

the Big Four-Oh

Cabrillo Music Festival hits
milestone season with new energy





Contributed photos
Grammy Award-winning Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie will make her Cabrillo Music Festival debut Aug. 10 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

Cabrillo Music Festival

By WALLACE BAINE

Sentinel entertainment writer

Is the Cabrillo Music Festival poised to hit a mid-life crisis?

The famous two-week festival — which has become one of the most acclaimed events of its kind in the world — hits the big Four-Oh this summer, and we're left to wonder when it's going to embrace the music-festival equivalent of the new red sports car.

Maybe it's already happening. Continuing a trend of recent years, the CabMuFest is bringing a dash of theatricality to Santa Cruz, this year in the form of Mark Adamo's hit opera "Little Women," based on Louisa May Alcott's famous novel.

Yet "Little Women" isn't the only stone on the festival's gaudy new pinky ring.

■ The Kronos Quartet, the most popular new-music quartet in the world, will be on hand for a special benefit show.

■ Long-time CMF stalwart, composer Christopher Rouse, gets a night to step into the spotlight.

■ Plus, one of the most exciting performers on the world stage, Grammy Award-winning percussionist Evelyn Glennie will be the highlight of the festival's second weekend.

And all this is before CabMuFest makes its trip to the Mission San Juan Bautista, often the most popular concert of the festival.

Yeah, it's an ambitious slate. But you only turn 40 once.

Here are the details:

'Little Women'

Composer Mark Adamo's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's 19th century novel made its debut at the Houston Grand Opera in 1998.

Since then, it has become a sensation, eventu-

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Mark Adamo's opera based on 'Little Women' will open the Cabrillo Music Festival on Aug. 2 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

Cabrillo Music Festival

WHERE: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium and Mission San Juan Bautista.

WHEN: Open rehearsals start July 29. Opening night is Aug. 2. Final concert is Aug. 11.

■ Aug. 2-4: Mark Adamo's 'Little Women.'

■ Aug. 3: Free Family Concert.

■ Aug. 4: All About Rouse.

■ Aug. 7: Kronos Quartet.

■ Aug. 9: Music at the Millpond.

■ Aug. 10: Evelyn Glennie.

■ Aug. 11: Music at the Mission.

TICKETS: For ticket information, call 426-6966 or go to www.cabrillomusic.org.

Cabrillo

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ally landing on the PBS series "Great Performances."

Festival musical director Marin Alsop leads the CMF orchestra in this full staging, which will run for three performances, all at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

■ Friday and Saturday, Aug. 2 and 3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 4, at 2 p.m.

Free Family Concert

An annual tradition at the festival, the free afternoon concert features composer Greg Smith with a revival of "A Major Minor Mystery," which will also include demonstrations designed for children of all ages.

■ Free at the Santa Cruz Civic. Saturday, Aug. 3, at 2 p.m.

Cabrillo Music

Art & Wine Festival

The streets are alive (OK, at least

Church Street) with 70 artist and food booths in this annual free outdoor festival, running alongside the goings-on inside the Civic.

There's an outdoor stage, a kids' area, tons of ethnic food and a chance to see friends and acquaintances you haven't seen since ... last year's festival.

■ Free. Aug. 3 and 4, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All About Rouse

Composer Christopher Rouse, as much an August staple in Santa Cruz as morning fog, gets the star treatment in this concert dedicated to his work.

The concert, under the direction of Marin Alsop, features four Rouse compositions including two West Coast premieres.

■ Aug. 4 at 8 p.m.

Kronos Quartet

This incomparable group is as responsible for the popularity of new classical repertoire as any single

artist. The amazingly creative quartet presents the CabMuFest with a special 40th birthday present, a solo recital that serves as a benefit for the festival.

■ Santa Cruz Civic. Aug. 7 at 8 p.m.

Music at the Millpond

The annual CMF benefit concert takes place at a magnificent site on Soquel Creek, featuring chamber music led by festival concertmaster Yumi Hwang-Williams, along with food and wine from local chefs and vintners.

■ The Millpond, Soquel. Aug. 9 at 6 p.m.

Evelyn @ the Civic

Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie has become one of the foremost performers in the world and makes her CMF debut performing Michael Daugherty's composition "UFO."

The CMF orchestra will also play another selection from Daugherty, as well as Steve Reich's "Four Sec-

tions."

■ Saturday, Aug. 10, at 8 p.m.

Music at the Mission

The festival travels down to San Juan Bautista for its final day, with two concerts at the fabulous and lovely Mission San Juan Bautista.

Evelyn Glennie will be on hand in collaboration with the CMF Orchestra playing selections by Michael Daugherty, Thea Musgrave and John Corigliano (Corigliano's "Symphony No. 2," which won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize).

■ Sunday, Aug. 11. Two performances at 4 and 8 p.m.

There are also free open rehearsals at the Civic, weekdays at 10 a.m. beginning July 29. Also pre-concert talks, composers' workshops and more.

For more details and ticket prices, or to get a program call the Cabrillo Music Festival at 426-6966 or the Civic box office at 420-5260 or go online at www.cabrillomusic.org