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MOSTLY MODERN FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 5th SEASON – ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL CELEBRATING MODERN CLASSICAL MUSIC

JUNE 6-21, 2024, IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

ELEVEN JUNE CONCERTS

- **Conductors:** David Amado, Ankush Kumar Bahl, JoAnn Falletta
- **Ensembles:** American Modern Ensemble, Atlantic Brass Quintet, Dior String Quartet, Modern Vocal Projects (MVP)
- **Highlighted Composers:** Leonard Bernstein, Elliot Carter, Chen Yi, Aaron Copland, Morton Gould, Robert Paterson, Witold Lutosławski, Veronika Krausas, Paul Moravec & more
- **Orchestral Soloists (Winners of Mostly Modern Concerto Competition):** Trevor Hund, Percussion for Chen Yi Concerto and Ian McEdwards, Clarinet for Elliot Carter Concerto
- **Mostly Modern Festival Institute:** 120 Student Instrumentalists, Singers, Composers, and Conductors and 50 Distinguished Artist Faculty

“Mostly Modern Festival dazzles...a refreshingly unique and addictive musical experience that is sure to amaze.” – Saratoga Today



Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor on June 15



Victoria & Robert Paterson, co-founders

[Mostly Modern Festival](#) (MMF) returns to Saratoga Springs for its **fifth season** from June 6-21, 2024, at the Arthur Zankel Music Center on the Skidmore College campus. Co-founded by a husband-and-wife team, composer [Robert Paterson](#) and violinist [Victoria Paterson](#), the festival emphasizes modern classical music, paired with outstanding repertoire from the 20th century.

This season brings 11 shows total—orchestral, vocal, and chamber concerts by festival and guest ensembles of all new music. The festival hosts the [Mostly Modern Festival Institute](#), a three-week intensive with a distinguished 50-member faculty for up to 30 composers and 100 instrumentalists, vocalists, and conductors.

“Victoria and I wanted to create a glorious summer festival experience that is modern within the context of the magical classical music tradition,” said Robert Paterson, MMF Artistic Director. “Having five composers on the faculty and 30 composition students, who will have the opportunity to have brand-new works performed, flips the emphasis of old-fashioned programming. We favor the new and then flavor with the old. We are finding that, increasingly, new music can be the gateway to older music.”

Ensembles, Composers, Artists, and Lecturers

The festival’s ensembles-in-residence are the [American Modern Ensemble](#) – the acclaimed group founded by Robert and Victoria Paterson in 2005 and the [Mostly Modern Orchestra](#) – comprising the Institute’s participants and faculty.

Guest ensembles for the fifth season are the [Dior String Quartet](#) and the [Atlantic Brass Quintet](#).

Featured orchestral conductors are **JoAnn Falletta** (Buffalo Philharmonic), **David Amado** (Atlantic Classical Orchestra), and **Ankush Kumar Bahl** (Omaha Symphony).

Highlighted composers: **Leonard Bernstein**, **Elliot Carter**, **Chen Yi**, **Aaron Copland**, **Morton Gould**, **Veronika Krausas**, **Paul Moravec**, **Witold Lutosławski**, and **Robert Paterson**.

[Modern Vocal Projects](#) (MVP), the festival’s brand-new dramatic vocal works initiative, celebrates living composers, librettists, and singers. It is creativity-driven and composer-forward. Highly collaborative, it is offered as one of the options for composers to have a piece performed when they apply to attend the Mostly Modern Festival, and it provides an opportunity for singer participants to work with composers at the festival.

Mostly Modern Festival Concerts

Seven public concerts (open to the public) and four private (internal) concerts will be held in Skidmore's Arthur Zankel Music Center (with one exception, our kickoff @ Caffè Lena):

Thursday, June 6:	5th Season Mostly Modern Kickoff at Caffè Lena, Saratoga Springs, NY
Friday, June 7:	American Modern Ensemble (Private, Internal)
Saturday, June 8:	Enchanted Equestrian Evening of Modern Songs
Sunday, June 9:	Mostly Modern Orchestra with David Amado, Conductor
Thursday, June 13:	American Modern Ensemble (Private, Internal)
Friday, June 14:	Atlantic Brass Quintet (Private, Internal)
Saturday, June 15:	Mostly Modern Orchestra with Ankush Kumar Bahl, Conductor
Sunday, June 16:	Family Father's Day Special - New York Stories
Wednesday, June 19:	Beloved Modern Songs (Private, Internal)
Thursday, June 20:	Dior String Quartet
Friday, June 21:	5th Season Finale of Mostly Modern Orchestra with JoAnn Falletta, Conductor

Audiences experience **world premieres** on every single concert with modern music by young, mid-career and first rate, world famous composers of today.

VIP Premium Seating - \$35 | General Admission - \$20

Group 8 or more - \$12 each | Students - \$10

Skidmore Alumni and Faculty - \$10

Mostly Modern Festival "Season Pass" for \$175 includes admission and premium seats to all public performances, attendance to dress rehearsals for the public concerts, meet & greets, as well as attending select private events.

For concert and ticket details, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mostly-modern-festival-season-five-2927179>

Mostly Modern Institute at MMF

Mostly Modern Institute at MMF is a fully immersive experience: participants perform side-by-side with faculty in a learning atmosphere inside and outside rehearsal. The **Mostly Modern Institute** is a place for students and faculty to explore, network,

and create new opportunities outside the normative career paths of traditional, orchestral careers and teaching to find options that fit one's passion and that are "outside the box."

Participants are put in the front seat in a collaborative effort to program, rehearse, and perform 20th & 21st Century repertoire. All 30 composers at the festival (students and faculty) will receive a performance of their work, and up to 15 composers will be eligible to receive an orchestral reading, mentored by the MMF composition faculty. The composition and conducting faculty select two 'winning' composers to receive a performance with Mostly Modern Orchestra.

Participants enhance their skill set through **entrepreneurial courses, performances, lessons, and seminars** from the nation's first rate musician faculty. **Fellowships, scholarships, and internships** are available for Institute students. **Mostly Modern Institute** welcomes attendees 18 years or older and at all stages of their careers.

A concerto competition will be held for the Institute's student musicians, and the **winner will perform a 20th or 21st-century concerto with MMO** the following year at the 2025 festival.

MMF offers an outstanding opportunity of having all public performances professionally video and audio recorded as a service to the Institute's students to be utilized for archival and promotional purposes on Youtube and beyond.

About the MMF Directors

American composer **Robert Paterson** is a true New Yorker—born and raised in Buffalo, he lived in Rochester and Ithaca for over ten years, in New York City for over twenty years, and now lives in Saratoga Springs, near the Adirondacks. Paterson's colorful music embraces everything from goddesses and online dating to mathematics and the environment. His music is filled with emotion and fierce rhythmic energy, marked by elegance, wit, and meticulous craftsmanship. Named *Composer of The Year* by the Classical Recording Foundation at Carnegie Hall, Robert Paterson is the winner of the *Alfred I. DuPont Award*, and his opera *Three Way* won the Grammy® under *Best Classical Producer of the Year*. His music is often a *Best of the Year* pick on National Public Radio. His orchestral tone poem, *Dark Mountains*, regularly airs on NPR's Performance Today. *Three Way* premiered with Nashville Opera, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and across the United States. The Minnesota Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Oratorio Society of New York, Buffalo Philharmonic, Albany Pro Musica, Albany Symphony, Musica Sacra, Austin Symphony, Vermont Symphony, and ensembles worldwide perform his music. Paterson gives masterclasses at the Curtis Institute of Music, New York University, the Aspen Music Festival, the Cleveland Institute of Music,

and more. He is the Artistic Director and house composer for Mostly Modern Projects. Robert is a lifelong vegan and an advocate for animals and the environment, celebrating the natural world with ground-breaking works such as his *Triple Concerto*, *A New Earth*, *Listen*, and *I Go Among Trees*. robertpaterson.com

Victoria Paterson (General Director) is a violinist equally comfortable with classical, pop, and healing arts. She performs everywhere from *Carnegie Hall*, *Birdland*, and *Madison Square Garden*, to *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and *The Today Show*. General Director of Mostly Modern Projects, Victoria engages musicians for Mostly Modern as well as opera companies, including a favorite, *On Site Opera*. She spans a 20-year career on Broadway, including full-time positions at *My Fair Lady*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *West Side Story*, *The Addams Family*, and *Heathers*. Her favorite outreach work is with Sing for Hope, where she is the *Director of Community Arts*. Victoria delivers vital programs to senior centers, hospitals, Alzheimer's patients, as well as to iconic public spaces like Moynihan Penn Hall, Union Station D.C., and the Oculus World Trade Center with 'rush hour' and 'lunchtime' concerts that are free and open to the public. Victoria brings true joy to communities with live music and in all her activities year-round. victoriapaterson.com.