

Trio of Toledo musicians reunite at Alfred University's MostArts Festival

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Lisa Lantz

ALFRED, New York Three musical artists from Toledo, OH, will cross paths in Alfred next month when Yuval Zaliouk, former music director and conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, joins Toledo-born pianist Anthony Pattin at Alfred University's MostArts Festival. Another Toledo native, violinist and conductor Lisa Lantz, a professor of music and chair of Performing Arts at Alfred University, founded the MostArts Festival in 2014.

The Toledo trio has been making music together ever since Lantz reached out to Zaliouk and Pattin and invited them to join her in making MostArts a continuing celebration of classical music in rural Western New York. Zaliouk has served as principal conductor of the MostArts Orchestra since 2015, and since the 2014 inception of the festival, Pattin has appeared as soloist with the orchestra, chamber musician, and judge for the Festival's Young Pianist Competition.

Zaliouk calls the Festival week "a celebration of good music, both symphonic and chamber, and a joy of camaraderie and good music making. I always come out of this particular event with the realization that classical music will live forever and exceptional talents will continue to make sure it does."

Pattin, who earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toledo, adds the MostArts Festival generates a high level of energy, "which I find contagious! If you love music, and the integration of art and music and culture, it is the most wonderful place to be in July! Great musical friendships have been formed and nurtured, and great music lives on."

Lantz, who grew up in West Toledo and attended the University of Toledo, conceived the idea of an annual classical music festival that would turn the rural Village of Alfred, home to Alfred University, into a classical music hub for one week every summer. As a violin student in the United States and Europe of legendary virtuosos Nathan Milstein,

Ruggiero Ricci, and Aaron Rosand, Lantz developed the professional relations, musical breadth and music making expertise necessary for building a classical music festival, including assembling the MostArts Festival Orchestra.

The Orchestra is fully international, representing more than 15 countries in addition to the United States, with all musicians traveling to Alfred for an intense and unique music-making experience. Internationally-renowned soloists perform each evening with the Festival Orchestra. A chamber music series features daily afternoon performances at no cost to the public. The Young Pianist Competition for high school students awards nearly \$20,000 in prizes (including a \$10,000 grand prize), in addition to the opportunity to become a Young Steinway Artist.

“The competition, the chamber music at noon, in which I am closely involved, the evening performances, the rehearsals, where the ingredients are honed to create the magic, are all extremely exciting and motivating,” says Pattin, who has performed in major venues across the U.S. and the world since his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 1998.

Attendance at MostArts Festival concerts has grown steadily over the last four summers and promises to break last year's record audience numbers when the festival opens July 8 this year. Lantz also continues to expand the variety of artistic experiences available to festival visitors, as Alfred University is home to the internationally respected School of Art and Design. World-renowned ceramic artist Wayne Higby, director of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum and a ceramic arts professor at Alfred University, offers an annual workshop in firing clay pottery; other Alfred University-based artists offer workshops in fine arts ranging from painting to creative writing.

Zaliouk says Lantz “exceeds expectations with her programing and planning of the Festival. Her creativity, attention to detail and ability to engage superb players and musicians ensure that all those who attend the concerts, and the non-musical events (there are plenty of those too), feel privileged to have participated in this once in a year heart-warming occasion.”

The MostArts Festival runs July 8-14 and coincides with one-, two-, and four-week ceramic workshops on the Alfred University campus. Additional workshops of music, crafts and art will include a piano master class, clay pottery, painting, drawing, gardening and creative writing.

For more information on MostArts, including a schedule of events visit mostarts.alfred.edu.