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## Many Happy Returns to Shandeele Music Festival

by Derek Leet

364, and Brahms' *Sextet No. 2 in G*.

### Sextet - August 7, 7:00pm

The 21st annual Shandeele Music Festival will happily feature the return of a number of artists that have thrilled concert-goers locally in the last few years.

I once heard choreographer Alvin Ailey describe dancer Judith Jameson, as "painfully charismatic". That phrase came to mind during the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players' 2013 Shandeele concert in the Sunset Concert Pavilion on Shandeele Mountain outside of Livingston Manor.

When the ensemble performed the second movement of Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*, it was so intense, so profound and deeply moving, that Ailey's phrase instantly came to mind as I felt I could not bear the beauty and perfection of the music and the perfection achieved by the ensemble's phrasing. (As it began, the woman sitting in front of me was so moved that she had to reach over to her husband and put her hand on his knee where it remained for the rest of the movement. As soon as the third movement began, she was able to take her hand off his knee.)

This year the world class ensemble will perform Arvo Pärt's *Fratres*, which exemplifies his "tintinnabuli" style of composition, influenced by his mystical experiences with chants; Mozart's *Grande Sestetto Concertante*, an arrangement for wind sextet of his masterpiece *Sinfonia Concertante* for violin, viola, and orchestra K.

### Young Artists of Shandeele

August 9, 7:00pm & August 16, 3:00pm



Claudia Hu, Helen Shen and Anna Han

Founded in 1993, the Shandeele Music Festival's philosophies and goals provide for the further development and nurturing of an individual's creativity and passion for music while enriching the cultural community of Sullivan County by providing students the opportunity to develop mastery of their instrument.

The talented young artists returning to perform at Shandeele this year include alumni pianists Claudia Hu and Helen Shen (August 9). New this year will be Anna Han (August 16), a recent first prize winner of The Stecher and Horowitz Foundation 2012 NY International Piano Competition.

They will perform music by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Scriabin, Mozart, Schumann, Liszt, D. Scarlatti, and Avner Dorman (b.1975).

### Two Cellos & Piano - August 13, 7:00pm

An absolutely fascinating program for the rare combination of two cellos and piano brings pianist Cullan Bryant back to Shandeele, where

he has performed many, many times.

This world class pianist/accompanist's touch magically changes as if each composer is sitting on his shoulder manipulating his arms and hands into playing their pieces as they intended.



Cullan Bryant

I remember from a few previous Shandeele concerts, the magic that comes out of world class cellist David Requiro's soul - his breathtaking phrasing; two or more passages of the same notes never played the same way. Requiro and Bryant make the music so very individual with their inspired phrasing BUT always, soaring above the music so to speak, or lying underneath it so to speak, is the composer's special voice and ergo the composer's intention.

They are joined by cellist Meta Weiss, who I believe is a newcomer to Shandeele, for a fascinatingly "different" program of music by Vivaldi (*Concerto for 2 Cellos*), Paganini (*Variations on One String on a theme from Rossini's Moses*), Shostakovich (*Pieces For Two Cellos & Piano*) and music by "unknown" composers Jean-Baptiste Barriere (1707-1747), Matthew Bridgham (b.1989)(*fake it til ya make*

it), Jan Radzynski (b.1950), and Jean-Paul Bottemanne (b.1964).

Closing their program will be the rarely performed *Suite For Two Cellos & Piano* by the great composer, Gian-Carlo Menotti.

### Piano Trio - August 19, 7:00pm

In January of 2014, a Grand Montgomery Chamber Music audience was blown away by two charismatic musicians, cellist Sergey Antonov and pianist Ilya Kazantsky, when they performed Friedrich Dotzauer's *Variations on a theme from Norma* and sonatas by Mendelssohn and Greig. I especially remember Antonov's amazing skill with sustained notes in the slow movements. As he slowly, very slowly, moved his bow across the strings while holding one note, he brought forth an incredible variety of ever-changing, awe-inspiring colors resulting in profound emotional reactions by all in the audience.



Sergey Antonov, Misha Keylin & Ilya Kazantsky

This year, for Shandeele, they are joined by violinist Misha Keylin as the Hermitage Piano Trio to perform music by Shostakovich, Brahms and Rachmaninoff. Keylin last performed at Shandeele in 2010. Another happy returnee!

For tickets visit [www.shandeele.org](http://www.shandeele.org) or call 845-439-3277.