

SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY'S 2020 SUMMER FESTIVAL MOVES TO STREAMING FORMAT

Seattle, WA, May 19, 2020 – Seattle Chamber Music Society (SCMS) today announces that the 2020 Summer Festival, originally scheduled for July 6-31 at Benaroya Hall's Nordstrom Recital Hall, will shift to an online streaming format to ensure the public health of patrons, musicians, volunteers, and staff.

Executive Director Connie Cooper says, "This was not an easy decision, but it was the right one for us. Nothing will replace the experience of musicians and audience coming together in a concert hall to share great chamber music as a community, but to ensure the safety of everyone involved with SCMS's performances we have made the decision to transform the Summer Festival into an online series of concerts."

While much of the programming will evolve due to social distancing and travel restrictions, the second part of our Beethoven String Quartet cycle performed by the Ehnes Quartet will remain the centerpiece of the programming. "With these virtual performances, we have found creative solutions to enable us to present chamber music in accessible formats which is at the core of SCMS's mission," notes Cooper.

The virtual Summer Festival's 12 concerts will be available on-demand for a limited time. Complete programming details will be announced in early June.

Artistic Director James Ehnes notes, "We have been in frequent contact with the 45 musicians in North America and Europe who are scheduled to perform this summer, and they have all said that they will do whatever they can to ensure that the music goes on this summer. This is a testament to SCMS's special place in the minds of those who have performed with us. With the on-demand streaming it is an incredible opportunity to share the world-class concerts to audiences beyond Seattle during July with original and exclusive content."

Current ticket holders will be offered several options for their subscriptions. All purchases can be transferred to the online subscription with the balance either converted into a tax-deductible gift that supports SCMS or refunded. We will also work

with patrons who prefer a full refund. Requests can be submitted on our website at: seattlechambermusic.org/ticket_holder_form, or by calling our box office: (206) 283-8808.

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About Seattle Chamber Music Society: Our mission is to foster the appreciation of chamber music in our region by presenting performances featuring world-class musicians in accessible and inviting formats, with an emphasis on developing a broad-based sustainable audience through education and community outreach.

Each year, Seattle Chamber Music Society (SCMS) presents a winter festival in January and summer festival in July at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall. In addition to its high-quality performances, SCMS offers community engagement programs for adults, youths and the community-at-large to encourage audience appreciation and understanding of chamber music. These programs bring audiences of all ages in close contact with musicians and their music through informal, accessible and enjoyable formats.