

Yo-Yo Ma highlights Brevard Music Center Opening

BREVARD, June 27 – The Brevard Music Center opened its 2008 season Friday evening June 27 with a world premiere and the internationally famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma, in concert with Keith Lockhart and the BMC orchestra.

Maestro Lockhart is in his first year as BMC's new Artistic Advisor and Principal Conductor, and he said it was a special honor to have his friend, Mr. Ma, perform plus have an overture composed to mark the occasion.

Janus Overture: For a New Beginning was commissioned by the Music Center from composer Robert Aldridge, Chair of the School of Music at Montclair State University. Dr. Aldridge has served as the composer-in-residence at BMC since 2006 and he was particularly excited to receive the commission for this work.

Regarding the Overture, which was well received, Aldridge said, "Janus is the Roman god representing beginnings, the



Keith Lockhart conducting the Brevard Music Center orchestra with great intensity during the recent concert with Yo-Yo Ma.

aspiring musicians. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, BMC welcomes approximately 400 students to its 148-acre campus each year, representing over 40 states and several foreign countries, as well as 65 distinguished faculty artists drawn from America's most prestigious conservatories and universities. Each summer, the festival invites an array of celebrated guest artists to appear in performance and present seminars and master classes. The majority of concert offerings showcase the young people of BMC. Institute ensembles include three orchestras, a band, an opera company, chamber orchestra and new music ensemble. Other programs feature concentrated study in chamber music, composition and piano. BMC's unique learning environment—students living and working alongside faculty and guest artists—creates an unparalleled sense of community.

For more information and schedules of events, go to www.brevardmusic.org, or call the box office at (888)-384-8682.

art by nance



Wall murals and handpainted furniture or accessories.
683-1195 - artbynance.com

guardian of entrances and open doorways. Deference was paid to Janus at the most important beginnings in the life of an individual." Dr. Aldridge was hailed last year in The New York Times and Opera News after the opening of his opera Elmer Gantry, which premiered in Nashville November 2007.

Yo-Yo Ma, however, was the stunning star of a stunning musical event. Mr. Ma's multi-faceted career is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Yo-Yo Ma was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four and soon came with his family to New York, where he spent most of his formative years. Later, his principal teacher was Leonard Rose at The Juilliard School. He sought out a traditional liberal arts education to expand upon his conservatory training, graduating from Harvard University in 1976.

Mr. Ma has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006) and the Sonning Prize (2006). Appointed a CultureConnect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002, Ma has met with, trained and mentored thousands of students worldwide. Ma is an exclusive Sony Classical artist, and his discography of over 75 albums (including more than 15 Grammy Award winners) reflects his wide-ranging interests.

The Brevard Music Center was founded by James Christian Pfohl in 1936, whose vision to establish

a music program for talented young people has since matured into one of this country's finest summer institutes and festivals for



BMC Conductor Keith Lockhart and Yo-Yo Ma acknowledge the post-concert applause.



After the concert, Yo-Yo Ma is greeted by concert sponsors Bruce and Jacquelyn Rogow.

Learn to Fly

INTRODUCING THE CESSNA SKYHAWK TURBO DIESEL

It's time to be your own Captain

828.650.6540

www.wncaviation.com

Proud to be WNC's only FAA Certified Flight School