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Birdfoot Festival

The eighth annual Birdfoot Festival returns to New Orleans, May 28–June 1 2019, with a series of exciting and innovative chamber music concerts and events throughout the city.

New Orleans, LA – From May 28–June 1 2019, the eighth annual **Birdfoot Festival**, a top-rated international chamber music festival with New Orleans flavor, will fill venues across the city with a week of beautifully bold and truly intimate world-caliber performances, open rehearsals, free community concerts, and “backstage” experiences.

During this year’s Birdfoot Festival, internationally recognized artists will delight audiences with a series of concerts and related events exploring a range of music, from the 1600s to the present. Treats in store for music lovers include:

- *Nothing but the Truth*, a concert exploring the complex subjects of identity, experience, and truth. Framed by Antonín Dvořák’s “American” quartet (a piece inspired by African American spirituals which will be performed here alongside music by Florence Price and spirituals arranged by Moses Hogan), this concert also features its namesake work, a rare musical courtroom drama by composer Garth Knox.
- In *Let there be Night*, Birdfoot Festival artists reach into the unknown and spiritual world of night with music by J.S. Bach, Gesualdo, and Georg Friedrich Haas in a deeply mysterious concert with a surprising twist for audiences — the second half of the concert will be performed entirely in the dark!
- In Birdfoot’s *Death and the Maiden* concert, heartbreak, death and the real-as-life experiences of dreams are explored with thrilling music by Franz Schubert, emotional madrigals and songs by Claudio Monteverdi, John Dowland, and Henry Purcell, along with music by Birdfoot’s 2019 composer-in-residence Patrick Castillo.

The Birdfoot Festival is thrilled to announce the eighteen dynamic artists who will spend ten days rehearsing, teaching, performing, and inspiring music lovers and the next generation of musicians. Artists include Grammy winning returning violinist Karen Kim, Grammy-nominated *A Far Cry* members violinist Alex Fortes and Michael Unterman, internationally recognized countertenor Reginald Mobley, and renowned harpsichordist James Johnstone. Local artists include two members of the *Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra*— violinist Kate Withrow and violist Amelia Clingman—as well as Birdfoot Festival’s Artistic Director and New Orleans native, violinist Jenna Sherry.

“When it comes to chamber music, the Birdfoot Festival strives to deliver bold, uncensored, and intensely personal musical experiences” says Jenna Sherry, Artistic Director. “We believe that when audiences are given the chance to not just hear, but experience chamber music up close, they can connect with the music in a deeper and more personal way.”

The Birdfoot Festival features a series of concerts and events with broad appeal for listeners of all musical tastes. “One of the things that makes Birdfoot unique is that we consider the audience to be a really important part of the festival. Whether you already love chamber music or this is your first concert, we want to share our love of this music with you and also hear what you think” says Sherry.

“We hope the Birdfoot Festival contributes something new to the local music scene and inspires the next generation of musicians and music lovers.”

The full 2019 Birdfoot Festival Schedule can be found at www.birdfootfestival.org. Popular highlights include:

Nothing but the Truth — Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 8 PM at the George & Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, 1225 North Rampart Street. The concept of justice itself is examined in Garth Knox’s *Nothing but the Truth*, a musical courtroom drama without a predetermined outcome...will the musicians be found guilty or innocent? Alongside Dvorak’s “American” quartet and the spirituals that inspired the composer.

Talk: *The Art of Noticing* with author Rob Walker—Thursday, May 30, 2019, 5:15-6 PM, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, 900 Camp Street. Birdfoot Festival and Rob Walker, author of *The Art of Noticing* (Knopf), team up to explore the implications of noticing, a simple act that can awaken your senses.

Birdfoot Backstage: Schubert’s Death and the Maiden — Thursday, May 30, 2019, 7 PM at the Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, 900 Camp Street. This popular and interactive event takes the audience “backstage” with Birdfoot Festival musicians for a lively exploration of Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” Quartet. Perfect for seasoned music lovers and total newcomers alike.

Birdfoot Late Night: Dreamers Often Lie — Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 10 PM, at the Three Keys in the Ace Hotel New Orleans, 600 Carondelet St. This late-night set explores the bizarre real-as-life experience of dreams with music by Patrick Castillo, and more.

Let There Be Night — Friday, May 31, 2019, 8 PM at the Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, 900 Camp Street. For J.S. Bach, music and text come together to re-enact and glorify spiritual mystery, while for contemporary composer Georg Friedrich Haas, mystery is revealed in the hidden spectrums of sound. *The second half of the concert will be performed entirely in the dark.* The concert will be preceded by a 7 PM *Introduction to the Music* by Patrick Castillo.

Season Finale: Death and the Maiden — Saturday, June 1, 2019, 8 PM at the George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, 1225 North Rampart Street. Birdfoot’s Season Finale presents music born of the lover’s sigh, the heroine’s last gasp, and the emotional highs and lows of life. Few works of chamber music are as thrilling as Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” quartet. The concert will be preceded by a 6 PM performance featuring student chamber ensembles from Birdfoot’s award-winning Young Artist Program.

Other Festival events include a free Community Chamber Music Reading Party, a free downtown Lunchtime Concert, Birdfoot’s annual Musical Feast dinner concert, Open Rehearsals at the Contemporary Arts Center, Young Artist Program concerts, and more. Artist photos, bios, and detailed descriptions of all events are available at www.birdfootfestival.org, or upon request.

High res photos and videos available upon request. For interview requests please contact Tracey Sherry at 504.451.6578.
