

EXPLORE // ARTS & CULTURE

# 2024 APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

## Exploring "Our Different Voices" With A Dozen Concerts



Artistic Director Katie Tertell introducing the Irish lasses, Sinead Farrell and Sinead Frost at The Station in Shepherdstown. Photo: Brian Christopher.

THE APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL (ACMF) is returning for a fourth season this August with twelve unique programs held at ten different venues in Jefferson County and the surrounding area. This season's theme is "Our Different Voices." According to Artistic Director Katie Tertell, "the theme is an exploration of musical expression, showcasing the diversity of voices of composers, performers, styles, ideas and movements." In keeping with this theme, the festival will welcome several new musicians to the ACMF family, including bass-baritone Thomas Coltman, the jazz stylings of the Howard Burns Quartet, and poet Jordan Burke.

The opening weekend celebration will feature three concerts. On Saturday August 10, an early morning performance at the Train Station in Shepherdstown will showcase classical solo pieces. That evening, a concert at the Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville, Virginia will feature more classical pieces performed with innovative pairings of cello, viola, and clarinet. The evening concert on Sunday August 11 at the Mather Campus in Harpers Ferry will present "Voices of the Niagara Movement," a program looking at the past, present, and future of chamber music which includes an hour of music by 20th and 21st century Black American composers. The Sunday evening concert, presented in partnership with the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, is free (reservations requested) and will feature a world-premiere work by jazz legend Rufus Reid.

On Monday August 12, the festival musicians will be playing at the 868 Estate Vineyards in Loudoun County. On Tuesday August 13, an ACMF



Rufus Reid introduces his work "Of Wind and Sail" at the 2023 Festival Finale. Photos: Brian Christopher.

quartet will perform on the stage of the Shepherdstown Opera House for a multimedia concert that presents "revolutionary" musical voices along with a projected display of curated art correlated to the music. During the week, the festival will perform evening concerts in Charles Town on Wednesday August 14, Shepherdstown on Thursday August 15, and in Frederick, Maryland on Friday, August 16.

On Saturday August 17, the music kicks off early at the Train Station in Shepherdstown and then returns to Charles Town for an evening concert. The finale of the festival on Sunday Aug 18 will be outdoors at Happy Retreat in Charles Town (this is a ticketed event, but kids are invited to attend for free).

The 2024 Appalachian Chamber Music Festival runs from August 10 through 18. Tickets for individual performances and the Festival Pass (granting admission to 10 ACMF-hosted concerts) are now on sale. Complete schedule and detailed information about each concert is available on the ACMF website at [AppalachianChamber.org](http://AppalachianChamber.org).





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# A MOTHER'S VOICE

## Musical Event During CATF

MUSICI IRELAND, AN IRISH CREATIVE COLLECTIVE, will bring its performers and production crew to Shepherdstown to present its acclaimed production of *A Mother's Voice* for a three day run on July 20-23. The US premier of this production is hosted jointly by the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival (ACMF) and the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF). *A Mother's Voice* is a multidisciplinary exploration of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries scandal, a dark chapter in 20th century history involving institutions that housed unmarried mothers and their children in harsh conditions. Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland, the production joins a growing wave of artistic works raising awareness about the laundries.

The two-year project to develop *A Mother's Voice* was spearheaded by Wexford (Ireland) musician Beth McNinch, with creative assistance

from Jane Hackett. The immersive exhibit has been designed by Bridget Ni Dhuinn, with lighting by Eoin McNinch. The production showcases original music by Cork composers Linda and Irene Buckley and features animation by Eabha Bortolozzo and Jack Kirwan. Central to the performance are the voices of "Cait," Deirdre Wadding, and Sheila O'Byrne, who present the emotional stories of the women who endured the travails of these abusive institutions.



*A Mother's Voice* will be performed at CATF's newest facility, the former Christ Reformed Church located at 304 East German Street (across the railroad tracks from the Shepherdstown Train Station). Showtimes are Saturday, July 20 at 1:30 pm, Sunday July 21 at 5:30 pm, and Tuesday, July 23 at 8:00 pm.

Tickets can be purchased online at [CATF.org/2024-a-mothers-voice](http://CATF.org/2024-a-mothers-voice) (you can also find the ticket link (QR code, right) at [AppalachianChamber.org/2024events](http://AppalachianChamber.org/2024events)).



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