

bravo!

Artistic director looks forward to first season

Today I am writing from Portland, Ore., where I am rehearsing and performing with my good friends violinist Ida Kavafian and cellist Peter Wiley. We are playing works for piano, violin and cello by Beethoven that we absolutely adore, and we are looking forward to playing this in Vail in just a matter of days. I can hardly believe it — I have been coming to Vail for years, and now this summer I will be there in my new role as Bravo!'s artistic director. There is simply nothing as moving as being in the midst of Vail's stunning natural beauty while playing and listening to glorious music of all kinds.

My journey to this chapter of my life has been paved with a good deal of hard work, the support of many and not a small amount of luck. As I look at the Bravo! season ahead, I see many of the roads I have traveled intersecting in fun and interesting ways.

My life in music began in Queens, N.Y., where I grew up with my two sisters, both musicians, and a brother. My sisters and I played trios (and still do), just like the ones I am playing next week. My intense love of chamber music was instilled early and nurtured by our incredible mother, who died when I was 15. The loss of Mom strengthened my resolve to live my life passionately doing the things I love. Not long thereafter, the indomitable Susan Wadsworth, who since 1961 has directed Young Concert Artists in New York, took me under her wing and helped launch my career.

Through Young Concert Artists, I played some of the most memorable concerts of my life, including one in a remote part of Alaska for a bunch of rather intimidating "woodsmen," who melted at the sound of Chopin and Bach. That experience cemented for me my instinctive belief that music has the capacity to move all of us, regardless of who we are

or where we come from. I don't know a musician who does not feel that way, and when you meet and hear all of the incredible artists who will be in the valley with us over the next six weeks, you can't help but feel that, too.

One of those is my great friend from Young Concert Artists, French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, who is coming to Vail for the first time in July. Jean-Efflam is not only a world-class musician; he is fun and witty and irresistible to audiences and colleagues. When Jean-Efflam joins me and two other

pianists/friends for our season finale of works for two pianos, including Gershwin's "American in Paris," I can only hope that we can all look back on a season packed with memorable, moving and fun musical moments.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT

Anne-Marie McDermott is Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival's artistic director. This summer marks her inaugural year as director. McDermott is also a celebrated concert pianist performing in solo recitals, chamber ensembles and with orchestras all over the world. She performs eight times this summer during the festival.