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## Summit Music Festival is bounty for music lovers

By DEBRA BANERJEE

July 24 marks the 19th season of the Summit Music Festival, the three-week summer institute for extensive chamber music and instrumental training founded in 1991 by members of the Emelin Trio. In its second year based at Manhattanville College in Purchase, under Efreim Briskin, artistic director, and David Krieger, executive director, organizers hope to further raise awareness about the festival by calling attention to its convenient location to draw the community to its concert series, master classes and lectures.

This year the Summit Music Festival has drawn 200 applicants from 27 countries who participate in intensive individual, orchestra, chamber music, and adult instrumental programs, studying with a distinguished international faculty. The programs are geared toward the highly self-motivated and independent music student. Special events include master classes and lessons with violist Roberto Diaz; pianist Gary Graffman, the virtuoso Lang Lang's teacher; cellist Matt Haimovitz; violinist Joseph Silverstein; violinist Victor Danchenko; pianist Lev Natochenny; chairman of the violin faculty Aaron Rosand; and pianist Vladimir Viardo. Master classes are free and open to the public.

The annual Mary Smart Concerto Competition, to be held Sunday, Aug. 9, offers students a special challenge and an opportunity for public recognition.

Roberta Simon of Scarsdale, chairman of the board of directors, became involved with the Summit Music Festival, as have other Scarsdalian, after their children took music lessons. Simon joined the board at the urging of Christina Khimm, her daughter's violin teacher for many years, and director of outreach for the festival.

"It's a very special summer program," Simon said. She noted the "quality faculty" and stressed the "generations of knowledge" they bring to their teaching. "There's more to playing than the technical aspects. The teachers are passing on the great musical traditions."

Pianist Flora Lu Kuan, a board member and a member of the faculty of both Manhattanville College and the Summit Music Festival, said that the festival is making



Violinist Aaron Rosand shares his musical tradition with a student.

efforts to diversify its student body, programming and faculty. Programs this year include a composition symposium with new faculty, including composer Geoffrey Kidde. Flutist Harold Jones, founder of the Antara Ensemble, is also new among the teaching artists, part of the push to expand the festival beyond its original emphasis on piano and strings. Concerts include vocal repertoire, with Kuan performing Aug. 3 at 5 p.m. in a lecture-concert, Robert Schumann's song cycle "Dichterliebe" with lecturer Carmelo Comberlati and baritone Richard Slade.

Kuan said the festival, with its heavily international student body, would like to "pull in the Westchester component." This year five Westchester students are participating in the festival. Organizers hope the concert series will attract local families and private music teachers which will cultivate interest in the festival for local music students.

"The concert series is one of the best kept secrets. It's the caliber of such festivals as Aspen and Mostly Mozart – the performers have won many European competitions – and it's not very expensive," Kuan said.

The festival is also looking for individuals and corporations who would commit to supporting its scholarship program, she added.

An opening night concert and scholarship fund appeal will be held Friday, July 24, at 8 p.m. followed by a dessert reception at Reid Castle at Manhattanville. The concert will feature Vladimir Viardo, piano, in a program of "Bacarelle" by Chopin; Four Songs by Schubert-Liszt; Four Preludes by Debussy; "The Rite of Spring," by Stravinsky arranged for two pianos by L. Naumov and V. Viardo, with Yu Ching Hsu, piano. Tickets are \$35.

Evening and afternoon performances are given daily throughout the festival featuring students, faculty and guest artists. Tickets are \$25, \$20 seniors. Special admission passes are available for the entire concert series for \$150. Admission to all student concerts and competitions is free. For concert schedule and more information, see [www.summitmusicfestival.org](http://www.summitmusicfestival.org) or phone 747-2020. Concerts are held in the Creative Arts Building, Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase.