

Arts-Living (/Arts-Living/)

Monadnock Music season starts Saturday

By BEN CONANT

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Monadnock Music's eclectic 2018 summer season blends tradition with a journey of exploration. There's a little something on the schedule for every classical music lover, from the classic Peterborough Town House concerts – like Saturday's season opener – to a tour of the region's quaint villages, garden parties, and even the chance for a concert in your own living room.

"We're trying to give the community more ways to participate in addition to the concerts we've been doing for such a long time," said Monadnock Music director Gil Rose.

Mozart, Haydn and more kick off Monadnock Music's 54th season Saturday at the Peterborough Town House at 7:30 p.m., the first in a series of three traditional concerts at that venue this summer.

On Sunday, Aug. 5, the Harvard Summer Chorus will present their take on Carl Orff's staple "Carmina Burana," a soaring choir piece accessible to even the casual listener. Looking for a hip-hop crossover? If you've heard "Hate Me Now" by Nas, for instance, you've heard Orff's "O Fortuna" segment.

On Saturday, Aug. 11, the Town House portion of the schedule concludes with Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, that evocative personification of nature present in "Fantasia" and so much more.

This year, Rose said, the geographic reach of Monadnock Music's concerts is bigger than ever, spanning from Hollis to Walpole and everywhere in between. As Rose drove his SUV around the Monadnock region searching for venues for the Village Concert series, he discovered hidden treasures of southern New Hampshire, and he hopes listeners will take that same journey as they make their way to the meeting houses and churches that dot our colonial landscape.

"When you come to a Monadnock Music concert," he said, "you could find yourself in a charming village you've never been in before ... I'm still discovering all the corners and tucked away places in the region."

That series starts Sunday at the Walpole Unitarian Church with the Monadnock Music Piano Trio performing works by Schubert and Franz. The schedule's been expanded this summer, too; there's just about a show a week in towns like Temple, Hancock, Dublin and Marlborough through Aug. 12, when the Village Series concludes with the Monadnock Music String Quartet

performing Beethoven at the Harrisville Community Church. The annual picnic will follow the concert.

Special this summer is a garden party and progressive tasting dinner, scored in an intimate setting by solo performers. Attendees can tour several local gardens, each one with a special cocktail and tasting menu, and take in a different performer at each stop.

"It's a way to enhance the music and a way for music to enhance the garden," Rose said.

Another exclusive option this year is the chance to underwrite a Supper Club concert in your home or a preferred location. Pledge \$1,000 or more and a musician will come entertain you and your friends over supper.

The Village Concert series is free and open to the public. For all other Monadnock Music events, you can find tickets and more information at www.monadnockmusic.org.
