Playing Options

COACHING: This program provides the chance to be coached by faculty members every day. Options to personalize your chamber music experience include:

- The choice of various coaching options (see “Chamber Music Program at a Glance” below);
- The ability to pre-form groups and to make requests for repertoire and/or coaching faculty;
- The opportunity to be coached on one of the four works the Conference has commissioned for its 75th anniversary.

Personnel in coached groups are matched carefully according to their repertoire preference (if stated) and ability. Works are assigned several weeks before the Conference and participants are expected to learn their parts in advance.

AUDITING: This is a wonderful way to experience our program without preparing for coaching sessions. You may audit any coached sessions, enjoy coordinated free playing with available auditors and with participants, use all facilities and attend all concerts and parties … everything except participate in the coaching program.

The Conference welcomes amateur string players, wind players, and pianists as participants and offers an outstanding chamber music coaching program, faculty concerts and seminars, opportunities for “free playing,” and a vibrant program of composer residencies. The Conference runs for four weeks in July and August. Most participants attend for one or two weeks. Our participants represent a large range of age and ability; our common denominator is a passion for chamber music.

The Conference faculty includes outstanding artists who combine concert careers with a dedication to teaching. Members of the faculty regularly perform as soloists, chamber musicians, and orchestra players, and many teach at major conservatories and university music departments nationwide and beyond.

For over seven decades, musicians from all over the world have gathered each summer at the Chamber Music Conference to study and play chamber music. What draws us to return year after year is the love of playing chamber music, the opportunity to learn and grow as musicians, and the joy of seeing old friends and making new ones.

After more than sixty years at Bennington College in Vermont, the Chamber Music Conference will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2020 at its new home, on the campus of Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.

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A Summer Program for People Who Love to Play Chamber Music

A Unique Musical Community

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Beyond Music

The Colgate campus, set on a hill with broad vistas of the rural Chenango Valley in central New York, has frequently been recognized as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the United States. Conference participants have access to its air-conditioned libraries and study areas; ample athletics facilities, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool with a retractable roof; tennis courts; a fitness center, miles of wooded paths for running or walking; a boathouse; an 18-hole championship golf course; wireless access throughout campus; an art gallery, and an anthropology museum.

Hamilton, NY, the home of Colgate University, has been named by Forbes Magazine as one of the country’s most friendly towns. Opportunities for shopping, dining, and outdoor recreation abound in Hamilton, while the surrounding area includes several state parks and the village of Cooperstown, with Glimmerglass Opera, the Baseball Hall of Fame, and museums.

PARTIES

On each Sunday evening a Welcome meeting is followed by short rehearsals (Week 1) or a musical round robin (Weeks 2, 3, and 4), then a party to kick off the week. Informal get-togethers take place every evening after the day’s activities are over, and parties are held after each of the faculty concerts.

ROOM AND BOARD

Conference members and their families are housed primarily in two air-conditioned dormitories that opened for use in May 2019. Supplemeniting the dorms, and suitable especially for families and those preferring more privacy, are apartments that offer suite-style configurations, with bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room in each unit. Linens, blankets, pillows, towels, soap, and shampoo are provided.

CHILD CARE

The Conference can provide information and guidance on finding child care solutions. Please indicate your interest in child care when submitting your application.

NEW APPLICANTS: Welcome! Please include with your application a description of your musical experience. Also include the names and contact information of two musicians (teacher, friend, Conference participant or faculty member) whom we may contact with and whom you have played music.

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All new applicants audition in person or by Internet/Skype to facilitate appropriate assignment in coached groups with players of similar playing level and experience. To enjoy the Conference experience fully, you should be able to play your instrument(s) skillfully, have good sight-reading ability and have some chamber music experience.

Because space in the coaching program is limited, we urge you to apply early.

The application form is also available at our website: www.cmceast.org

TIMELINE: February 1: Application deadline for all new applicants. March 1: Application deadline for returning applicants to receive first priority consideration for space in the program. After this date, participant applications received for spaces already filled will be automatically put on a participant waiting list. It is important to indicate a second choice of week if you are able.

March 20: Acceptance letters will be sent, including information about submitting your coaching requests. May 15: Your payment balance is due.

Visit our website: www.cmceast.org
You may also contact us at (617) 447-1808 or via email at cmceast@cmceast.org

2020 Application Form

Please send your completed application and payment (check payable to “Chamber Music Conference”) covering a deposit of $150 per applicant per week and $75 per family member per week to:

Chamber Music Conference
P.O. Box 130
Arlington, MA 02476

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
City/State/Zip _______________________
Preferred phone number ____________________________
Specify: cell / home / other
Cell phone number (if different from above) ____________________________
Email ____________________________
Is this a new address, phone number or email address? Yes No
Instrument(s) ____________________________
Occupation ____________________________
Emergency contact name ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Preferred week(s): Check a category (coached Participant or uncoached Auditor) for each week you wish to attend:
Week 1: July 12-19
Week 2: July 19-26
Week 3: July 26- August 2
Week 4: August 2-9
Participant: Yes
Auditor: No

Composers’ Forum

If you have flexibility, please indicate alternate weeks you can attend:
2nd choice:____________________3rd choice:____________________4th choice:____________________

Total deposit $__________
Tax-deductible contributions $__________

I request Financial Aid (please provide details on the back of this form)

I would like to be coached on one of the four 75th anniversary commissions?
Yes ______ Neutral ______ No ______

Accommodations: Please read the section on Housing in the Beyond Music page on our website and indicate your housing needs and preferences:

Single ______ Double room with ______
Family (include names and ages of children and names of adults)

Other choices: ______

Housing preference: Dormitory ______ Apartment ______

Other choices: ______

I will stay off-campus ______ I will not use the meal plan ______

New Applicants: Are you applying for the first time? Yes ______ No ______

If so, please read the instructions for New Applicants in this brochure.

MUSICAL PRINTS: CLARICE STEFANI BROCHURE DESIGN: NIKI NAIDOOUS

Please provide any additional information on the reverse of this form.