

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2023 SEASON**

**Features Works by Acclaimed Composer-in-Residence Kareem Roustom**

**Portland, Ore. – June 20, 2023** – The [Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival](#) today announces its 2023 season, which will bring world-class composers, programming, and musicians together August 5th-20th in Oregon wine country. The season will feature three works by Composer-in-Residence Kareem Roustom, alongside pieces by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, Malian composer Hawa Diabaté, and a West Coast premiere by Portland-based composer and violist Kenji Bunch. These new works complement timeless selections from the late periods of Beethoven and Mozart as well as Dvořák's richly melodious "American" quintet.

The season reflects the creative and diverse programming that's been a founding principle of WVCMF co-founders and artistic directors Sasha Callahan and Leo Eguchi over all of the past seven seasons. Each program features a broad range of compositional voices, with exciting works from distinctive and compelling artistic points of view.

### **2023 Season Inspiration**

The Festival's 2023 season explores the complex ideas of home and belonging. The collective disruption we've experienced over the past few years has revealed the varied and essential forms that "home" can take, from the depths of our inner worlds to the physical spaces we share to the local, national, and global communities we inhabit to the trauma of missing or losing one's home.

It's a theme 2023 Composer-in-Residence and Syrian-American composer Kareem Roustom explores deeply in his music. Many of his works are inspired by his connection to his native Syria, combining Near-East and Western musical traditions while celebrating and expressing nostalgia for his homeland.

Complementing Roustom's works, Callahan and Eguchi have chosen rich and varied repertoire ranging from Beethoven's profoundly introspective Op. 127 string quartet and Mozart's elegant K. 590 string quartet to Caroline Shaw's captivating *Plan & Elevation* and Hawa Diabaté's joyful *Tegere Tulon*.

"The idea of home is a complex, multi-faceted subject we explore in many ways in this year's programs," said Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival co-artistic director and violinist Sasha Callahan. "As we've experienced over the past three years, 'home' means many things to each of us, from the interior world of our most private thoughts to the physical spaces we live in to the idea of what it means to be at home in the broader community and world."

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"This year's programs delve into the power home has to provide comfort, joy and relief - as well as what it means to miss and long for that familiarity," said Leo Eguchi, Festival co-artistic director and cellist. "We've been moved to explore the way the idea of 'home' provides a shape (and sound) to our deepest identity...it can be the shell that keeps the rain out, but is also the precious vessel for your inner life, your family traditions, and societal roots."

### **2023 Composer-In-Residence**

Each season, the Festival highlights the extraordinary work of living composers by inviting an acclaimed artist to share their vision and process as well as insights into works performed by Festival musicians. The 2023 Festival will feature Syrian-American composer Kareem Roustom, whose bi-lingual musical voice will be featured in three chamber works.

"Composer-in-Residence Kareem Roustom's music has been characterized as 'rooted in two worlds' and is heavily inspired by his Syrian homeland, as well as the tension between creating and building home, the strong ties we hold to our origins, and the sense of home that lives within us," said Callahan.

"We've been interested in featuring Kareem as our Composer-in-Residence for some time," said Eguchi. "His music expresses a special longing for and memory of his native Syria that expresses so many aspects of what 'home' means."

### **Performance Details**

In 2023, the Festival is continuing its partnerships with three signature Oregon wineries: Appassionata Estate (home of J. Christopher Wines), Sokol Blosser Winery, and Archery Summit. The season features performances on Saturday and Sunday evenings for three weekends beginning Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and closing Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Performers include Festival regulars Charles Noble, Megumi Lewis, Sasha Callahan, and Leo Eguchi, along with Bradley Ottesen and Kenji Bunch.

#### Weekend 1: August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Appassionata Estate/J. Christopher Wines

The Festival kicks off with performances on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August, 6<sup>th</sup> in the Barrel Room at Appassionata Estate/J. Christopher Wines in Newberg, OR. This first program explores some of the many ways in which one's homeland can serve as inspiration and inform one's outlook. It opens with Hawa Diabaté's exuberant and rhythmic *Tegere Tulon*, followed by Composer-in-Residence Kareem Roustom's vibrant *Four Dances for String Quartet*, which reimagines Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* from the point of view of Clorinda, now set as a modern day Muslim refugee arriving in Europe. The program will close with Antonín Dvořák's "American" *String Quintet No. 3 in E-flat Major*, a musical reflection of the Czech composer's time in the United States during the summer of 1893.

#### Weekend 2: August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Sokol Blosser Winery

The second weekend features performances on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> in Sokol Blosser's beautiful tasting room, located in Dayton, OR. This program begins with Ukrainian composer Vasyl Barvinsky's meditative instrumental hymn *Prayer*, followed by Roustom's *Letters Home*, which explores what can and can not be said during times of turmoil and distress. Caroline Shaw's *Plan and Elevation* provides a different take on home—inspired by ideas of space and proportion, and the perspective one gains when looking at the world from different angles. To conclude this second program, Beethoven's introspective and tender *String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major*, Op. 127 explores our most fundamental home—the profound inner world each of us inhabits and strives to understand.

#### Weekend 3: August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Archery Summit

The final performances of the 2023 Festival will take place on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> in Archery Summit's barrel caves. This program begins with Mozart's final string quartet composition, his *No. 23 in F Major*, K. 590, followed by Roustom's compelling *String Quartet No. 1*. The 2023 season will conclude with the West Coast premiere of Portland-based violist and composer Kenji Bunch's *Songs for a Shared Space*, inspired by the complexities and richness of living in homes with multiple generations and cultures.

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## **Ticket Information**

Tickets are available at [www.wvchambermusic.org](http://www.wvchambermusic.org). General admission is \$89.50 and includes a special three-wine tasting paired with each program. Season subscriptions are also available for \$240 total (\$80 per program).

## **About the Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival**

The Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival is a dynamic festival of classical music concerts in Oregon wine country. Founded by violinist Sasha Callahan and cellist Leo Eguchi, the Festival is focused on bringing people together to experience the world's greatest musical masterpieces alongside the Willamette Valley's world-class wine. The 501(c)3 organization's goal is to enrich the lives of Oregon and Willamette Valley communities through concerts that celebrate the beauty and craft of extraordinary wine and music in intimate, beautiful settings. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: [www.wvchambermusic.org](http://www.wvchambermusic.org), or find WVCMF on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

## **About Composer-in-Residence Kareem Roustom**

Syrian-American Kareem Roustom is a composer whose genre crossing collaborations include music commissioned by conductor Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, as well as a recent collaboration with acclaimed British choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh. Roustom has been composer-in-residence at the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago, the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, and with the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen in Germany and the Mannheim Philharmonic. A musically bi-lingual composer, Roustom is rooted in the music of the Arab near-east but his music often expresses beyond the confines of tradition. The themes of a number of his works often touch issues of those affected by war and instability.

Roustom's music has been performed by ensembles that include the BBC, Boston, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Oregon Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, New York Philharmonic, Boulez Ensemble, Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse, The Crossing choir, Lorelei Ensemble, A Far Cry, and at renowned festivals and halls such as the BBC Proms, the Salzburg Festival, the Lucerne Festival, Carnegie Hall, the Verbier Festival, the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, and others.

Roustom has received commissions from the Malmö (Sweden) and Dallas Symphony Orchestras, the Grand Teton Music Festival (2018 & 2023 seasons), and Grant Park Music Festivals, the Daniel Barenboim Stiftung (2013, 2015, & 2017), the Pierre Boulez Saal, the Royal Philharmonic Society & Sadler's Wells Theatre (U.K.), A Far Cry & Lorelei Ensemble and others. Roustom's music has also been recorded by the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester (Berlin), and the Philharmonia Orchestra (London).

Roustom's awards include the Aaron Copland House award, the Sundance Film Music Fellowship and an Emmy nomination. Roustom plays the oud (Arab lute) and holds the position of Professor of the Practice at Tufts University's Department of Music in Boston.

**Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival 2023 Season  
August 5th–20<sup>th</sup>**

**PROGRAM 1: Appassionata Estate (home of J. Christopher Wines)**  
**Saturday, August 5, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, August 6, 5:30 p.m.**

Appassionata Estate/J. Christopher Wines  
17150 NE Hillside Dr.  
Newberg, OR 97132

Hawa DIABATÉ - *Tegere Tulon*  
Kareem ROUSTOM - *Four Dances for String Quartet*  
Antonín DVORĀK - *String Quintet No. 3 in E-flat Major, "American," Op. 97*

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**PROGRAM 2: Sokol Blosser Winery**  
**Saturday, August 12, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, August 13, 5:30 p.m.**

Sokol Blosser Winery  
5000 Sokol Blosser Lane  
Dayton, OR 97114

Vasyl BARVINSKY - *Prayer*  
Kareem ROUSTOM - *Letters Home*  
Caroline SHAW - *Plan and Elevation*  
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN - *String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major, Op. 127*

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**PROGRAM 3: Archery Summit**  
**Saturday, August 19, 5:30 pm**  
**Sunday, August 20, 5:30 p.m.**

Archery Summit  
18599 NE Archery Summit Rd.  
Dayton, OR 97114

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART - *String Quartet No. 23 in F Major, K. 590*  
Kareem ROUSTOM - *String Quartet No. 1*  
Kenji BUNCH - *Songs for a Shared Space*

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