

YELLOW BARN

music school & festival

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

YELLOW BARN'S 2009 FALL RESIDENCY WITH THE PARKER QUARTET

This past October, Yellow Barn Music School & Festival excitedly welcomed back the Parker Quartet (Daniel Chong and Karen Kim, *violins*, Jessica Bodner, *viola*, Kee-Hyun Kim, *cello*), Yellow Barn's 2004-2005 ensemble-in-residence, for a week-long residency at the Greenwood School. The Parker Quartet residency included coachings by Yellow Barn faculty, Donald Weilerstein, *violin*, and Roger Tapping, *viola*, as well as two performances in Southern Vermont featuring works by Beethoven, Bartók and Mendelssohn.

While in Putney, the quartet also had the opportunity to engage in two workshops with the students at the Greenwood School -- a boarding school for middle school-aged boys, and Yellow Barn's summer campus. On the first day, the quartet guided the students through the history of music while performing various excerpts of pieces the group is currently working on and answering questions about composers, chamber music and more specifically about their group. On the second day, the Parker Quartet engaged the students in a game of musical baseball. Each question answered correctly earned the students a "base run," while correctly identifying a musical excerpt played by the quartet earned the students a "home run."

The Parker Quartet stated that, "Our fall residency with Yellow Barn was the perfect way to start our performing season. Yellow Barn's facilities were a refreshing and focused place for our rehearsals, and it was such a pleasure to work with the students and faculty at the Greenwood School. It was also incredibly inspiring and helpful to work with Donald Weilerstein and Roger Tapping, especially now that we rarely have the opportunity to play for our mentors. To then be able to translate this work into two performances really gave our season a jump start."

Yellow Barn Music School & Festival began offering the Artists' Residency Program in Fall 2008. The program aims to provide a unique opportunity for musicians to develop projects of their own choosing in an environment conducive to undistracted study, to exchange ideas and to perform.

Sneak Peek

Stay tuned for more information on Yellow Barn's future Artists' Residency featuring the Jupiter Quartet and the Beethoven Quartet cycle.



The Parker Quartet leads a workshop at the Greenwood School.
Photo: Lauren Bassing

SAVE THE DATES

"KAFKA FRAGMENTS" WORKSHOP PERFORMANCES

György Kurtág's monumental 70-minute song cycle based on texts of Franz Kafka

March 13, 2010 at 8:00pm
Centre Congregational Church,
Brattleboro, VT

March 14, 2010 at 8:00pm
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory,
Boston, MA

AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE BY YELLOW BARN FACULTY

A public performance that kicks off Yellow Barn's inaugural Amateur Chamber Music Workshop

May 6, 2010 at 8:00pm
Centre Congregational Church,
Brattleboro, VT

2010 SUMMER FESTIVAL

June 16-August 7, 2010

For information and to reserve tickets:

www.yellowbarn.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Parker Quartet Fall Residency, P.1

Kafka Fragments Workshop, P.2

About Kafka Fragments, P.2

Amateur Chamber Music Workshop, P.2

Get Involved, P.3

Stay Up-To-Date With Yellow Barn, P.3

Hellos and Goodbyes, P.4

Special Thanks, P.4

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YELLOW BARN'S SPRING 2010 WORKSHOPS

"KAFKA FRAGMENTS" WORKSHOP

March 7 - March 14, 2010

György Kurtág's 70-minute song cycle for soprano and violin based on texts of Franz Kafka

Yellow Barn faculty members Susan Narucki, *soprano*, and Violaine Melançon, *violin*, and eminent Kafka scholar, Stanley Corngold of Princeton University, will host this unique workshop on Yellow Barn's Greenwood campus in Putney, Vermont.

Four sopranos will join four violinists enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music to participate in this workshop. The week will include coaching, workshops, master classes and discussions.

Two public performances:

March 13, 2010 at 8:00pm

Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro, VT

March 14, 2010 at 8:00pm (free performance)

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, Boston, MA

To reserve tickets:

802-387-6637

www.yellowbarn.org

ABOUT "KAFKA FRAGMENTS"

BY VIOLAINE MELANÇON

György Kurtág, a consummate artist and composer, completed his *Kafka Fragments* in 1986. This monumental work of some seventy minutes is comprised of forty songs, divided into four books. Kafka's words and Kurtág's music are kindred spirits. Both creators are masters of the oblique, of the minimal, of expressing worlds of atmosphere *between* the words, *between* the notes. Working on the *Fragments*, one is constantly surprised, delighted, excited and perplexed by Kurtág's painting of the texts. One's reading of Kafka is forever changed after living through Kurtág's very personal lens. Performing this piece is an emotional journey like no other I have experienced: excruciatingly demanding in nuance and range of emotions, from the most vulnerable tenderness to the wildest, most ferocious abandon of passion.

Susan and I are looking forward to exploring this work with eight wonderful young artists and sharing our deep affection and sense of awe for it with you. I hope you can come and experience it with us either in Brattleboro or Boston.

YELLOW BARN IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS FIRST AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP

Applications available at:

www.yellowbarn.org

Due date: February 1, 2010

Yellow Barn concertgoers who play chamber music often react to their Yellow Barn concert experience by expressing the desire to work with Yellow Barn musicians in order to gain insight into the interpretive process and apply it to their own music-making.

Yellow Barn's first Chamber Music Workshop for Amateurs will be held from May 7th-9th, 2010 in Putney, Vermont. Participants will rehearse contrasting repertoire, attend workshops and performance classes, and attend a concert by Yellow Barn faculty. Participants will also have opportunities for short individual lessons and for participation in a reading session with a faculty member, and to attend recitals by faculty members.

The workshop will begin with a public performance by Yellow Barn resident ensemble, The Peabody Trio, and faculty member Maria Lambros, to be held on May 6, 2010 at 8:00 pm in Brattleboro, Vermont.

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TWO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH YELLOW BARN

SUPPORT YELLOW BARN

The continuing success of Yellow Barn is made possible through the generosity of individual donors who choose to invest in the exceptional programming we offer as one of the preeminent chamber music schools and festivals. Your donation will help sustain Yellow Barn, and will be applied directly to student scholarships, faculty salaries, meals, and production and administration expenses.

In grateful acknowledgment for your contribution, Yellow Barn is pleased to provide membership benefits to enhance your chamber music experience. To learn more about Yellow Barn's Annual Giving Opportunities and Benefits Program, and to download a donation form or make a gift online, visit www.yellowbarn.org/support

Your support of Yellow Barn represents an investment in the future of chamber music and in the lives of the young musicians who will uphold and enrich its legacy now, and in the years to come.

Thank you.

FRIENDS OF YELLOW BARN

Our new Friends of Yellow Barn (FYB) program, led by Margaret Everitt and Marty Spencer, enjoyed its inaugural season in 2009 with over 30 members. All of us wholeheartedly thank the Friends of Yellow Barn for their invaluable help this past season, including the provision of accommodations for visiting faculty, assistance on the summer campus and at the concert hall, help with special events, and much more.

As a Friend of Yellow Barn, you are invited to annual FYB gatherings, and are eligible to receive a pair of complimentary tickets to the summer festival. You will also be acknowledged in Yellow Barn's festival program book and will enjoy the warm glow of being a part of a worthwhile effort with a great group of people.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Yellow Barn or would like more information, please contact Lara Mones, Festival and Projects Manager at (802) 387-6637 ext. 102 or lara@yellowbarn.org.



STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL YELLOW BARN EVENTS

Visit our website for schedule, news and concert information
www.yellowbarn.org

You can also stay connected with us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER. Click the links below to join!



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HELLOS AND GOODBYES AT YELLOW BARN

BY SETH KNOPP, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

For those of you fortunate enough to be acquainted with Yellow Barn's board by-laws, the news of Anna Rowe's joining our board might raise a few eyebrows. Indeed, a Managing Director cannot be an official member of our board and sadly, it is true that Anna has stepped down from her role as Yellow Barn's Managing Director. Happily the reason is a most important one: LOVE! That love has taken her to the Czech Republic from where she plans to return in time for next summer's opening concert.

Anna packed more into her time as Managing Director than one can imagine and we will all miss her boundless energy and intelligence. Her devotion to making connections between people and her attention to administrative detail has made Yellow Barn a stronger and more vibrant place. Those of us inclined to attend board meetings look forward to hearing her voice very soon, and all of us look forward to seeing her and Jonathan next summer.

As Yellow Barn moves to fill the position of Managing Director all of us feel a huge debt of gratitude to Torin Koester who has once again graciously offered his services as Interim Managing Director. Torin served on the Board of Trustees for three years, and as Yellow Barn's Interim Managing Director from 2007-2008. It is especially kind of him to take on this important role in keeping Yellow Barn on course during this time of transition as he deals with the sleepless nights that come with parenting a beautiful newborn daughter!



Very few people in Yellow Barn's history have had an important involvement in so many areas of the organization as has Maurey McNaughton. In a way, over a quarter century Maurey was the "voice" of Yellow Barn. Whether speaking with faculty about their housing, with participants about audition times, or with members of the media, Maurey must have spoken to more people over the course of a year than the rest of us combined!

From writing grants to selling tickets at the door for our Saturday master classes, Maurey was involved in it all. Much of how Yellow Barn "works" as an organization I learned from Maurey, and in turn, she handled my arrival as Artistic Director, after so many years with Janet and David Wells at the helm, with grace and gentle guidance. On behalf of everyone who knew Maurey as an integral part of Yellow Barn over the past 25 years, I send her our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

SPECIAL THANKS

Yellow Barn would like to thank all our generous donors. We greatly appreciate your kind support!

We would also like to extend a warm appreciation to the Friends of Yellow Barn. Your assistance over the last year was invaluable. Thank you very much for all your help!

Many thanks to our season sponsor Chittenden Bank for its support in 2009. You helped make Yellow Barn's 40th anniversary season a memorable occasion.

Yellow Barn remains very grateful for our ongoing partnership with The Greenwood School in Putney, Vermont, which houses Yellow Barn's summer campus.

All of us at Yellow Barn wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!