

## 2011 Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival

# Chamber offerings get new spotlight

By **Kyle MacMillan**  
*Denver Post Fine Arts Critic*

With three of the country's top symphony orchestras in residency each summer at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, the series' chamber music presentations have tended to get overlooked.

Boosting the visibility and quality of those small-ensemble offerings was at the top of pianist Anne-Marie McDermott's to-do list when she was named artistic director last year.

"I've spent so much of my career playing chamber music, and I have a great passion for it, and I really wanted to right away increase the profile of the (festival's) chamber music if I could," she said.

The fruits of her efforts can already be seen. The number of chamber concerts has jumped more than 40 percent from 12 in 2010 to 17 during the festival's just-announced 2011 season, June 26-Aug. 3.

At the same time, the festival is making more use of musicians from the visiting orchestras and putting a bigger spotlight on its emerging performers, featuring them in a July 18 program titled "Joie de Vivre: The Artistry of a New Generation."

The festival has even changed the name of its chamber series in attempt to spark more interest, retitling it "Big Music for Little Bands."

A highlight of the 2011 offerings will be a 100th anniversary performance of Gustav



Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet will perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra on July 9.

*Chris Lee for the New York Philharmonic*

Mahler's extraordinary meditation on life and death and eternal renewal, "Das Lied von der Erde (The Song of the Earth)."

The song cycle originally was written for two voices and orchestra, but in 1921 Arnold Schoenberg conceived a little-known reduced arrangement and completed about half of it. Composer and conductor Rainer Riehn finished it in 1983.

"It's such a powerful piece of music, and the Schoenberg transcription makes it even more intense and brings it even more to life," McDermott said.

"Das Lied" will be performed July 14 by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra along with McDermott and mezzo-soprano Theodora Hanslowe and tenor Zach Borichevsky.

Even with McDermott's increased emphasis on chamber music, she acknowledges the central focus will remain on the three visiting orchestras — the Dallas Symphony (June 29-July 6), the Philadelphia Orchestra (July 8-July 16) and the New York Philharmonic (July 22-July 29).

**Tickets go on sale April 4. Call 970-827-5700 or visit [vailmusicfestival.org](http://vailmusicfestival.org).**

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### 10 Highlights of the 2011 Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival

**June 27 and 28** Beethoven piano trios, violinist Ida Kavafian, cellist Peter Wiley and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott

**July 2** Mahler Symphony No. 6, Dallas Symphony, conductor Jaap van Zweden

**July 7** Weber Clarinet Quintet, Miami String Quartet, clarinetist David Shifrin

**July 8** Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3, Philadelphia Orchestra, pianist Yuja Wang

**July 12** Beethoven string quartets, Calder Quartet

**July 14** "Das Lied von der Erde," chamber version

**July 18** "Artistry of a New Generation"

**July 20** Vocalist and composer Gabriel Kahane

**July 27** Walton Violin Concerto, New York Philharmonic, violinist Gil Shaham

**Aug. 3** "4 x 4 — A Two Piano Extravaganza"



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