



The excitement continues to build for Music in the Mountains in its 25<sup>th</sup> festival season as Artistic Director, Gregory Hustis, and Music Director and Conductor, Guillermo Figueroa, plan what promises to be a musical adventure through the classics...and more. Together with Conservatory Music in the Mountains Artistic Director Arkady Fomin, the festival draws world-class musicians and guest artists to the Durango area to present amazing performances of orchestra, chamber and young artists' concerts. Highlights in the development of this destination festival include:

1987

Festival is Launched With Five Performances

- Maestro Mischa Semanitzky recruits 11 musicians from among members of Dallas Fine Arts Chamber Players
- Five performance held in three Durango venues: Purgatory Village, Fort Lewis College and 55+ Center
- Commitment from Durango Ski Corporation makes possible a specially designed tent for concert series at Purgatory Village

1988-1992

Number of Musicians Nearly Quadruples

- Festival Orchestra grows to include more than 40 musicians, recruited from symphony orchestras in Dallas, Fort Worth, Phoenix, Denver and Albuquerque
- Free concerts for children and families introduced beginning with first performance of *Peter and the Wolf* in 1988

1993-1997

Musical Offerings Expand to Include Chamber Music and Conservatory

- Season includes seven orchestra concerts featuring more than 50 musicians, including first performance in new Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College
- Chamber music series launched under direction of Gregory Hustis, principal horn with Dallas Symphony
- Conservatory Music in the Mountains debuts with leadership from Arkady Fomin, violinist with Dallas Symphony

1998-2002

Venues and Special Events Broadened to Accommodate Wider Audiences

- 2002 season grows to then-record number of 22 performances, which attract 8000 concertgoers
- Chamber music performances expand to include five concerts
- Conservatory Music in the Mountains integrates program for college and pre-college piano and string instrument students as well as beginner program—"Kids With Strings Attached"

- First Festival appearances at BootJack Ranch in Pagosa Springs
- Music in the Mountains Goes to School program launched for students in Durango schools as well as schools in the Colorado communities of Cortez, Mancos, Ignacio and Pagosa Springs, as well as Farmington, New Mexico
- First CD recorded, "A Three-Piano Salute to Mozart," featuring only known recording of this sequence of Mozart piano concerti

#### 2003-2007

##### Numbers of Concerts and Concertgoers Continue to Grow

- Record number of 36 concerts performed over 22 days in 2006 and 41 performances in 2007
- Concert attendance tops 15,000 in 2006 and 2007, reflecting five years of steady growth
- Free concerts continue in city parks, including performances of *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Little Engine that Could* and *The Town Musicians of Bremen* at Family Festivos in Durango and Pagosa Springs
- Music in the Mountains Goes to School program reaches 4000 elementary and secondary school students in Four Corners region
- 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2006 features celebrations of Mozart's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and Mesa Verde's centennial, for which Music in the Mountains commissions and records composition by Sterling Proctor, "Mesa Verde Suite"
- 2007 farewell events celebrate legacy of retiring Festival Artistic Director and Conductor, Mischa Semanitzky; musical offerings broaden to include Latin jazz artists the Mambo Kings

#### 2008 -2010

##### Festival Further Expands Program Under New Artistic Leadership, With New Artists and New Music

- New leadership named with Gregory Hustis as Festival Artistic Director and Guillermo Figueroa as Music Director and Conductor in 2008
- Performance of Verdi's *Requiem* with Durango and Telluride Choral Societies recorded and broadcast by Rocky Mountain PBS & New Mexico PBS
- Expansion into new musical genres includes concerts featuring Celtic fiddle legend Eileen Ivers and Texas singer-songwriter Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison
- Musical repertoire diversified to include works by classical masters as well as many contemporary composers
- Conservatory Music in the Mountains presented first Concerto Competition with a grand performance by young violinist, Randall Goosby and the Festival Orchestra

#### 2011

##### Festival celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- World music concerts become more prominent features of the festival; performances by Stringfever, Mambo Kings and 3 Twins Broadband bring Music in the Mountains in front of new audiences
- During a time-period when economic recession and evolving tastes closed the doors on several national symphony orchestras, Music in the Mountains remains financially sound