

bravo!

Founder, artistic director perform

Two nights of Beethoven piano trios set for Monday and Tuesday

By Courtney Riley
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When Ida Kavafian, the first Bravo! artistic director, sat down with Steven Tenenbom and Peter Wiley to form the piano quartet Opus One 13 years ago, the choice for the missing piece was obvious: Anne-Marie McDermott.

"We thought of who our favorite pianist was, and at the same time without hesitation we all said, 'Anne Marie McDermott,'" Kavafian said. "We have this long-standing relationship. At this point in my life, I'm happy I can make choices about who I want to play with. The people I play with are people I enjoy playing with. They're my all-time favorites."

Kavafian and McDermott will be performing the complete Beethoven piano trios on stage together, along with Wiley, at 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the Vail Mountain School.

"I'm really hoping people will get excited about this project because to come and listen to two evenings of Beethoven trios is really captivating and powerful," McDermott said. "At times it's humorous, and at times it's profound. It kind of runs the whole gamut emotionally."

McDermott is only the festival's third artistic director in 24 years. She said it's a great feeling to be taking on the legacy that Kavafian has left.

"It's unbelievable to me, but now I'm the artistic director, and it's something that Ida founded," she said.

She is proud to have Kavafian playing in the festival with her and wants to keep her involved in the festival as much as she can.

"I have so much admiration for her as a musician and her as a person, so it's a real honor to have her coming and doing this project with me," McDermott said. "We've spent a lot of hours together, and we're all equally passionate about wanting to do this project and wanting to bring this project to Vail."

'Steer it in the right direction'

Kavafian said it's wonderful and fantastic to see the festival do so well since she started it in 1987.

"It's very near and dear to my heart," she said. "I think she is going to do a great job."



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

In this 2007 photo, all three of the Bravo! artistic directors are pictured. From left are recently retired director Eugenia Zukerman, founding director Ida Kavafian and current director Anne-Marie McDermott.

i If you go ...

What: Beethoven piano trios with Anne-Marie McDermott, Ida Kavafian and Peter Wiley.

Where: Vail Mountain School, Vail.

When: 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Cost: \$33 each night, includes reception, lecture and concert.

More information: Visit www.vailmusicfestival.org, or call 970-827-5700.

Read more:

See story on page B7 for more information about these events.

The festival has been overshadowed by orchestras in past years, Kavafian said, because it has focused on appealing to the masses. But she hopes to see more of a focus on chamber music for the future.

"It's important to note that the festival started with chamber music as its core," she said. "I'd love to see that be a little bit more important. I think Anne-Marie will steer it in the right direction."

To be clear, Kavafian values the growth and prestige the orchestras have brought to the festival.

"That part has really grown and really taken off and become a vital part of the community," she said. "It's going to be fun to watch what Anne-Marie does with the festival. She's put together a good team and joined the people that are already a good team in Vail. Since I relate very much to her as a person and a musician, I expect I will be very happy with the way it goes from here."