

Pianist opens Noon Music in May



Stowe Performing Arts' Noon Music in May concerts begin at noon on Wednesday, May 5, and continue every Wednesday through May 26.

The series of free hourlong concerts, now in its 32nd year, is held at Stowe Community Church on Main Street.

First up is American pianist Chad R. Bowles, who has earned a reputation for musicianship and virtuosity. His noon program, which will be repeated at 7:30 p.m., includes music by Haydn, Bowen, Villa-Lobos, Liszt and Verdi. Bowles is equally at home with lesser-known gems.

He has performed across the United States, Canada and Europe, and has been a soloist at many colleges and universities, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the La Gesse Festival in France, and the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in California.

Bowles has also performed widely as a chamber musician with members of the Baltimore and New World Symphony Orchestras.

JRI Recordings issued Bowles' debut album "Haydn Piano Sonatas" in November 2009; Fanfare Magazine called it "the

starting point for anyone not familiar with Haydn's sonatas."

Bowles was born in Stoughton, Mass., earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance from the University of New Hampshire, and holds a master's degree and a graduate performance diploma from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Md., where he was a teaching assistant in the keyboard studies department. He has also studied with legendary American pianist Earl Wild.

In succeeding weeks, the concerts will showcase violist Kenji Bunch, singer-songwriter Elisabeth von Trapp, and soloists from the Green Mountain Opera Festival's upcoming performance of "Lucia di Lammermoor," soprano Nikki Einfeld and tenor Scott Ramsay, with Laurie Rogers on piano.

Noon Music in May has long been supported by Thorp and Sally Freeman, owners of Codeco Corp. of Vermont. The series was conceived as a way to draw people out of their homes after a long winter, but almost met its demise two years after it began. The Freemans stepped forward to provide money for the programs, and their continuing support has helped the series grow.

Two years ago, Stowe Performing Arts partnered with The Whip Restaurant at Green Mountain Inn to add Noon Music at Night, an encore performance of the noontime recital. The Whip supports the artist's evening performance, and gives concert attendees a coupon for 20 percent off lunch or dinner during May.

Information: www.StoweArts.com.