

PRESS RELEASE

8th Saronic Chamber Music Festival

1st-6th August 2018

Galatas - Spetses - Hydra - Poros – Methana

The **Saronic Chamber Music Festival** returns in August 2018 for its eighth installment. Works by the French Romantics, Faure and Debussy will be juxtaposed with those of the German masters, Schumann and Beethoven. The Festival will present a concert at the stunning Open Amphitheatre of Kameni Chora on the slopes of the Methana Volcano, performing Mozart's late masterpiece, the Divertimento for String Trio in Eb.

The Saronic Chamber Music Festival is an ambitious project to bring chamber music of the highest international standard to the islands of the Saronic Gulf. *The Leondari Ensemble*, a group of players with established personal and familial links to Greece, and in particular to this region, form the core of an annual Summer meeting of Europe's and North America's finest, most dynamic musicians. Each year, *The Leondari Ensemble* invite esteemed guests from around the world.

A highly international ensemble of musical partners meet in the inspirational environs of the Saronic Islands to explore the music that they love and to perform in intimate settings for an audience whom they are passionate to play for.

The 2018 Saronic Chamber Music Festival is made possible by the generous support of the **Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Athens** and receives the full backing of the **municipalities of Hydra, Spetses, Poros and Trizinias-Methana**. The Hydra series is sponsored by **Mr Hercules Kontos** in memory of his wife, Therese Kontos, a lover of music.

The Leondari Ensemble is comprised of musicians from Europe and North America who perform regularly with many of the world's most renowned ensembles: including the *London Symphony Orchestra*, the *Berlin Philharmonic*, *ARC Ensemble*, *Britten Sinfonia* and the *Vienna Piano Trio*.

Guest Artists:

Finnish violinist, **Sini Simonen**, 1st Violin of the *Castalian String Quartet*; **Noam Greenberg**, one of the UK's leading chamber music pianists and Artistic Director of *Music Festival at Tresanton*; and **Martin Leo Schmidt**, a former student of Heinrich Schiff's prestigious class in Vienna and a regular of the *Mahler Chamber Orchestra*.

A note on the Leondari members at the 2018 Festival:

Serbian violinist, Bogdan Bozovic is the leader of *Esbjerg Ensemble*, Concertmaster of *Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra*, and former violinist of the *Vienna Piano Trio*. German cellist, Julian Arp was appointed professor at the *University for Arts*, Graz in 2013 and leads an active performing life as a soloist and chamber musician. He has recorded three albums which have all received international acclaim.

The Saronic Chamber Music Festival and the Leondari Ensemble were founded by Greek violinist, Jannis Agraniotis, and Australian violist, Francis Kefford. Jannis currently collaborates with Athens Camerata (Friends of Music Orchestra) and has worked with the Greek National Opera and the Athens State Orchestra. He has appeared in all of the major Greek concert halls as well as in Germany as a recitalist and chamber musician. Francis is a frequent performer with the UK's leading orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Aurora Orchestra and the Britten Sinfonia.

Full artist biographies: www.saronicfestival.com/artists

FULL FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Open Amphitheatre of Kameni Chora | 01 Aug | 21:00

Prelude and Fugue No. 4 in D minor, K. 404a **Mozart/Bach**
Divertimento in Eb Major, K. 563 **Mozart**

Galatas School | 02 Aug | 21:00

Piano Trio in Bb major, Op. 97 "Archduke" **Beethoven**
Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15 **Faure**

Syggrou Amphitheatre, Poros | 03 Aug | 21:00

Divertimento in Eb Major, K. 563 **Mozart**
String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 **Debussy**

Bratsera Hotel, Hydra | 04 Aug | 21:00

Piano Trio in Bb major, Op. 97 "Archduke" **Beethoven**
Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15 **Faure**

Bratsera Hotel, Hydra | 05 Aug | 21:00

Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105 **Schumann**
String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 **Debussy**

Kapodistrian Hall, Spetses | 06 Aug | 21:00

Divertimento in Eb Major, K. 563 **Mozart**
Prelude and Fugue No. 4 in D minor, K. 404a **Mozart/Bach**
String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 **Debussy**

INFORMATION

TICKETS

FULL FESTIVAL PASS : 40 euro

HYDRA / SPETSES : 10 euro (standard), 25 euro (premium)

POROS / METHANA: 10 euro (standard)

GALATAS : entry by donation.

Children: free entrance at all concerts.

Book your tickets in advance and get the special discounted festival passes at:

www.saronicfestival.com/book-tickets

General info: www.saronicfestival.com

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