

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Sunriver Music Festival Announces 33<sup>rd</sup> Season Concert Line Up featuring 2009 Van Cliburn Pianist Di Wu**

Thirty-three years ago, the Sunriver Music Festival was founded by a handful of professional classical musicians who loved the Sunriver Resort as a vacation destination. Their dream was to bring world class musicians to Sunriver and create a summer series of concerts where audience members would closely interact with these outstanding artists. Today, under the capable baton of Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith, the magic of the Sunriver Music Festival is still alive and vibrant.

The Sunriver Music Festival's thirty-third season will include a full schedule of concerts, rehearsals, workshops, master classes, receptions and fundraisers. Concerts will begin August 10 and wrap up on August 21 and will include four classical orchestral concerts, a solo piano recital, a Pops concert and the kid friendly family concert. Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith returns to Sunriver for his twenty-fourth season to lead the world class Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra. This hand picked group of musicians travel to Sunriver each August from as far away as Minneapolis, San Antonio, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Los Angeles to perform with the orchestra.

Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith has selected a musical line up to please both classical music scholars and novices, including familiar favorites by Mozart, Brahms, Bach and a full program of Beethoven on closing night.

"With a smaller orchestra of forty musicians, like our orchestra in Sunriver, the selections of orchestral arrangements are a little more limited than a full sized orchestra would have access to," explains Maestro Smith. "However, there are still so many wonderful compositions out there and audiences love to hear familiar favorite pieces. We only have four classical orchestral performances during our two week festival and each piece performed must be a crowd pleaser. It's hard to choose from all the great classical music selections, but I believe we have a program this summer that will please audiences of all ages and musical tastes."

This summer's classical concert line up features a special solo piano recital on August 19 and the Beethoven no. 5 Piano Concerto (the Emperor) on August 21 by Chinese pianist Di Wu, 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Finalist.

Praised in The Wall Street Journal as "a most mature and sensitive pianist", Chinese-born Di Wu's reputation as an elegant yet exciting musician continues to grow, and 2009 has been a banner year: During the spring and summer she made

her New York Alice Tully Hall recital debut as winner of Juilliard's William Petschek Piano Debut Recital Award, was named Artist of the Month by MusicalAmerica.com, and was awarded a Vendome Virtuosi prize at Lisbon's prestigious Vendome Competition as well as one of the coveted prizes at the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. In September she made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut at a gala benefit concert under Charles Dutoit.

Ms. Wu made her professional debut at 14 with the Beijing Philharmonic, since then she has toured widely in Asia, Europe and the United States, where her recent orchestral engagements have included appearances with Washington's National Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and twice in Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops. During the 2009-10 season, Ms. Wu is scheduled for 50 engagements which will take her from California to Germany.

Di Wu came to the United States in 1999 to study at the Manhattan School of Music with Zenon Fishbein. From 2000 to 2005 she studied at the Curtis Institute with Gary Graffman, subsequently earning a Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School under Yoheved Kaplinsky and, in 2009, an Artist Diploma under the guidance of Joseph Kalichstein and Robert McDonald. Ms. Wu is currently represented by Astral Artists.

Learn more and watch a performance by Miss Wu at [www.diwupiano.com](http://www.diwupiano.com) and [www.cliburn.org](http://www.cliburn.org).

Composer, author and Utah Symphony's Associate Concertmaster, Gerald Elias, will perform the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto no. 3 with the orchestra on August 13. Along with his solo violin performance, Gerald Elias will perform with the orchestra as the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra Concertmaster. Learn more about Gerald Elias at [www.gerald-elias.com](http://www.gerald-elias.com)

**Sunriver Music Festival  
Summer Concert Schedule  
August 10 – 21, 2010  
Artistic Director: Lawrence Leighton Smith**

**Summit High School Auditorium**

August 10 – Pops Concert  
"Sentimental Journey"

**Tower Theatre in Bend**

August 13 - Concert I with Orchestra  
Gabrieli: Antiphonal Brass Choir  
Saint-Saëns: Concerto no.3 in B minor for Violin and Orchestra, op.61  
*Featuring: Gerald Elias, violin*  
Mozart: Symphony no.40 in G minor, K.550

**Tower Theatre in Bend**

August 14 - Concert II with Orchestra  
Glinka: Overture to Russian and Ludmilla  
Schubert: Symphony no.8 in B minor  
Weber: Concerto no. 2 in E-flat for Clarinet and Orchestra, op.74  
*Featuring: Benjamin Lulich, clarinet*  
Haydn: Symphony no.104, D major

**The Village at Sunriver**

August 15 – Family Concert

**Historic Great Hall at the Sunriver Resort**

August 19 – Solo Piano Recital  
*Featuring: Di Wu*  
2009 Van Cliburn Finalist

**Historic Great Hall at the Sunriver Resort**

August 20 – Concert III with Orchestra  
Handel: Water Music Suite no.1 in D  
Handel: Water Music Suite no.1 in F  
Brahms: Serenade no.1 in D, op.11

**Historic Great Hall at the Sunriver Resort**

August 21 – Concert II with Orchestra  
ALL BEETHOVEN PROGRAM!  
Overture to The Creatures of Prometheus  
Concerto no.5 in E-flat for Piano and Orchestra  
*Featuring: Di Wu*  
2009 Van Cliburn Piano Competition Finalist  
Symphony no.8 in F, op.93

Also joining the orchestra this summer will be Benjamin Lulich, Principal Clarinetist with the Pacific Symphony, who will fill the position of Principal Clarinet for the Festival. Benjamin will perform the Weber Clarinet Concerto no. 2 with the orchestra on August 14.

“We are very excited to have Benjamin join our orchestra again this summer,” explains Pam Beezley with the Sunriver Music Festival. “Ben is from Central Oregon and was a Festival Young Artist Scholarship recipient for a number of years. We all enjoyed his solo performance in October with the Central Oregon Symphony and we are very proud of his current position with the prestigious Pacific Symphony. It’s a pleasure to watch our young musicians from Central Oregon achieve their dreams of pursuing professional music careers.”

The upbeat and energetic Pops Concert titled “Sentimental Journey” will be in the Summit High School Concert Hall on August 10. The program line up includes the music of Glenn Miller, Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael and will feature vocalist Susannah Mars. Conductor Lawrence Leighton Smith and the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra will perform nostalgic favorites, including That Old Black Magic, I’ll Be Seeing You, In the Mood, Moonlight in Vermont and Chattanooga Choo Choo.

The kid-friendly family concert on Sunday, August 15 will move to The Village at Sunriver Mall and will be the final event of the inaugural Sunriver Art Faire.

The final two orchestral concerts of the 2010 season will be in the historic Great Hall at the Sunriver Resort, the home of the Sunriver Music Festival for thirty-three years. The concert programs include Handel’s Water Music, Brahms Serenade and will conclude with a full concert of Beethoven favorites.

Concert tickets begin on sale April 1 for Sunriver Music Festival members and on June 1 for the general public. All festival concerts begin at 7:30pm, except the free Family Concert, which begins at 2:00pm. Ticket prices range from \$10 - \$60.

To get more information about the Sunriver Music Festival’s summer festival concerts and events, call the Sunriver Music Festival Ticket Office at 541-593-9310 or email at [tickets@sunrivermusic.org](mailto:tickets@sunrivermusic.org) or visit [www.sunrivermusic.org](http://www.sunrivermusic.org).