

CONTACT: Jonathan Eifert, [jonathan.eifert@goldsoundmedia.com](mailto:jonathan.eifert@goldsoundmedia.com), 347.741.1913

## Oregon Bach Festival Announces 2021 Virtual Concert Lineup, June 25 - July 11

*Featured artists include the legendary **Emerson String Quartet**, superstar cellist **Matt Haimovitz**, vocalists **Lawrence Brownlee** and **Tyler Duncan**, Grammy-winning organist **Paul Jacobs**, activist-pianist **Lara Downes**, and Scottish baroque ensemble, **Dunedin Consort**. Plus, watch three special events showcasing finalists from the OBF artistic director search, conductors **Miguel Harth Bedoya**, **Eric Jacobsen**, and **Julian Wachner**.*

*High-resolution artist photos can be [downloaded here](#).*

**EUGENE, OR** – As previously announced, ongoing precautions surrounding COVID-19 have led the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance to convert the 2021 **Oregon Bach Festival** (OBF) to a series of virtual events. OBF remains resilient during this year of global crisis, and is proud to announce a slate of more than 15 virtual events over three weeks, from **June 25 through July 11, 2021**.

The Festival offers numerous critically acclaimed musicians in a variety of pre-recorded concerts and original productions. With this robust digital programming schedule, OBF reaffirms to the world that it is a leading musical source, showcasing the splendor of classical music from the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

OBF 2021 is headlined by one of the world's premier chamber music ensembles and nine time Grammy Award-winner, **Emerson String Quartet**, as well as a selection of Bach's Cello Suites from "remarkable virtuoso" (*The New Yorker*) **Matt Haimovitz**, and two programs from director **John Butt** and Scotland's leading baroque ensemble, **Dunedin Consort**.

The Festival also includes two highly sought-after male vocalists. Praised as "an international star in the operatic repertory" by *The New York Times*, **Lawrence Brownlee** offers OBF fans a program of spirituals and bel canto arias, while baritone **Tyler Duncan** ("a powerful voice", *The New York Times*) presents a Beethoven song cycle, entitled "To the Distant Beloved."

Renowned activist-pianist **Lara Downes** showcases a two-part concert called "Phenomenal Women." The first installment features a new piano concerto (*Quiet Streets*) from composer Elena Ruehr as an ode to our silenced cities during the time of shelter-in-place, capturing the unexpected beauty and tranquil melancholy of a deserted cityscape. The second part pays homage to the trailblazing female composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Grammy-winning organist, **Paul Jacobs**, returns to OBF with Poulenc's lush organ concerto, featuring the preeminent **Philadelphia Orchestra**, and Portland's acclaimed **45th Parallel Universe** will offer two chamber concerts - a history of chorales from **Arcturus Wind Quintet** and a musical exploration of counterpoint from **Pyxis String Quartet**.

Additional events include performances from the University of Oregon Chamber Choir and OBF Composers Symposium.

The schedule rounds out with sneak-peeks of the OBF artistic director finalists. With the Festival and University of Oregon making the choice to extend the search for the next OBF artistic director through the 2022 season, OBF hopes to offer audiences some insight into the candidates, before returning to see them live next year. Three special digital events highlight the previously announced artistic director candidates: **Miguel Harth-Bedoya**, **Eric Jacobsen**, and **Julian Wachner**.

All OBF 2021 concerts will be presented free to the public. Additional program information will be announced as it is available. More information can be found at [oregonbachfestival.org](https://oregonbachfestival.org).

###

**Oregon Bach Festival (OBF)** has presented the masterworks of J.S. Bach, and composers inspired by his work, to audiences in Eugene and throughout the State of Oregon for nearly five decades. The annual event began as a collaboration between German conductor and organist, Helmuth Rilling and former associate dean of the University of Oregon School of Music, Royce Saltzman. In addition to traditional choral-orchestral masterworks, the Festival also presents internationally renowned guest artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Pink Martini and Joshua Bell, and offers educational opportunities, programming for children and families, and community events.

**University of Oregon** is a world-class teaching and research institution and Oregon's flagship public university. The UO School of Music and Dance presents more than 250 concerts and events during the academic year featuring scholars, guest artists, faculty artists, and student ensembles. The incredible wealth of concert material ranges from contemporary dance to African dance, early and classical music to contemporary music, world music, and jazz.