

August 2024

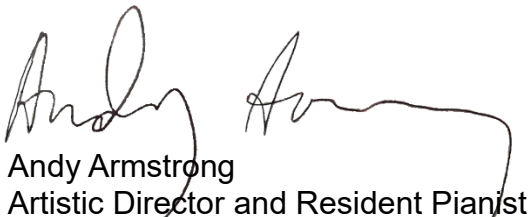
Dear Colleague:

As a young summer camp counselor in 1931, Leonard Bernstein entered the bustling dining hall on July 11 and announced to the noisy crowd that George Gershwin had died. Without another word he went to the piano and played Gershwin's very slow, very sad Second Prelude. The only sound in the hall was that of the piano. Bernstein later said, "As the last notes wafted away, I rose from the piano and left the hall in silence. That was the first inkling I ever had of the power of music, of its possibilities for control. It was a great turning point to me." Twenty-seven years later, as the successful, charismatic conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Maestro Bernstein used that power to break down the cultural barriers between young, mainstream Americans and classical music. For some 15 seasons (1958-1972) his "Young People's Concerts" on CBS successfully sparked a large-scale interest in and enjoyment of classical music.

Without a full orchestra and the resources of CBS, but with a strong belief that Bernstein was absolutely right when he said, "Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable" and high hopes for breaking down cultural barriers to classical music, I will bring 3 international artists with me to Beaufort in January for our Chamber Music Series' second Youth Concert. Last April we had an enthusiastic audience of 255; with your help, Saturday, January 11 at 3 we hope to have at least 300. I write now asking you to mark your calendar with the concert time and date. Then please join me at St. Mark's church for an hour-long, free concert on Friday, September 27 at 5 and remain after the concert to meet briefly with me and other music teachers who also attend.

Whether or not you are able to join me in September, I hope I can count on you to promote the January 11th Youth Concert. By the time I come in September, I shall have the entire January program planned and will ask Mr. Wall to send you an email with composer and artist information at that time. For now, [please click](#) here for a brief excerpt from last season's youth concert.

Thanks for your time...hope to meet you in September,



Andy Armstrong
Artistic Director and Resident Pianist

Please go to uscbchamber.com for complete season information and call/email Staci Breton at 843 208 8246 or sjbreton@uscb.edu with suggestions and/or questions.