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MOSTLY MODERN FESTIVAL THIRD SEASON POSTPONED TO JUNE 2021

[Mostly Modern Festival](#) (MMF), a new summer music festival launched in 2018, has been forced to postpone its third season and reschedule it for June, 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic.

“Skidmore College has decided to [shut down their campus](#) and all programs this summer. Our only option is to reschedule for next June 2021,” said Victoria Paterson, Mostly Modern Festival’s Executive Director.

Located in Saratoga Springs, New York and taking place at Skidmore College at the Arthur Zankel Music Center, MMF includes over 30 composers and 120 performers and conductors from around the world. It is Skidmore’s largest summer program. MMF has the distinction of being the only festival in North America with an orchestra dedicated to performing almost exclusively contemporary music. Presenting twelve to thirteen concerts each June, MMF’s summer season includes the American Modern Orchestra and American Modern Ensemble, as well as three guest chamber ensembles and three guest conductors from major orchestras. MMF also includes the Mostly Modern Festival Institute, MMF’s educational initiative that allows performers, conductors, and composers ages 18 and up to apply from around the world. These musicians then work side-by-side with professional musicians from around the world.

MMF offers scholarships, assistantships, and one fellowship each season for each discipline that covers the entire tuition. In addition, MMF hosts a concerto competition each season, as well as readings of brand-new orchestral works by composers. Two selected orchestral works by the composer participants are performed on the orchestra concerts each season.

“This is very disappointing,” said [Robert Paterson](#), Mostly Modern Festival’s Artistic Director and an award-winning composer from New York City. “We were about to present our most ambitious season-to-date, our third season. We were so excited to share over thirty world premieres, as well as performances by some of the best musicians from around the world, all of whom love modern classical music. Highlights were JoAnn Falletta from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Peter Bay from the

Austin Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. The good news is they will be invited back for June 2021. We were about to mount our very first opera this summer, entitled *The Companion*, a futuristic story about a woman and her biomorphic android lover. We will reschedule this opera for next season, and are planning on presenting even more operas in future seasons.”

Victoria Paterson added, “Skidmore College enthusiastically invited us back next June, and we are already working on dates and planning for MMF Summer 2021. The tentative dates are June 6-26, 2021. We are fully-committed to make MMF 2021 the best experience ever for both audiences and festival attendees.”

Founded by the husband and wife team of composer **Robert Paterson** and violinist **Victoria Paterson**, Mostly Modern Festival flips the traditional programming model by devoting most of its attention to the music of our time, with occasional forays into the standard repertoire. Each season takes place in June at the Arthur Zankel Music Center on the campus of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, and encompasses up to fourteen orchestral, vocal, and chamber concerts by festival and guest ensembles of mostly new and recent music. The festival also hosts the **Mostly Modern Festival Institute**, a two-week intensive with a distinguished 26-member faculty, for up to 70 instrumentalists, 60 singers, 30 composers, and 8 conductors.

“Victoria and I wanted to create a contemporary music focus in the context of the glorious summer festival experience that is such a classical music tradition,” said Robert Paterson. “Having five composers on the faculty and 30 composition participants, who will have the opportunity to have their works performed, flips the emphasis of most programming models instead to favor the new, and flavor with the old as it relates to the new. We are finding that increasingly today, new music can be the gateway to old music.”

An important, and unique, aspect of the festival and its service to the Institute’s students, is that all public performances will be professionally videotaped, and the videos made available to participants for their use. Events may also be streamed live.

For More information, visit the [Mostly Modern Festival](#) online. [Application to the MMF Institute](#) can be made online beginning October 1st.

Robert Paterson (Artistic Director) writes music that is acclaimed for its elegance, wit, structural integrity, and wonderful sense of color. Paterson was awarded Composer of The Year from the Classical Recording Foundation, at Carnegie's Weill Hall in 2011. His music has been on the Grammy® ballot yearly, and his music was named “Best of 2012” on National Public Radio. Three Way, his opera with librettist David Cote, called “an excellent comic opera” by Opera News, premiered in 2017; the recording will be released later this year. His works have been performed by the Louisville Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Austin Symphony, Vermont Symphony, among others. Paterson gives master classes at universities, including the Curtis Institute of Music, Aspen Music Festival, New York University, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Paterson is the

Artistic Director of the American Modern Ensemble and resides in NYC with his wife, Victoria, and their son, Dylan. www.robertpaterson.com.

Victoria Paterson (Executive Director) is a violinist in New York City equally comfortable with classical, modern, and popular music. She performs everywhere from Carnegie Hall, Birdland, and Madison Square Garden, to Late Night with Seth Meyers, to The Today Show. She is the founder of the Lumiere String Quartet, whose albums boast top classical rankings on Amazon and iTunes. Executive Director of the American Modern Ensemble, Victoria also contracts for opera companies including OnSite Opera, American Opera Projects, Prototype, and many others. Broadway shows include Sunset Boulevard, West Side Story, The Addams Family, Heathers, and many more. Her favorite outreach work is performing for Music That Heals in hospitals all around New York City. www.victoriapaterson.com.

"Mostly Modern Festival dazzles with its inaugural year. MMF is the creation of Robert Paterson— acclaimed composer— and his wife, Victoria Paterson— celebrated violinist. Together they have created a refreshingly unique and addictive musical experience that is sure to amaze." – *Saratoga Today*

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