

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7th Annual Halcyon Music Festival Cancelled: *June chamber music festival latest cultural activity impacted by COVID-19*

PORTSMOUTH, NH: Organizers of the Halcyon Music Festival announced that they have cancelled their plans to host two weeks of chamber music performances in Portsmouth June 18-27 because of concerns related to the COVID-19 outbreak. For the past six years, the Halcyon Music Festival has brought 24 world-class musicians together to live, rehearse and perform a series of seven unique chamber music concerts over the span of just 10 days on the New Hampshire Seacoast.

The visiting musicians are typically housed and rehearse at the University of New Hampshire and the performances are held at St. John's Episcopal Church, both of which are closed for the foreseeable future in accordance with Governor Sununu's extended stay-at-home order.

"We have agonized for weeks over whether we would be able to host this year's Halcyon Music Festival in some form," said Heng-Jin Park, pianist and the festival's Artistic Director. "The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the performing arts is truly heartbreaking and as musicians we want nothing more right now than to gather together to play gorgeous, electrifying and restorative classical chamber music for our loyal audiences. However, we all agreed that cancelling is what we must do in order to safeguard everyone involved. We are eagerly looking forward to reconvening in 2021."

Those audience members who purchased advance tickets have the choice of receiving a refund or donating the value of their ticket purchase to the festival and receiving a tax-deduction. Ticket holders should contact the festival to make their preference known.

About the Halcyon Music Festival

The mission of the Halcyon Music Festival is to create a community where chamber music will be explored and presented at the highest artistic level; and to make chamber music accessible to everyone, in particular those who might not otherwise experience it in a concert hall. Each year, the Halcyon Music Festival presents two weeks of passionate, compelling performances, with a focus on providing opportunities for enrichment to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. Halcyon Music Festival is committed to supporting the arts in the greater Portsmouth, New Hampshire area, and seeks to enhance the growth of chamber music on a local and national level by bringing world-class musicians and talented young professionals to live, work, and perform together. For more information, please visit www.halcyonmusicfestival.org.