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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TIPPET RISE ART CENTER,  
LOCATED UNDER MONTANA’S BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS,  
ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**Seven-Week Classical Music Season, June 17 – August 21, 2016,  
Brings Performers, Repertoire and Audiences into Revelatory Interaction with  
Spectacular Natural Setting, Sculpture Installations, and  
Diverse Indoor and Outdoor Performance Venues**

*Among the Highlights:*

*A Piano Recital Series Including Stephen Hough,  
Nikolai Demidenko, Konstantin Lifschitz, and Yevgeny Sudbin,  
As Well as Tchaikovsky Piano Competition Laureates  
George Li and Lucas Debargue in His US Debut*

*A Rare Performance of John Luther Adams’s Monumental Inuksuit  
Performed at Stephen Talasnik’s Outdoor Sculpture Satellite*

*The World Premiere of a Tippet Rise-Commissioned Vocal Work  
by Prominent Spanish Composer Antón García-Abril*

**Immersive Concert Experiences Offered in the Acoustically Optimal “Olivier Barn,”  
Open-Sided “Tiara” Acoustical Shell, Sculptural “Domo,” and  
Sites of Tippet Rise’s Outdoor Sculpture Installations**

**Fishtail, MT, January 28, 2016**—Tippet Rise Art Center, a new cultural destination dedicated to a uniquely resonant experience of classical music and contemporary sculpture under the big sky of Montana’s Beartooth Mountains, today announced the schedule for its inaugural concert season, June 17 – August 21, 2016. Programmed to create synergies between compositions and performers and the Art Center’s outstanding vistas and exceptional venues, the season’s 20 concerts will be performed at sites throughout Tippet Rise’s 10,260 acres, in intimate and picturesque settings that include the 150-seat Olivier Barn, the open-sided Tiara band shell, and the sculptural, open-air Domo, as well as at the site of select sculptures. All tickets are priced at \$10, with revenues dedicated to the Art Center’s education programs.

As distinctive as Tippet Rise itself, the inaugural season, curated by music director **Christopher O’Riley**, will include a series of solo recitals by pianists known for their thoughtful, emotive, and individualistic musicianship. Among the virtuosos scheduled to perform are **Nikolai Demidenko** (in a rare U.S.

Fishtail, Montana, USA

[www.tippetrise.org](http://www.tippetrise.org)



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appearance), **Stephen Hough**, and **Konstantin Lifschitz**. The season will also feature rising international stars: 2015 Tchaikovsky Competition laureates **George Li** and **Lucas Debargue** (in his first U.S. concert), as well as **Alessandro Deljavan**, **Yevgeny Sudbin**, and **Jenny Chen**. **Anne-Marie McDermott**, music director of Bravo! Vail, will perform a duet program with Christopher O’Riley. These performances will showcase Tippet Rise’s growing collection of extraordinary pianos, which includes the recently acquired CD-18, the concert piano of Vladimir Horowitz and Eugene Istomin.

Tippet Rise promises special musical experiences in settings that blur the lines between nature, art, and architecture. As an exceptional event, confirming the marriage of music and nature at Tippet Rise, the season will include a performance of **John Luther Adams’s** monumental outdoor composition *Inuksuit*, played by 45 percussionists including members of the **Billings Symphony**, the **Excelsis Percussion Quartet**, and others, to be named at a later date, coordinated by **Douglas Perkins**.

The world premiere of a newly commissioned song cycle by the distinguished Spanish composer **Antón García-Abril**, *Tippet Rise Songs*, will be performed by soprano **Emily Helenbrook** at Domo, a 98-foot-long, 16-foot-tall, sculptural concrete structure created especially for Tippet Rise. Domo is one of several such structures commissioned from the composer’s son, also named Antón García-Abril, principal architect for the cutting-edge practice Ensemble Studio.



Design for Domo, by Ensemble Studio, at Tippet Rise Art Center

Tippet Rise also features outdoor sculptures and commissioned artworks by artists Mark di Suvero, Patrick Dougherty, and Stephen Talasnik. To celebrate these works and their creators, the season will feature open-air, on-site concerts that include performances of **John Adams’s** *Shaker Loops*, **Aaron Jay Kernis’s** *Musica celestis*, **Fauré’s** violin sonata in A major, **Poulenc’s** cello sonata, **Ravel’s** piano trio in A minor, and **Beethoven’s** string quartet in A minor, opus 132.

Among the chamber music highlights will be an outdoor all-**Messiaen program**, including *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, with artists including pianist **Svetlana Smolina** and violinist **Caroline Goulding**; an evening of sonatas for cello and piano by **Shostakovich**, **Prokofiev**, and **Rachmaninoff** performed by **Matt Haimovitz** and Christopher O’Riley; a performance of the **Brahms** C minor piano quartet by members of



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the **Ariel String Quartet** and Nikolai Demidenko; and an all-**Scriabin** program with performers including **Yevgeny Sudbin** and trumpeter **Elmer Churampi**.

Plans for the 2017 season at Tippet Rise are already underway. A three-year commissioning program with Aaron Jay Kernis will result in a solo piano work in 2017; a string quartet for the Borromeo Quartet in 2018; and a piece for a small chamber ensemble and voice in 2019.

Peter Halstead, co-founder of the Art Center, said, “There are moments in music when we are figuratively struck by lightning, when suddenly the gap between a sound and an emotion is bridged. At Tippet Rise, we hope to provide the kind of atmosphere, and the kind of performers, that make such moments possible. The musicians we are presenting reveal, innovate, and discover, embodying a sense of vision and a freedom from standard interpretations. We are thrilled by the range and sensitivity of the programming for our first season, which is shaped to Tippet Rise as our sculptors and architects have merged their creations into our mountain ridges and rolling fields.”

Cathy Halstead, co-founder of the Art Center, said, “In a way, the meeting of music, landscape and sculpture at Tippet Rise returns us to the experience of performances and celebrations at the ancient Greek amphitheatres or Stonehenge. It’s as if the cubicles of our cities had slowly dissolved, to let us step into a much older and deeper engagement with the stars above us and the human realities within. We hope that Tippet Rise will bring out dimensions of music and art that might not be immediately obvious, but that nevertheless connect us emotionally to the beautiful places of the world.”

Christopher O’Riley said, “For this inaugural season, we have selected music inspired by the environment, in keeping with the Art Center’s goal of restoring the profound, felt connection between the power of nature and the deep patterns of art. We are proud to offer immersive concerts of works by Scriabin and Messiaen; music celebrating the extraordinary artworks installed at Tippet Rise; and musical artists, especially pianists, who are distinguished by their probity, insight, and individuality. We believe this is a season in which music will ring true from the mountaintops.”

## Venues



The Tiara at Tippet Rise

Concerts will take place in the Olivier Barn and the Tiara, with design concept and acoustics developed by Tippet Rise director **Alban Bassuet** in collaboration with a team of engineers from **Arup**, and under Domo, designed by Ensemble Studio.

Alban Bassuet said, “During my years of working as a venue designer, I have seen a change in sensibility and aspiration in the concert world. Musicians, audiences, architects, and acousticians have all started to look for alternatives to physical configurations and performance formats. At



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Tippet Rise, we are meeting this desire by offering intimate, multi-sensory, and immersive performances in a range of indoor and outdoor performance venues matched with distinctive performers and spectacular natural settings. We hope this will create experiences that are deeply meaningful and utterly unique.”

The scale and proportions of the Olivier Barn were inspired by the powerful performance spaces where Haydn and Mozart expected their works would be performed. A contemporary innovation—a high ceiling suspended above the boxlike space—lends an elevated, ethereal character to the deeply resonant acoustics, but is designed to mimic the pitched roof of a traditional wood barn. The rustic modesty of this design helps to establish an informal atmosphere and dissolve the barrier between performers and audience. The 100-seat Tiara serves as a moveable acoustic shell without walls, featuring a partial ceiling whose corners re-direct sound toward the audience, creating vibrant and enveloping acoustics. The design allows for 360° views of the rolling hills, with the Beartooth Mountains above. Local timber craftsmen Gunnstock Timber Frames have served as lead architect for the projects. Domo is one of Ensemble Studio’s quasi-architectural gateway structures and shelters for Tippet Rise, constructed of raw-surfaced concrete cast from the land, which rear up from the earth like primitive markers.

### **Tippet Rise 2016 Inaugural Season Concert Schedule**

Friday, June 17, at 6:30 pm

**Nikolai Demidenko, piano**

Two-part recital to include a selection of waltzes and mazurkas by Chopin and the Ballade No. 1 and B minor Sonata of Liszt

Saturday, June 18, at 2:00 pm

Stephen Talasnik Celebratory Concert

**Ariel String Quartet**

Aaron Jay Kernis, *Musica celestis*

John Adams, *Shaker Loops*

Saturday, June 18, at 6:30 pm

**Ariel String Quartet with Nikolai Demidenko**

Program to include Brahms, C Minor Piano Quartet

Friday, June 24, at 6:30 pm

**Jenny Chen, piano**

Mozart, Sonata K.576 in D Major

Debussy, *Feux d’artifice*

Schumann, Allegro

Liszt, *Feux Follets*

Liszt, *Spanish Rhapsody*

Bach, Partita No.1



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Mendelssohn, Rondo capriccioso, Op.14  
Stravinsky, Petrushka

Saturday, June 25, at 2:00 pm

Ensamble Studio Commission Celebratory Concert at the site of Domo

**Emily Helenbrook, soprano and Christopher O’Riley, piano**

Suite of seven songs and piano solos to include:

World Premiere of *Tippet Rise Songs*, a cycle by Antón García-Abril based on poetry by Peter Halstead

Saturday, June 25, at 6:30 pm

**Alessandro Deljavan, piano**

Chopin, Trois Nouvelles Etudes; Etudes, Op. 10; and Etudes, Op. 25

Friday, July 1, at 6:30 pm

**Yevgeny Sudbin, piano**

Program to include sonatas by Scarlatti

Beethoven, Bagatelles, Op. 126

Mozart, *Lacrimosa*

Ravel, *Gaspard de la nuit*

Saturday, July 2, at 2:00 pm

**Matt Haimovitz, cello**

Complete Bach Suites for Solo Cello with commissioned overtures to each suite

Friday, July 8, at 6:30 pm

**George Li, piano**

Haydn, Sonata Hob. XVI: 50 in C major

Chopin, Sonata in B-flat minor, Op. 35

Rachmaninoff, *Variations on a theme of Corelli*, Op. 42

Liszt, Consolation Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 (cadenza by Rachmaninoff)

Saturday, July 9, at 2:00 pm

Patrick Dougherty Celebratory Concert

**Eunice Kim, violin; John-Henry Crawford, cello; Christopher O’Riley, piano**

Fauré, Violin Sonata in A Major

Poulenc, Cello Sonata

Ravel, Piano Trio in A Minor

Saturday, July 9, at 6:30 pm

All-Scriabin concert at the site of Domo to include:

Fantasy in B minor, Op. 28

Sonata No. 4 in F-sharp major, Op. 30

**Svetlana Smolina (piano)**



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*Le poème de l'extase, Op. 54*

**Christopher O'Riley**, Svetlana Smolina (piano) and **Elmer Churampi** (trumpet)

Sonata #5, Op. 53

**Yevgeny Sudbin** (piano)

*Vers la flame, Op. 72*

Christopher O'Riley

Prometheus: Poem of Fire, Op. 60

Svetlana Smolina, Christopher O'Riley and Elmer Churampi

Friday, July 15, at 6:30 pm

**Matt Haimovitz, cello and Christopher O'Riley, piano**

Cello and Piano Sonatas of Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff

Saturday, July 16, at 2:00 pm

Mark di Suvero Celebratory Concert

**Dover String Quartet and Matt Haimovitz, cello**

Beethoven, String Quartet No. 15 in A Minor, Op. 132

Schubert, Cello Quintet

Saturday, July 16, at 6:30 pm

All-Messiaen concert at Domo

**Svetlana Smolina and Christopher O'Riley, pianos; Caroline Goulding, violin; Matt Haimovitz, cello; and John Bruce Yeh, clarinet**

*Visions de l'amen for two pianos*

*Quatuor pour la fin du temps*

Friday, July 22, at 6:30 pm

**Konstantin Lifschitz, piano**

Bach, *Goldberg Variations*

Saturday, July 23, at 2:00 pm

**John Luther Adams, Inuksuit**

Ensemble to include the Excelsis Percussion Quartet and percussionists from the Billings Symphony and others, to be named at a later date

Douglas Perkins, coordinator

Saturday, July 23, at 6:30 pm

**Stephen Hough, piano**

Schubert, Sonata in D Major, D 784

Franck, Prelude, Chorale and Fugue

Hough, *Sonata III (Trinitas)*

Liszt, *Valses Oubliées nos. 1 and 2*

Liszt, *Transcendental Etudes nos. 11 (Harmonies du soir) # 10*





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Saturday, August 20, at 6:30 pm

**Anne-Marie McDermott & Christopher O’Riley**

Two-piano recital to include works by Philip Glass, David Lang, Paul Lansky, and Sergei Rachmaninoff

Sunday, August 21, at 2:00 pm

**Lucas Debargue, piano**

Scarlatti, 4 Sonatas: G Major Adagio, C Major Presto, C Major Andante, and D Minor Toccata

Beethoven, Sonata No. 7, Op.10, No. 3

Chopin, Ballade No. 4, Op.52

Ravel, *Gaspard de la Nuit*

Liszt, *Mephisto Waltz*

***Tickets for all concerts are \$10 for adults, and free for anyone 18 or younger. For additional information and tickets, please visit: [www.tippetrise.org](http://www.tippetrise.org)***

### **About Tippet Rise**

Tippet Rise Art Center is a new destination for the arts, opening in June 2016, located in Fishtail, Montana under the Beartooth Mountains, roughly midway between Billings and Bozemen and just north of Yellowstone National Park. Set on an 10,260-acre working cattle and sheep ranch, Tippet Rise will host classical music performances and exhibit large-scale outdoor sculptures. Tippet Rise is anchored in the belief that art, music, architecture, and nature are inextricably linked in the human experience. Each makes the others more powerful. One of the missions of the art center is to connect visitors with classical music and outdoor artwork in a more personal way.

Tippet Rise will feature several intimate musical performance venues whose size, shape, and acoustics are inspired by many of history’s most influential music spaces. The music program seeks to create memorable experiences for performers and audience members alike. Alongside its music program, Tippet Rise is curating a growing collection of large-scale sculptures and other works by some of the world’s foremost artists and designers. Many are site-specific compositions, aiming to transcend the boundaries of art, nature, and architecture. As an institution founded to serve its neighbors in Montana as much as visiting musicians, artists, and audiences, Tippet Rise is also developing and supports year-round education programs in schools at the K-12 level, local colleges and universities, and other organizations.

For more information about Tippet Rise, please visit [www.tippetrise.org](http://www.tippetrise.org)

### **About Christopher O’Riley**

Christopher O’Riley oversees programming for Tippet Rise’s concerts and other music projects. In addition to organizing the inaugural season, Christopher spearheads an artist-in-residency program that is an important component of Tippet Rise’s education program. Acclaimed for his engaging and deeply committed performances, Christopher is known to millions as the host of NPR’s “From the Top.” As pianist, his repertoire spans a kaleidoscopic array of music from the pre-baroque to present-day. He performs around the world and has garnered widespread praise for his untiring efforts to reach new audiences.



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