthusiastic audience sitting on the grass, standing on the sidewalks and dining on the restaurant balcony, listened to an energetic brass ensemble performed in the Lineberry Park pavilion.

The next morning, a woodwind quartet performed at the Floyd Farmer's Market to a lively audience. While some came to purchase produce, others came to listen and experience the music... including some young dancers.



Saturday evening, June 1, 2013, was the Festival's "Gala Opening Night" with the Festival Baroque Orchestra playing to a packed audience with Soloists and Festival Co-Concert Masters, David Park and Akemi Takayama.

Maestro Wiley conducted Bach's *Double Violin Concerto* and Vivaldi's "Summer" from *The Four Seasons* in the beautiful Celebration Hall at the Floyd EcoVillage.



Soloists included Festival Co-Concert Masters, David Park and Akemi Takayama, seen here with Maestro David Stewart Wiley.





The beautiful Floyd EcoVillage Lake Pavilion provided an extraordinary setting for the second half of the concert.

The stunning views complimented selections by Bach and Handel.





2013 rehearsals for Chamber Music continued in full swing throughout town venues. The June Bug Center was the scene for a dynamic rehearsal.



In this friendly, music-filled community, young musicians "hang out" and get acquainted easily.



Board members and talented Floyd kids are a dynamic part of the activities.



Fanfare for Floyd
Composer Steve Brown

Steve received audience accolades



Concerto for Mandolin and Orchestra

Composer and Soloist Jeff Midkiff

A special highlight of the Sunday concert was Jeff Midkiff's *Concerto for Mandolin and Orchestra*, commissioned by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Music Director David Stewart Wiley.

The audience responded with an immediate and prolonged standing ovation!

As well as a composer, Jeff is a professional clarinetist, mandolinist and fiddler.

There was a great sense of pride in knowing that "one of our own" - a local composer and performer - has created an exceptional and moving composition on an instrument so closely tied to our local music heritage.

The Sunday program (the first for the Full Symphony Festival Orchestra) also included Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9*.



Improvisation Class taught by David Oakes

It was a busy time for everyone, and Monday, June 3 found Fellows and community members alike experiencing a Conducting and Leadership class as well as an Improvisation Class taught by Floyd's David Oakes at the Floyd EcoVillage. String, wind, and brass performance classes were also occurring.



Nastasha's Market Cafe

On Tuesday, June 4, following Conducting and Leadership Master Class, ensembles performed at three different sites.



Chateau Morrisette Winery was the setting for the music of Debussy, Haydn, Mozart, and more





Chamber groups performed to a packed audience at the well-known Jacksonville Center for the Arts. Some of the challenging music that the Fellows had worked so diligently to master, with the enthusiastic support of their mentors, included: the Reinecke Wind Octet, the Moszkowski Suite, Op.7 and the Muszynski Trumpet Trio among other selections. (This page and opposite)



On Wednesday, June 5, ten exceptionally talented Academy Fellows performed Movements from Classic Concertos. Their audience was moved by the level of expertise and musicianship shown by these young pre-professional musicians.



Two Academy Fellow soloists:
Julia Perry, Oboe and Snow Shen, Violin



On Thursday, June 6, the June Bug Center's Black Box Theatre was the site for some of the Festival Faculty and Maestro Wiley to present a lively Family Concert "Classical Meets Jazz in the Mountains". The audience moved gently to Joplin's "The Entertainer", Bolling's "Suite No. 1 for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio", Wiley's "Concentric Circles", and the finale of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue".



Floyd's Katie Wells added dynamically beautiful dancing to some of the music at the Family Concert.



Concert Master David Park and some string Fellows took a break after a demanding rehearsal for the Chamber Ensemble Concert.



Friday evening, June 7, was again centered in dynamic downtown Floyd, beginning with a Heritage Music Master Class and informal ensemble concert at Dogtown-Sun Music Hall -- then moving to the Floyd Artisan Market.

A highlight of the evening so typical in Floyd was the experience of informal jamming. This was a time when local Floyd musicians, old and young, joined Festival mentors and Fellows in musical explorations and sharing of varied genres. It was a continuation of an old tradition, when southwest Virginia musicians join with talented visitors in making music.





The dedicated Fellows rehearsed diligently with their coach for the challenging and uplifting Mendelssohn's *Octet for Strings*. (Above)

The audience and musicians were truly rewarded in the EcoVillage Celebration Hall on Saturday afternoon, a perfect setting for the truly impressive and dedicated talent in the Chamber Ensemble Final Concert, with the Academy Fellows presenting the Mendelssohn's *Octet for Strings* and faculty strings and piano offering the Schubert *Quintet*. (Opposite page)



Academy Fellows and String Coach, Elise Blake, performed Mendelssohn's *Octet for Strings*



Academy Fellow Maria Ortiz-Laboy, performed Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A*, 1st movement.



Academy Fellow Marisa Youngs received enthusiastic applause after performing Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*, 1st movement, Allegro with the Festival Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, June 8.



Miriam Liske-Doorandish performed Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*, 1st movement with the Festival Symphony Orchestra.



We saw a particularly emotional response to Miriam Liske-Doorandish's outstanding performance of the 1st movement of Dvorak's Cello Concerto. It was a credit to the Festival to be able to offer a performance opportunity to very talented pre-orchestra musicians, and we were particularly proud of Miriam and her family, who are part of an extended musical family in our area. Miriam is continuing her studies in London at the Royal College of Music.













The final performance of the 2013 Music Festival Season was an emotional one for all.

We heard Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Elgar's "Enigma" *Variations* performed by the Festival Symphony Orchestra of professional mentors and Academy Fellows, under the direction of Maestro Wiley.

It was a moving and dramatic close to the 11 days of Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival's Inaugural 2013 Season.

We had accomplished our goal for 2013 - - - to offer an exciting, educational and heartfelt Music Festival to an appreciative and supportive community.

The next day the Board met to assess the Festival and to begin moving toward our 2014 and 2015 seasons.



David Stewart Wiley, Artistic Director
Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival



The Board met to assess the Festival and to begin moving toward our 2014 and 2015 seasons. We were grateful for the tremendous community effort and support for the 2013 Festival.





HISTORY

We began our journey gathering a small group in our homes. Milestones emerged as we formed a Board in March 2012. David Stewart Wiley became our Artistic Director.

FUNDRAISING

Our first fund raiser working toward our 2013 season was an In Home Concert at Laurel Ridge Farm on June 14, 2012.



Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival Inaugural Concert 2013

Floyd's beautiful EcoVillage Celebration Hall became the first presenter.

Maestro Wiley conducted the ensemble, acknowledged the strong community support and talked about the dream. The packed audience listened appreciatively.



We were supported in so many ways by Kamala Bauers and Jack Wall, whom you see in this picture speaking about the importance of support for the Arts.





On April 18, 2013, VBRMF presented a Spring Gala fundraising Concert to a full house at the Floyd EcoVillage, six weeks preceding the 2013 Music Festival. Maestro Wiley and Akemi Takayama performed.

Thanks to everyone who worked so tirelessly, we were miraculously ready for our first full Music Festival Season: May 30 - June 9, 2013, based at the beautiful Floyd EcoVillage.



"Classical Music in the Mountains"

June 6 - 8, 2014



Our 2014 year included a fund-raising House Concert at the home of Lorrie and Doug Mann in Meadows of Dan, as well as a weekend of "Classical Music in the Mountains" in early June. In July 2014, we became an affiliate of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.



Most importantly, we were very busy preparing for another full twelve-day Music Festival in 2015.



"Ode to Joy in the Mountains"

May 27 - June 7, 2015

Our 2015 festival will include Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with full chorus, Mozart's Jupiter Symphony and two concerto nights with solo movements performed by our young Fellows/Musicians. It will also include an extraordinary contemporary Double Concerto for mandolin and violin, composed by the region's own renowned teacher /composer Jeff Midkiff. The Double Concerto will be performed by Jeff Midkiff on Mandolin and Concert Master Akemi Takayama on Violin.

Once again, Floyd will host a full compliment of young pre-professional Fellows who will be mentored and perform side by side with highly-skilled professional musicians/mentors, lead by Maestro David Steward Wiley.

Maestro Wiley also serves concurrently as Music Director and Conductor of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra in Virginia and New York's Long Island Philharmonic.



NOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE OUR UPCOMING FESTIVAL A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL IS AN EXTRAORDINARY
AND EXCITING VENTURE FOR OUR REGION.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN HELPING TO MAKE OUR NEXT MUSIC
FESTIVAL A SUCCESS AS WE MOVE TOWARD BECOMING A PERMANENT,
DYNAMIC RESOURCE IN THE REGION.

FLOYD WILL CONTINUE TO HOST A FULL COMPLIMENT OF YOUNG
PRE-PROFESSIONAL "FELLOWS" WHO WILL BE MENTORED BY HIGHLY
SKILLED PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS, PERFORMING SIDE-BY-SIDE.

FLOYD MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC STUDENTS WILL BE INVITED
TO ALL MUSIC FESTIVAL EVENTS FREE OF CHARGE. FAMILIES AND
THOSE WITH HARDSHIPS MAY APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

MUSICIANS WILL BE HOSTED BY GENEROUS FLOYD FAMILIES, WHO
OPEN THEIR HOMES AND HEARTS TO THE MUSICIANS.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

VirginiasBlueRidgeMusicFestival.org



Virginia's Blue Ridge Music Festival

Gala Concert at the EcoVillage Pavilion

Floyd, Virginia

