



Small Stones Festival of the Arts

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Festival Presents Pianist Stephen Drury
Concert at Apple Tree Arts' Great Hall

Grafton, MA, Oct. 9, 2020 . . . Join the 2020 Small Stones Festival of the Arts – COVID-19 Edition for an extraordinary virtual concert with world-renowned pianist Stephen Drury who will perform Frederic Rzewski's masterpiece "The People United Will Never Be Defeated" Sunday, Oct. 25, 7:00 p.m. The concert recorded at Apple Tree Arts' performance venue, The Great Hall will be streamed free to all participants. Visit <http://smallstonesfestival.org> to click on the registration link.

Rzewski's composition "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" is a set of 36 variations on the Chilean song "¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!"

"The Boston Globe" has described Stephen Drury as, "A sensitive, highly intelligent musician with fire in his soul . . . Pianism of tremendous intensity. . ." Another accolade from "The New York Times" said, "This listener cannot imagine more persuasive performances than the ones Drury played..."

The concert will also feature Drury's world premiere performance of "Apology" by Anthony R. Green, an acclaimed performer, composer and social activist. Behind all of Green's artistic endeavors are the ideals of equality and freedom, which manifest themselves in diverse ways in a composition, a performance, a collaboration, or social justice work.

Drury is well-known for his performance of music written in the last hundred years, ranging from the piano sonatas of Charles Ives to works by Frederick Rzewski and John Cage. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Barbican Centre and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Cité de la Musique in Paris, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus, and from Arkansas to Seoul. Drury is on the piano faculty at New England Conservatory.

Apple Tree Arts, the Worcester County Camera Club and the Blackstone Valley Art Association, three regional art associations recently created a newly envisioned virtual fine art and photography festival to comply with COVID-19 pandemic safety requirements.

The Festival exhibit opened Oct. 1 with an online display for this year only of the first 500 pieces of artwork received. Fine Art and Photography Artists Talks were held live Oct. 1 and 2 featuring Festival artists who discussed their artwork and answered questions during Zoom teleconferences. Additional online programs will include the basics of marketing for artists workshop, distinguished juror talks with fine art juror Jim Welu, director emeritus of Worcester Art Museum (WAM) and photography juror, Ron Rosenstock, internationally-renowned photographer, a live awards ceremony and the Stephen Drury piano concert.

A panel of six independent art professionals have curated the show. The jurors will select 144 pieces of artwork to be published in the Festival's catalog as well as the first, second and third prize winners of \$500, \$250 and \$100 in each category. These winners and juror choice and popular choice awards will be announced at the live Oct. 23 awards ceremony featuring keynote speaker Juliet Feibel, executive director of ArtsWorcester.

The mission of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts is to elevate the practice and appreciation of fine art and photography in the Blackstone Valley and beyond. The Festival is now under the aegis of a new sponsor, Grafton Arts, Inc., a newly formed nonprofit organization. The festival's printed catalogue will be on sale after October 23. For more information, visit <https://smallstonesfestival.org> or contact Chair Ken Crater at ken@smallstonesfestival.org

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