

# Rhythms!

THE BEAT OF RRMCM

A PUBLICATION OF ROCKY RIDGE MUSIC CENTER FOUNDATION



FALL / WINTER 2013



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It has been deeply gratifying for me, over the past six seasons, to be able to build upon the strong musical legacy bequeathed by Rocky Ridge Music Center's founder Beth Miller Harrod. We continue to transform the lives of our students through a team of exceptional faculty, a fiscally responsible and forward looking Board, a very capable support staff, a dynamic Advisory Council, and many dedicated volunteers. We have much to celebrate as we enter our 73rd season, and I want to invite you to dream a bigger dream with us, and help us achieve it for Rocky Ridge.

We are thrilled when alumni from many decades ago reconnect with us not only through handwritten letters and visits but even lately through social media. If you are not yet part of our network, please find us on Facebook under Rocky Ridge Music Center page and "Like" us. We will keep you posted, in nearly real time, of our activities as well as respond to your posts. We would particularly like for you to share RRMCM photos and stories on our page.

We are also interested in building our social presence in preparation for Colorado Gives Day ([ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org)) which occurs this year on Tuesday, December 10th. It is a great opportunity for RRMCM to find new supporters and increase the value of every dollar contributed through The First Bank Incentive Fund. Even if you are still in school and feel intimidated by the idea of philanthropy, I ask you to consider joining us as a recurring donor by pledging \$1 (one dollar!) per month, that's \$12 per year- the equivalent of a few cups of coffee and a muffin. The beauty of donating through ColoradoGives is that RRMCM does not incur any fees normally associated with credit card processing and receives 100% of the funds donated + supplemental funds.

What will we do with the additional funds we raise? Our number one priority for 2014 is to increase accessibility to our wonderful youth programs by breaking down financial barriers. We would like to expand the opportunity to more students. We hear heart-warming testimonials from students whose lives have been transformed by their summer at Rocky Ridge, and we want to create a more diverse student body as we move forward. If you are an alum who benefited from financial aid in the form of work-study, a counselor position, an internship, or a scholarship,

then you know the value of support. We also want to continue to keep a small class size so that every student can receive unprecedented individual attention — this is how we create unique artists — one at a time, not mass produced! Keeping a low student to faculty ratio is expensive but we want to make sure our tuition remains affordable which means every student is a recipient of a partially subsidized tuition.

I encourage you to read the entire issue of this newsletter as I am sure you will find in the following stories many compelling reasons to support Rocky Ridge. My favorite section is always the one about student accomplishments. I look forward to hearing your response, [soyoung@rockyridge.org](mailto:soyoung@rockyridge.org)

Sincerely,

SoYoung Lee  
Executive Director



## Soar with us



# ROCKY RIDGE MUSIC CENTER

Estes Park, Colorado



## 2014 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Young Artist Seminar	June 24 to July 27	Ages 15-24
Junior Student Seminar 1	June 10 to June 22	Ages 10-15
Junior Student Seminar 2	July 29 to August 10	Ages 10-15
Adult Piano Seminar 1	May 31 to June 4	Ages 18+
Adult Piano Seminar 2	June 4 to June 8	Ages 18+
Chamberre in the Rockies	August 13 to August 17	Ages 18+
Early Music Festival & Workshop	August 20 to August 24	Ages 18+
Early Music Intensive	August 25 to August 27	Ages 18+

Apply by Feb. 15 for early bird discount, financial aid and priority consideration

Apply online at [www.RockyRidge.org](http://www.RockyRidge.org)

## 2014 MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS Faculty Concert Series

Sundays at 3pm:

June 8, 15, 29 • July 6, 13, 20 • August 3

Wednesday at 3pm: August 20



## SPECIAL EVENTS

December 5-7, 2013

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)  
convention exhibit booth and auditions

December 10, 2013  
Colorado Gives Day  
[ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org)



December 14, 2013 6:30pm

House Concert  
Boulder residence



January 4, 2014 7pm

Concert at Tucson Symphony Orchestra Performance Hall  
master class and auditions



January 23-25, 2014

Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA)  
convention exhibit booth and auditions



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Summer: 465 Longs Peak Road • Estes Park, CO 80517

Winter: 840 Pearl Street, Ste Q • Boulder, CO 80302

TEL 970.586.4031 • [RRMC@RockyRidge.org](mailto:RRMC@RockyRidge.org)

[www.RockyRidge.org](http://www.RockyRidge.org)

## ADMINISTRATION

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Holmes, President  
Jim Crump, Past President  
Frederic Platt, Secretary  
Paul Jarvis, Treasurer  
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Stephen Dilts  
Pamela Duys  
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Scott Mattoch  
Margaret Smith

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Gerald Kutchev  
David Ludwig  
Christopher O'Riley  
Scott Reed  
Jeremy Smith  
Suzanne Walters

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2013 has been a very successful year for Rocky Ridge. At the start of the year, *The New Colossus* by David Ludwig, a long-term associate and former faculty member, was selected as part of the private prayer service for President Obama and his cabinet at his second inauguration. Later in the year, Jory Vinikour, Artistic Director and harpsichord faculty for Early Music Festival & Workshop, received a Grammy Nomination for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for *The Complete Harpsichord Works of Rameau*. Additionally, Robert Paterson, the newly appointed Composer-in-Residence and composition faculty, recently received word that his *Six Mallet Marimba and Wood and Forest* are on the Grammy Nomination Ballot in various categories.

Our enrollment of all student and adult music programs was significantly higher than in prior years, and all participants were enthusiastic with respect to program content and implementation by the faculty.

We have expanded our Board membership to include Paul Jarvis, Patrick Gaines, Scott Mattoch, Steve Dilts, and Pam Duys. We now cover the spectrum of expertise needed to give direction to the ongoing development of Rocky Ridge. To this end, we are in the process of developing a 5-year plan, which will include a significant expansion of our music programs, coupled with major upgrades to our facilities. The upgrades will include construction of one or more dormitories and adding a concert hall adjacent to the Dining Room. This will allow us to broaden our program offerings, together with providing a truly professional setting for music education and performance. The Board members are all active in the planning and implementation of a major and ongoing fund-raising campaign to realize our goals.

Most of you have heard or read about the devastating floods we experienced in September. We are happy to report that Rocky Ridge "weathered" the storm unscathed.

My sincere thanks to So Young Lee, Karen Dusek, Mike Daggett, Kam Macar, Mike Blevins and all faculty and support staff for their hard work and dedication to make Rocky Ridge the successful entity that it is.

Michael Holmes  
President, Board of Directors

## FACULTY NEWS



### Céline Ricci

Soprano Céline Ricci recently founded ARS MINERVA, a San Francisco-based non-profit performing arts organization. The mission of ARS MINERVA is to bring creativity to the service of the arts and share its passion for music by reviving forgotten musical treasures.

Their first project will be the creation of the annual Carnival Festival. They will celebrate the glamorous and epicurean spirit of Venezia Barocca by reviving operas written for the Carnival during the 17th and 18th centuries and not performed until now by Ars Minerva. The first opera production of the Carnival Festival will be *LA CLEOPATRA*, a work composed by friar Daniele da Castrovillari with a libretto written by Giacomo dell'Angelo, was created in Venice in 1662 at Il Teatro Vendramin di San Salvatore (today Teatro Goldoni).

The music of Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries is more than an historical record of the city's artistic life: it is the evocation of an era, an age of decadence and provocation that defied class and gender. It is the spirit of Carnevale. During the next season Céline Ricci will perform with Akademie für Alte Musik in Sydney, with il Ballo Baroque in London and with Ars Lyrica among other projects.



### Ilona Vukovic-Gay

#### *Tucson Symphony Orchestra Young Composer's Project*

The classes are off to an amazing start! The Tucson Symphony Orchestra string quintet, wind quintet, piano, harp and percussion have visited the class and performed the student sketches. The Young Composers also had meetings with visiting composer Kip Winger and guest artist violinists Jennifer Frautschi and Elena Urioste. The students will have the amazing opportunity to meet with Itzhak Perlman in January.

The Young Composer's Project had eight graduates last year. One of them won the prestigious national "Rapido! Composition Contest," which had over 400 competitors, another one was selected to appear on Christopher O'Riley's "From the Top" program and all of them have continued on to college as composition students or music majors! It is always incredibly exciting to hear their new compositions evolve and we predict the orchestra and string quintet reading sessions in May will be fabulous!



### Robert Paterson

Composer-in-Residence, Robert Paterson was recently selected from 120 applicants as winner of the Utah Arts Festival Composition Competition. As a result, he has been commissioned for a chamber ensemble work to be premiered at the festival in June 2014 where over 60,000 people will be in attendance.

Other upcoming works include a chamber opera entitled *The Companion* to be premiered in New York City next May, a consortium commission for a wind ensemble work entitled *Firecracker Alley*, and *Pegasus* for flute and harp that will be premiered at the American Harp Society's National Conference in New Orleans and at the World Harp Congress International Conference in Sydney, Australia.

In addition, a brand new album of Paterson's vocal works entitled *Winter Songs* will be released this December. Paterson is honored that two additional albums containing his works, *Six Mallet Marimba and Wood and Forest*, are on the Grammy® Nomination Ballot in various categories. Finally, another one of his chamber operas, *Safe Word*, was chosen from a national call for works to be featured in the Fort Worth Opera Frontiers program next May, a week after the Austin Symphony Orchestra gives two performances of his work *Dark Mountains*.



## ALUMNI CORNER



**Lukas McIlhane**  
*Class of 2012 & 2013*

Lukas McIlhane recently won the 2013 Orchestra Omaha Concerto Contest (Orchestral Division) with the Doppler Hungarian Fantasy for flute, which he learned while attending the Young Artist Seminar at Rocky Ridge this summer. Lukas is the first wind player to ever earn this prize, an annual contest that started in 2006.

Luke is scheduled to play this work with Orchestra Omaha on February 16, 2014.  
[www.orchestraomaha.org](http://www.orchestraomaha.org)

Lukas' proud father, Nate, wrote to tell us the good news and added, "I would like to thank you for all that your program provides. For the rest of my life, the words 'Rocky Ridge' will be synonymous with 'Value,' in every sense of the word."



**Coreisa Janelle Lee**  
*Class of 2011*

My name is Coreisa Janelle Lee and I am currently attending Manhattan School of Music as a flute performance major on a full scholarship. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, I am the fourth and last child of Howard III and Jeanette Lee. With my whole family being musically inclined, I have known music as long as I've been living. The older I became, the more fascinated I became in playing the flute. I joined band in middle school and started taking lessons from Kimberly Scott, the chair of the music department at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Ever since I've made the choice to attend ASFA, my life took a turn that I will never regret taking. One major turn was during my freshman year, I was introduced to Rocky Ridge through Claudia Anderson. She came to my high school to teach a master class and give a presentation to the music department about the camp. I specifically remember all the beautiful nature pictures, the smiling faces of the teachers and campers, the extra fun events I could participate in, as well as the many musical opportunities I'd have.

Attending Rocky Ridge was just what Dr. Anderson described. Being on top of mountains, surrounded by nature with no distractions, was very peaceful. It taught me how to focus and work on my instrument. Just the setting made me a better musician. I also left Rocky Ridge with a large

number of new friends and future colleagues. Being at Rocky Ridge was like another home. Everyone, teachers and students, were all loving and connected. After 3 years, I still keep in touch with my friends that I made at Rocky Ridge and it's a wonderful feeling.

It was also wonderful to have so many musical opportunities. I got to participate in chamber ensembles, flute choir, solo performances, and as one of the four concerto competition winners, I was given a chance to solo with the orchestra. Being able to do this was a huge life changing event. Even though I was only in the 10th grade, it was then that I realized performance is definitely what I want to do with my life. Rocky Ridge Music Center had a huge impact on my life and I'm very grateful that I got a chance to attend.



**Jonathan Adler**  
*Class of 2012*

On a bi-weekly basis I find myself sitting in front of a baby grand Steinway, about to delve into an hour's worth of Mozart's second piano quartet or perhaps Frank Bridge's Phantasie for piano and strings, with my fellow chamber musicians. And at some point during each of our rehearsals, I find myself thinking about the days I spent at Rocky Ridge Music Center, playing Dvorak, Liszt, and Prokofiev with my peers in the rustic log-cabin practice spaces. It's easy to fall into a habit of daydreaming, at times wishing that I could be back in the dry summer heat of Estes Park in July. But I think that my time at RRMCMC, two summers ago, has given me more than just an incredible experience on which I can fondly look back: it was at Rocky Ridge that I truly confirmed for myself my love of music, and became committed to keeping that music alive throughout all my life's journeys.

As a college freshman this fall at Yale, becoming accustomed to the culture of the school and to living in New Haven in general, sometimes I feel as though I'm struggling to keep up with my musical goals. This semester, I'm definitely keeping myself busy academically: I'm taking part in the Directed Studies program, an opportunity for freshman to explore the Western canon in yearlong courses in Philosophy, Literature, and Political History, and I'm enjoying my lecture in introductory psychology as well. Thus, I end up spending a good chunk of my time in the reading rooms of the libraries, and only am able to devote around an hour a day at most to playing the piano. However, just in these first two months of classes, I'm finding that my academic discussions have provided me with new ways to approach music more conceptually.

I'm starting to think about the philosophical implications behind the music I'm playing, whether it be a Scriabin sonata or a Kapustin étude, and I'm

considering the ways in which music can serve as artistic statements, worthy of the same deep analytic thought and rigor with which we approach Homer or Ovid. And learning about the Overjustification Effect in psychology, which posits that an activity loses its intrinsic value when it is justified with external (especially monetary) rewards, also has helped me think about my relationship with music. In fact, it was first at Rocky Ridge where I began to accept the unlikelihood of a career as a professional musician, and realized that embarking on that path could ultimately degrade my love for music. This was not because RRMCMC lowered my musical self-esteem; rather, as I mentioned earlier, Rocky Ridge helped me realize that I found value in music for its own sake, and that I wanted to continue my musical studies for their own sake, as well. In this way, I'm excited to see where else my classes will lead me, to continue to find the balance between music and all the other activities, and hopefully to find myself back on Longs Peak Road in the near future.



**Keiko Brunson**  
*Class of 2010*

My name is Keiko Brunson. I am currently a junior at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. I am an English major, with a minor in Civic Engagement. In the summer of 2010, I had the privilege of being able to attend the Young Artist Seminar at Rocky Ridge. This opportunity was life changing; it enabled me to share my passion for music and learn from others' experiences in a mountain setting, with the friendliest of people. Not only did I make dramatic improvements in my playing, but I was able to connect with other passionate musicians in the community.

As rewarding as my musical journey has been, the road to where I currently am was "rocky," too. I began playing the violin at age 8, but because of my visual impairment, I struggled to pick up the fundamentals and was slow to progress. However, the discovery that I possessed perfect pitch enabled me to gain the confidence to utilize what faculties I did have, and I learned to play completely by ear. Eventually, my teachers insisted I learn to read music to get a better understanding of the bigger picture. From middle to high school, and now college, I have been a part of schools orchestras, as well as taking private lessons. The importance of both reading music and playing by ear has been stressed by each of my teachers. At the time, it seemed out of reach and unobtainable, but I owe them my deepest gratitude for having challenged me. I now have an opportunity to give back as a teacher and enjoy teaching free lessons to several elementary school students who can't afford to take lessons elsewhere. It's challenging but a lot of fun.



## TUNE UP ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2013, the Advisory Council has worked with the Board of Directors offering strategic planning initiatives, fund raising strategies, music program designs. The depth of talent on the Advisory Council is proving to be a valuable asset to Rocky Ridge.

As President of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Scott Reed has just completed a magnificent 2013 Summer Festival at the Music Academy. And if that isn't enough, the Chicago-based radio station WFMT, one of the top classical music broadcaster, is producing a 2 hour special on the Music Academy that airs across the United States beginning in January 2014.

Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon has received a commission from Santa Fe Opera and Opera Philadelphia to write an opera based on the best-selling novel "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier. In addition, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra opened its 2013-2014 season with Higdon's "On a Wire," a highly acclaimed contemporary composition.

Christopher O'Riley is well known for his piano arrangements of songs by alternative artists. His latest disc *Shuffle.Play.Listen* was released in collaboration with cellist Matt Haimovitz. They perform works from 7 contemporary composers. It's a wild ride! As host of NPR "From the Top," Mr. O'Riley works with the next generation of brilliant young musicians. He says "It is most important to play what you believe in, what you feel most keenly."

Composer David Ludwig comes from a long line of musicians. His uncle is pianist Peter Serkin, his grandfather was Rudolf Serkin, and his great grandfather was the violinist Adolf Busch. David's work "New Colossus" was performed at the 2nd Inauguration of President Obama. His current commissions for 2013-2014 include works for Philadelphia Orchestra, Ravinia Stearns Institute, East Coast Chamber Orchestra to name just a few.

**Kathryn Snyder**  
*Chair of the Advisory Council*

## MTNA Competition Winners Receive Young Artist Seminar Scholarships

On October 19, Andrew Cooperstock, Chair of the Piano Department for the Young Artist Seminar (YAS), presented merit scholarship awards to the winner and alternate at the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Division competition in piano for the state of Colorado.

The winner is Peter Mathys who is a junior at the University of Colorado Boulder. He studies piano with Dr. Cooperstock, and he is pursuing a double major in piano performance and political science. He may add a minor in French as he is fluent in 3 languages. Peter's favorite composer is Rachmaninoff. He is 20 years old and a native of Boulder, Colorado. Peter is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship to attend YAS.

The alternate winner is Bilinda Lou, a master's student studying with Doris Lenhart at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is 23 years old and started studying piano at age 5 and a half. She holds a bachelor's degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Bilinda enjoys playing late Scriabin repertoire. In her youth she played percussion for 10 years. Rocky Ridge honored Bilinda with a \$500 scholarship to attend YAS this summer.

## Rising Stars Festival

**Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA)**

This student event features two categories: Competitive Stars & Non-Competitive Stars and four divisions: Solo Piano, Solo Voice, Solo Instrument & Ensemble, for ages 6-19.

April 26-27, 2013 • Regis University, Denver, Colorado

Application deadline: March 26, 2014

Contact: Harumi Tabler at [etude42day@hotmail.com](mailto:etude42day@hotmail.com)

For more information, visit [www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars](http://www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars)

## Rocky Ridge Winter Concert

January 4, 2014 • 7:00 PM

**Tucson Symphony Orchestra Performance Hall**

2175 North Sixth Ave. • Tucson, AZ

Come and celebrate the New Year with members of the Rocky Ridge faculty. Presenting a diverse concert will be the Southwest String Quartet-in-Residence; David Rife, Wynne Wong-Rife, Ilona Vukovic Gay, Mary Beth Tyndall and also featuring pianist Nathan Hess and oboist Rebecca Mindock. The sparkling Mozart Oboe Quartet in F Major, K370 will open the concert followed by a birders delight "Aspects of a Landscape" by Paul Reade for solo oboe. The final work will be the magnificent Dvorak Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81.

Nathan Hess and Rebecca Mindock will offer master classes on January 3. Rocky Ridge auditions for both the Junior and Young Artist sessions will also be scheduled on Friday, January 3. For more information please contact Ilona Vukovic-Gay, Program Director of Junior Student Seminars, [Ilona@rockyridge.org](mailto:Ilona@rockyridge.org) 970-443-0243. Students must complete the application for admission before scheduling a live audition.





## FACILITIES UPDATE

At over 9,000 feet, Rocky Ridge Music Center is situated in a fierce environment which takes a heavy toll on its buildings. We are diligently repairing damage and decay. Rocky Ridge must, however, upgrade its facilities to remain competitive. Although an impressive amount of work has been accomplished, a great deal remains to be done.

All the cabins in the Girls' area have been brought up to electrical code. Property Manager Mike Daggett has replaced rotted logs, floor joists, and flooring in Robin and has started a companion project at Eagle (funded by Adult Piano Seminar attendees). Mike replaced degraded plumbing in Nutcracker (faculty cabin) and insulated and finished the inside (funded by Mary Hatchette, Chamberre attendee). Almost identical work on Firebird is about half finished (funded by the violists of Chamberre). Trustee Jim Crump will fund a renovation of the Barn restroom. The bathroom at Owl has been completely rebuilt.

Two projects to address campus building code issues have been started. Work undertaken at the Barn to provide code-compliant exits from the upper floor and to replace the aspen-root-heaved concrete floor was found to require pouring a new foundation and entirely rebuilding two log walls. This project was delayed by spring snowstorms and the September rain and remains half finished (funded by Connie Platt, wife of trustee Fred Platt). New code-compliant exit doors for the Dining Hall should be in place by next Spring.

Log replacement and repair work similar to that of Robin and Eagle are needed for the historic cabins Finch, Woodpecker, Ptarmigan, Owl, and the Chickadees. Each project is estimated to cost about \$5,000. Electrical code compliance work remains necessary for six cabins, estimated at \$1,300 each. Starling needs renovation similar to Nutcracker's, estimated at \$7,000. Twelve student sleeping cabins require about \$500 each for

code compliance for porches and stairs, and 8 or so other buildings need about \$200. Upgrading a bedroom for handicap-accessibility will cost from \$7,000 to \$12,000. The Dining Hall and Lodge must be re-roofed soon.

Fortunately, so far Rocky Ridge has avoided the two gravest dangers, fire and flood. September's "thousand-year rainstorm" produced only a couple of roof leaks and minor road erosion. Although we have assiduously thinned the forest for fire mitigation and although log construction is more fire resistant than frame, we are a long way from the fire station. We anticipate providing cisterns at most buildings, a pump or series of pumps, and fire sprinklers at the major historic buildings.

These projects are just to repair damage and upgrade for safety and code compliance. For Rocky Ridge to prosper in the future, we must undertake new construction. Attached bathrooms are a critical need for expanding the adult programs. Cabins in the Girls' area could receive new bathrooms for about \$5,000 each, with cabins in the Boys' requiring \$3,000 each. We envision two new dormitories, each costing approximately \$500,000. We also need a workshop (\$40,000) for the Property Manager.

And last, but by no means least, Beth Miller Harrod left a generous bequest to build a concert hall. This project is necessary for a facility of the caliber of Rocky Ridge. We hope to break ground in about three years.

Margaret Smith  
Principal, Buildingsmith Architecture  
Member of the Board of Directors







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