

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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EMF FACULTY AND YOUNG ARTISTS
COLLABORATE IN CHAMBER CONCERT
AT HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

Greensboro, NC- High Point University will host an array of spectacular music thanks to the Eastern Music Festival, which will be making a stop at the university at **7:30pm** on **Monday, July 13, 2009** -- one of EMF's many Community Outreach Concerts. This performance, **James Giles and Friends**, brings together two streams of the festival's impressive talent in a Faculty and Young Artists Chamber Concert under the direction of **Maestro Gerard Schwarz**. This performance offers an evening of outstanding repertoire and dazzling playing. The concert will be held at **Hayworth Fine Arts Center at High Point University**. To reserve tickets for this free event open to the public, please call 336.841.4587 or jpayne@highpoint.edu by July 10.

Mr. Schwarz, EMF's Music Director, and Dr. Giles, head of EMF's Piano Department and a Triad native, will head the line-up of notable faculty and accomplished students. The audience will be treated to a wide variety of sounds, with styles ranging from well-known tunes to brilliant piano arrangements.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

More About Gerard Schwarz

Born to Viennese parents, EMF music director **Gerard Schwarz** has served as the Seattle Symphony Orchestra's music director since 1985. He is a recipient of the Ditson Conductor's award from Columbia University and was the first American to be named Conductor of the Year by *Musical America*. He holds numerous honorary doctorates, including ones from The Juilliard School, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle University, University of Puget Sound, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Recent highlights for

Maestro Schwarz include two consecutive Emmy Awards in 2007 and 2008 for televised performances with Seattle Symphony; leading Seattle Symphony in its recent Southern California Tour; and conducting Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the 600-member community orchestra and chorus for His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the recent visit to Seattle sponsored by Seeds of Compassion.

Maestro Schwarz has received 12 GRAMMY® nominations, six ASCAP awards, and numerous *Stereo Review* and Ovation awards. In June 2007, he received an Emmy for his performance with Seattle Symphony of Shostakovich's *Eighth Symphony*. Moreover, Maestro Schwarz won critical acclaim that season for his remarkable collaboration with Dale Chihuly to present Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*. His extensive discography of some 250 releases showcases his collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra; the Tokyo, Czech and Royal Liverpool philharmonics; the London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France and Berlin Radio Symphony; the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; and the New York Chamber and Seattle symphonies. Soon to be released are works by Mahler, Arthur Foote, Bright Sheng, and Samuel Jones, as well as Deems Taylor's *Peter Ibbetson* and the first complete recording of Kurt Weill's *Eternal Road*.

In addition to his leadership at Eastern Music Festival, Maestro Schwarz has also served as music director of New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and New York Chamber Symphony, as well as artistic advisor to Tokyu Bunkamura's Orchard Hall.

More about James Giles

James Giles regularly performs to acclaim in important musical centers in America, Europe, and Asia. The past few seasons have included a tour of China, performances in Italy and Bosnia, and a recital at Warsaw's Chopin Academy of Music. Last season, in addition to recitals in Chicago, Oklahoma, and Buffalo, he appeared with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia. During 2008-2009, he will return to China for recitals and teaching at the Shanghai Conservatory; perform at the Virginia Waring Competition's Gala Benefit honoring Byron Janis; and perform concertos by Michael Daugherty and Timothy Dunne in Chicago and Ithaca.

In an eclectic repertoire encompassing the solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, C. Curtis-Smith, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, Earl Wild, and James Wintle. Most of these new works are featured on Giles' new Albany Records release entitled *American Virtuoso*.

His Paris recital at the Salle Cortot in 2004 was hailed as "a true revelation, due equally to the pianist's artistry as to his choice of program." After a recital at the Sibelius Academy, the critic for Helsinki's main newspaper wrote that "Giles is a technically polished, elegant pianist." And a London critic called his 2003 Wigmore Hall recital "one of the most sheerly inspired piano recitals I can remember hearing for some time"

and added that “with a riveting intelligence given to everything he played, it was the kind of recital you never really forget.”

In the fall of 2005, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Giles joined three other pianists as a part of a “Pianists for New Orleans” tour. They raised over \$70,000 for the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, a non-profit group that supports classical music in the city.

He has performed with New York’s Jupiter Symphony, the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra in Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine, and with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Alice Tully Hall. After his Tully Hall solo recital debut, critic Harris Goldsmith wrote: “Giles has a truly distinctive interpretive persona. This was beautiful pianism – direct and unmannered.” Other tours have included concerts in Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Series, Salt Lake City’s Assembly Hall Concert Series, and in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Musikhalle in Hamburg, and the Purcell Room at London’s South Bank Centre. He has given live recitals over the public radio stations of New York, Boston, Chicago, and Indianapolis. His compact disc of works by Schumann and Prokofiev is available on England’s Master Musicians label. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the National and Chicago symphonies and with members of the Pacifica, Cassatt, Chicago, Ying, Chester, St. Lawrence, Essex, Lincoln, and Miami quartets, as well as singers Aprile Millo and Anthony Dean Griffey.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at The Juilliard School, Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin College.

The pianist received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Florence with the legendary pianist Lazar Berman. He was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the \$25,000 Christel Award from the American Pianists Association and now serves on the APA’s National Advisory Board. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Competition. As a student, he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at The Juilliard School and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding graduate at the Oberlin College Conservatory. He has written for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine and has presented lecture-recitals at the national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has served on the juries of several international piano competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition (screening jury), New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Oberlin International Piano Competition.

Dr. Giles is on the piano faculty at Northwestern University. He has served as conference artist for the music teachers associations of Oklahoma, Arizona, and Nevada and frequently gives master classes at colleges and universities nationwide. He has been a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy in Finland and at Indiana University, where he

has twice taught the students of Menahem Pressler. He has served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and the Interlochen Arts Academy. He is the founder of the Las Vegas Piano Institute, an educational summer program for young pianists, and is the chair of the piano department at the Eastern Music Festival during the summers, now in his 14th year. More information may be found at jamesgiles.net.

More About Eastern Music Festival Students

Music students from across the globe compete for one of 200 spots each summer. These students are gifted and committed to their instrument. Typically more than 800 students apply for these seats – making the program highly competitive. This year, our talented young artists, ages 14 – 22, met on the Guilford College campus beginning June 27. Typically more than 90% of students require full or partial scholarships.

For five glorious weeks, outstanding faculty and students live, rehearse and perform great repertoire together under the baton of gifted conductors. Guest artists and master teachers also contribute to an electric season of learning and listening for these young artists. Every day, students are engaged in performing classical music together at the highest artistic level. Instruction includes everything from private lessons, orchestral experience, public concerts and master classes to chamber music studies, and music-related classes in a collegial and professional environment. EMF is truly a remarkable, life-changing experience for our students each year as they participate in our unique program, boasting a 2:1 student to faculty ratio. Many of the students return year after year referring to EMF as their summer “home” away from home. For them the EMF experience is personally beneficial as well as musically beneficial. Many students realize after attending EMF whether or not they wish to pursue a music career.

More about Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America’s most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Guti rrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular *EMFfringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. *EMFkids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year’s concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. *EMFjazz&blues* runs each spring and *EMF Fringe* on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (*EMFfringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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