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[Pat Butler](#)

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Ryan Murray (left) and Music in the Mountains Artistic Director Gregory Vajda are among the headliners in this year's SummerFest, which kicks off on June 18 and closes with a "Happy Birthday USA" performance on July 3 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Two-week season starts June 18 and adds acrobatics to its symphonic harmony

"Dinner Divertimento," an evening of fine food and chamber music, will kick off Music in the Mountain's two-week festival, SummerFest 2011, the 30th anniversary concert series.

Performed by Music in the Mountains Players at Miners Foundry at 5:15 p.m. Saturday, June 18, "Dinner Divertimento" harkens to days of old.

"This is the way great music was typically shared in the old days – people would gather in small groups at various homes to enjoy fine music with a meal," said Gregory Vajda, artistic director for MIM.

On Thursday, June 23, MIM will present The 30th Anniversary Concert, with orchestra and chorus. Works will include "Happy Birthday Variations" by John Williams and pieces by Leonard Bernstein and Johannes Brahms. Choral conductor Ryan Murray will conduct the 85-voice Festival Chorale and the orchestra for Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Toward the Unknown Region."

"This is truly one of the great choral master works of all time and we are looking forward to sharing it," Murray, the conductor, said.

On Saturday, June 25, the MIM Festival Orchestra will bring "Cirque de la Symphonie," a troop of aerialists, acrobats and jugglers who will perform the music of Dvorak, Bizet, Tchaikovsky and others. The audience can picnic under the stars at this outdoor concert.

"Orchestra Masterworks" is the title for the Saturday, June 26, concert, which will include

timeless classics like Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, along with the West Coast Premier of a piano concerto written by Vajda.

Tuesday, June 28, will feature "All that Brass," an evening brought back by popular demand and performed the MIM brass and percussion sections.

The orchestra and chorus will perform together Tuesday, June 30, offering up "Carmina Burana." The other half of this concert will include works by Mozart and Haydn.

On the evening of Friday, July 1, students in the MIM Young Composers program will present their pieces, performed by the MIM musicians.

On Saturday, July 2, MIM transforms the traditional KinderKonzert into a Family Concert with background information on the symphony and how it works, as well as the music itself. Prior to the concert, kids can try out instruments at the MIM "petting zoo," which will be outside the concert hall at the fairgrounds.

Music in the Mountains wraps up SummerFest with the traditional "Happy Birthday USA" picnic and pops outdoor concert July 3 at the fairgrounds. In addition to patriotic marches and old American favorites performed by the orchestra and chorus, there will be a Marine Corps color guard and a flyover.

Concert schedule

Saturday, June 18

Dinner Divertimento

5:15 p.m., Miners Foundry, Nevada City

Thursday, June 23

30th Anniversary Concert

Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra and Chorale

7:30 p.m. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Saturday, June 25

Cirque de la Symphonie

MIM Festival Orchestra and a troupe of acrobats and aerialists

7:30 p.m. Outdoors at Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Gates open at 6 p.m. for picnickers.

Sunday, June 26

Orchestra Masterworks

MIM Festival Orchestra and Soloists

2 p.m. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Tuesday, June 28

All That Brass

MIM brass and percussion sections.

7:30 p.m. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Thursday, June 30

Carmina Burana and more

MIM Festival Orchestra and Chorale

7:30 p.m. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Friday, July 1

Young Composers Concert

MIM Players perform works by students in the Young Composers program.

7:30 p.m. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Saturday, July 2

Family Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo

MIM Festival Orchestra

10 a.m., Petting Zoo opens

11:30 a.m., concert. Amaral Family Festival Center, Nevada County Fairgrounds

Sunday, July 3

Happy Birthday USA Concert

MIM Festival Orchestra and Chorale

7:30 p.m. Outdoors at Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Gates open at 6 p.m. for picnickers.

For ticket information

Tickets for Music in the Mountains' concerts and events may be purchased online at

www.musicinthemountains.org or by calling the box office at 530-265-6124.