

AU campus to host second annual weeklong MostArts Festival celebrating music and arts

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Following a successful inaugural year, the MostArts Festival at Alfred University (AU) returns this summer for a weeklong run, Sunday, July 5 through Saturday, July 11, with a series of musical and art events highlighted by the Young Pianist Competition.

The mid-summer celebration is “committed to enriching the cultural, economic, and educational potential of the Alfred community by inviting internationally renowned musicians to the region to share their passion for music and to engage in the broader dialogue between music and the vibrant world of Alfred art,” said Dr. Lisa Lantz, the guiding force behind the festival. She is chairperson of the AU Division of Performing Arts, professor of music, and conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra. She is also an adjunct professor in Italian for the Division of Modern Languages.

“The brilliance of timeless classical music and art” will once again “infuse the summer life of the AU community,” she added.

The 2015 Piano Competition is open to high school students ages 13-18. The contest goal is to encourage and promote excellence in the world of classical music and performance, said Lantz.

As part of the final round of their competition, eight finalists will be selected to come to the AU campus to perform the first movement of their selected Mozart Concerto with the MostArts Festival Orchestra during festival week. This concert will take place before an audience and an international panel of judges. In addition, the finalists will perform previously submitted solo works in a combined recital.

The competition will culminate with a \$10,000 first prize; \$2,500 for second place award; \$1,500 for third; two \$500 Audience Awards; and a \$500 Discretionary Prize.

Applications, along with a non-refundable \$100 application fee will be accepted through Friday, April 24, 2015; applicants must not be under professional management. You will find detailed information and an online application by visiting: <http://mostarts.alfred.edu/competition.cfm>

All applicants will be notified by late May.

In addition to the July musical programs, there will be two and four-week workshops offered by internationally recognized artists Wayne Higby: "Raku," Walter McConnell: "Big Clay-Raw," John Gill: "Intensive Workshop," and Linda Sikora: "Timeless/Timely," all AU professors of ceramics; In-Chin Lee, professor, Department of Ceramics and Glass, Hongik University, South Korea: "Intensive Workshop;" and Matthew Metz, studio potter, Alfred Station: "Timeless/Timely." Their workshops will offer a unique opportunity for participants to learn from artists on their own turf; sharing their facilities, libraries, and community. Each day will be full of demonstrations, lectures, and one-on-one conversations with faculty, graduate teaching assistants, and workshop participants. Other workshops for 2015 include, "The Teacher&s Studio" with Jason Green, adjunct professor of ceramics, Foundations program, "Ceramic Science for the Artist;" Bill Carty, professor of ceramic engineering and materials science, " Ceramic Science for the Artist;" and "The Art of the Bonsai" with Jim Doyle.

For more information on any of the art workshops email summerceramics@alfred.edu; phone 607.871.2413; or visit www.art.alfred.edu/summer-school/ or www.alfredceramics.com

The Opening Festival Concert will mark the first in the weeklong series beginning at 7:30 p.m. and featuring the 2014 Young Pianist Competition Grand Prize Winner Mayuki Miyashita, a ninth-grader from Maryville, TN. She will perform with the MostArts Festival Orchestra a small, Mozart-sized ensemble - with Lantz conducting. A gala reception will follow the program (\$10).

At noon, Monday, July 6 "Sound Bites Sampler #1" the first in the chamber music series, will open in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. These sessions will showcase chamber music with various groups of musicians who will speak about the works to be performed in an informal atmosphere as the audience enjoys lunch or dessert. That evening&s concert will feature Concert Pianist Anthony Pattin.

Tuesday&s itinerary will include "Sound Bites Sampler #2" in Holmes; a 6:30 p.m. carillon recital with guest artist Joey Brink; and the 7:30 p.m. concert with German Concert Pianist Andreas Klein and Yuval Zaliouk, conductor.

Wednesday&s program will again feature the noon "Sound Bites Sampler #3 as well as two free recitals by the Young Pianist Competition finalists at 2 and 4 p.m. in Miller Theater. At 7:30 p.m. there will be a new addition from last year a Big Band Dance "Music Under the Stars" by John Piazza JR.&s "Little Big Band" from Syracuse, at the McLane Center; a cash bar and food will be included in the price of the evening&s ticket.

Thursday will offer "Sound Bites Sampler #4" along with the 7:30 p.m. evening program with the MostArts Orchestra conducted by Steve Thomas and featuring the piano competition finalists. There will be a "Meet and Greet the Artists" reception following the concert.

The Chamber Music Series continues Friday with "Sound Bites Sampler #5 at noon. From 1-2 p.m. "What&s Hot at the AU Hot Shop?" will feature a glassblowing demonstration with Angus Powers, associate professor of glass, in the Alfred Glass Studio "Hot Shop" Binns-Merrill Hall. The evening performance will once again feature piano competition finalists with the MostArts Festival Orchestra conducted by Thomas; a meet and greet artist reception will follow.

On Saturday, July 11, from noon-3 p.m. there will be a Roman Glass Furnace Workshop with Powers at 1306 State Route 244, a mile from campus, on the right. Also, at noon, Higby will present a Raku Extravaganza at the "Hair Pin Turn" above Miller Theater (weather permitting).

The evening Gala Concert with the MostArts Festival Orchestra will feature Grammy Award winner Angelin Chang, with Lantz and Zaliouk conducting. Award announcements and presentations will be made following the program. Festivities will conclude with a Grand Finale Gala Reception; there will be a \$10 donation taken at the door.

MostArts Festival activities will include both daytime and evening events open to the public. All daytime concerts and activities are free; the Evening Concert Series requires a ticket.

An “Applause Pass Patron” \$100 ticket will provide entry into all six evening concerts in Miller Theater; single evening tickets are \$20. Special rates for senior citizens are available at \$50 for six evenings, \$10 single ticket; student rates are \$25 for the week or \$5 for a single evening ticket. Special group and family discounts are also available. For information please visit MostArts@alfred.edu or call 607.871.2828.

Mark your calendars for the return of Alfred University's MostArts Festival, July 5-11. For more information and details, please visit: <http://mostarts.alfred.edu/>