

SAN FRANCISCO | PENINSULA | SILICON VALLEY

# GENTRY

## THE MAESTRO

*Interview with Event  
Designer Extraordinaire  
Robert Fountain*

## THE POWER OF GIVING BACK

*Randy Haykin  
on Entrepreneurs  
and Gratitude*

## BILL IS BACK!!!

Murray Headlines  
at Festival Napa Valley  
this month



The Importance of a Great Smile  
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JULY 2017

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# Song, Dance, Laughter



Get ready to get your arts fix as the 12th edition of Festival Napa Valley gears up to hit stages big and small throughout Wine Country this month.

Perhaps it's because Bill Murray captivated us so with his goofy sardonic wit on *Saturday Night Live* and followed it up with loveable, zany performances in *Caddyshack* and *Ghostbusters* (legions of college kids still recite his classic—many of them ad-libbed—one-liners daily) that part of our collective consciousness longs to keep him in those roles. But comedy is just one of Murray's many talents. He is a versatile performer and gifted actor making the audience appreciate everything from his angst and ennui in *Lost in Translation* to pain and sorrow in *Olive Kitteridge*.

When he's not on screen, you'll find Murray on the golf course; at the baseball field (he is a partial owner of four minor league teams, including the St. Paul Saints, Charleston River Dogs, Hudson Valley Renegades, Brockton Rox), or singing. He's much more than a crooner; he loves classical music as well as great American literature and poetry.

Thanks to a fateful meeting with cellist Jan Vogler on a plane from Berlin to New York in 2013, ticket holders for this year's Festival Napa Valley will enjoy Murray combing that passion for music and words at the U.S. premier of *New Worlds*. Of this exciting venture, Murray told *The New York Times* recently, "When they (Vogler, violinist Mira Wang, and pianist Vanessa Perez) start playing, the demand is so great that if you are attend-

ing to who you are right now, it brings out something that you couldn't have visualized or planned for." With the trio playing a combination of Bach, Schubert, and Piazzolla, Murray will sing Stephen Foster's "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" and pieces from *West Side Story* as well as read passages from Hemingway and Whitman. Murray also noted in his *Times* interview that the idea for *New Worlds* is like a collision of America and Europe. "We are from four different continents, and when the continents come together, the music moves [and] it's just a short journey."

It promises to be an interesting and surprising performance. But as Murray's friend and director for *Lost in Translation* and the HBO special *A Very Murray Christmas* Sofia Coppola told *The New York Times*, "It's not surprising for Bill—he always keeps things interesting."

Always keeping things interesting might just be the mantra of Festival Napa Valley (FNV) itself. When FNV CEO Rick Walker co-founded the Festival 12 years ago, he knew that doing the same thing each year would never be acceptable. He'd need to assemble a team that would seek out performers on the rise, the best of the best. Walker recalls, "I'd been working with the Russian National Orchestra for a number of years, bringing them to the United States for several performances in California at









(Opposite page) Scenes from last year's Festival Napa Valley, (clockwise from top left), Athena Blackburn and Olga Troxel, Jan and Maria Shrem, Timothy Blackburn, a beautiful dinner at Festival Napa Valley, FNV CEO Rick Walker, and a model wearing jewels from Bulgari. (This page) Kristin Chenoweth at last year's Festival Napa Valley.

Montalvo, Stern Grove, and always one in Napa. As time wore on, it became clear that the Napa Valley not only craved a fine arts festival, but could support one as well." Early supporters Athena and Timothy Blackburn echo Walker's sentiment. "We listened to the pitch and immediately saw the potential," recalls Athena. "This area is so beautiful, and wine is the backbone. But when

you are here and part of the community, you need more than just wine tasting."

Longtime supporters of the Opera, Ballet, and Symphony in San Francisco, the Blackburns envisioned the crossover possibilities. Timothy, who now serves as the Chairman of the Festival notes, "We always say every year it will be hard to make the next one better, but somehow it happens. That's really thanks to the magic of the FNV staff and because the whole team has made the Festival so much fun—not just for the guests—but for the performers as well." Indeed, when performing at other festivals, artists leave right after they get off stage. At FNV, the artists' contracts require them not only to perform, but also to attend various luncheons and dinners at wineries throughout the week. With a smile,



*"We always say every year it will be hard to make the next one better, but somehow it happens. That's really thanks to the magic of the FNV staff and because the whole team has made the Festival so much fun—not just for the guests—but for the performers as well."*











Athena adds, "That's never been hard to enforce. They love it and often stay for several days."

FNV Board member and Founder of Tusk Estates Michael Uytensu stresses the Festival's unique blending of high-end epicurean experiences with the arts. "The Festival has made Napa the go-to place for adventurous programs blending music, food, and wine—add to that great people and great memories—it just doesn't get any better!"

Walker recalls when he knew the Festival Napa Valley was going to be something magical. "In the early years, we had a dinner on one of the beautiful fairways at Meadowood. The evening had gone off without a hitch—everything was delightful and just

as the guests were about to depart from the spectacular night, the sprinklers went on. Not your soft, gentle backyard sprinkler, but powerful jets of water. You can imagine what went through my mind. But, instead of complaining, the guests whooped and giggled—Magrit Mondavi took off her shoes and started to run through the water. Everyone howled with laughter and continued to say how much they enjoyed the night. I could tell right there and then that we had something special; that we had hardcore supporters who were in this for the long haul."

In addition to 60 performances over 10 days, the Festival Napa Valley has added an educational component this year for aspiring artists. "Similar to Tanglewood," says Timothy, "over 500 conservatory-level students applied for 60 spots. They'll stay for the week and be able to have workshops with the pros. It will be fantastic having them here, training with world-class artists."

Walker continues, "Our goal with Festival Napa Valley is to have something for everyone, really. We have a series of free performances, some very affordable, one with tickets in the \$40 range, and (higher level) patron events for a really immersive experience." Another new program starting this year is the Young Professional Patrons Series that will have buses from San Francisco bringing guests to and from the Festival. Walker adds, "We want to keep it fun and exciting!"



*(Opposite page)* Actress Sophia Loren and Rick Walker. Walker welcomes guests to an evening at FNV. Pamala and Ted Deikel. *(This page)* Famed Chef Lidia Bastianich at last year's Festival Napa Valley.



# FESTIVAL NAPA VALLEY

JULY 14 – 23, 2017

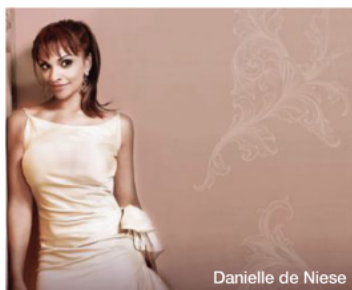
PHOTO: VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

The 2017 season continues the tradition of staging performances by the world's finest artists in iconic wine country settings. With nearly 60 events at 30 venues over 10 days, Festival Napa Valley provides entertainment and curated food and wine events to suit every taste and budget.

A glamorous **Opening Night Gala** at Meadowood Napa Valley with opera stars **Danielle de Niese** and **Lucas Meachem** and dinner paired with Napa Valley's fine wines.

**Taste of Napa**, a festival signature event that showcases 80 of the region's best wineries, restaurants, chefs and food artisans.

**Joshua Bell** leads the **Havana Chamber Orchestra**, pianist **Aldo**



Danielle de Niese

PHOTO: CHRIS DUNLOP

**López-Gavilán**, and other special guests in **Seasons of Cuba**, a special evening under the stars at Far Niente.

**Sunday at the Symphony**, a multimedia concert at Lincoln Theater, and a performance at Napa Valley College by the **Napa Regional Dance Company**, both admission-free.

An exclusive performance by the stars of the San Francisco production of the Broadway smash *Hamilton* will kick off the **Arts for All Gala at HALL St. Helena** benefiting Napa County public school arts education and the

Napa Valley Festival's free and affordable community programming.

**Stéphane Denève** conducts musicians from the **Napafest Academy Orchestra** in a special program at Bouchaine Vineyards.

**Hot Havana Nights**, an evening of Cuban jazz, food and wine at Blue Note Napa featuring **Aldo López-Gavilán** and friends.

André Watts



PHOTO: STEVE SHERMAN





Legendary pianist **André Watts** headlines an all-American concert featuring music from Bernstein's *On the Town* and the Napa premiere of **Gordon Getty's** *Young America*, with **Festival Orchestra NAPA** and **Volti Chorus** under conductor **Joel Revzen**.

**Jarvis Conservatory** hosts the admission-free **Bouchaine Young Artist Series**, with concerts by the **Havana Chamber Orchestra**, guitarist **Jiji** and pianist **Nikolay Khozyainov**.

Actor **Bill Murray** joins cellist **Jan Vogler** and friends for the U.S. premiere of *New Worlds*—a fascinating encounter between great music and literature—at the **Lincoln Theater**.

The **San Francisco Ballet** returns to perform a rich mix of contemporary and classic works in the annual **Dance Gala**.

**Lester Lynch** and **Angel Blue** sing highlights from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* accompanied by **Festival Orchestra NAPA** under the baton of **Joel Revzen**.

**Festival Orchestra NAPA**, a sterling ensemble comprising musicians from **New York's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra**, the **San Francisco**

**Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic**, and other top orchestras, back for a second season.

### Festival Napa Valley 2017 Event Hosts include:

Alpha Omega, Auberge du Soleil, B Cellars, Blue Note Napa, Bouchaine Vineyards, Castellucci, Calistoga Ranch, CIA at Copia, Darioush, Far Niente, Green Music Center, HALL St. Helena, Jarvis Conservatory, Lincoln Theater, Meadowood Napa Valley, Napa Valley College, Promontory, Quintessa, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, St. Supéry Estate Vineyards and Winery, Swanson Family Estate, Trefethen Family Vineyards, and Zakin Family Estate.

### Festival Passes

Festival Napa Valley offers a range of pass options to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the festival's programs.

### Taste of Napa

Sip, savor, and stroll through a curated collection of 80 wineries, restaurants, and food artisans. Grand Tasting \$99. Reserve Tasting Salon \$225.

### 5K & 10K SunRun

Support arts education in Napa County public schools on a scenic route

through Yountville. Individual registration \$35. Team registration starts at \$250.

### Free Performance Pass

Enjoy admission-free access to five performances—*Sunday at the Symphony*, the Community Concert featuring the Napa Regional Dance Company, and the Bouchaine Young Artist Series programs at Jarvis Conservatory. Reservations required.

### Lincoln Theater Concert Pass

Watch the world's leading classical, opera, jazz, and dance artists perform at the Lincoln Theater. Concert Passes start at \$45.

### Allegro Pass

Designed for young professionals and the young at heart. Experience an evening of music paired with warm Napa Valley hospitality. The Allegro Pass includes premium concert seating and Allegro Lounge access, and After Parties at chic Napa Valley settings. Solo Allegro Pass (*à la carte* Lincoln Theater evenings), \$169. Quattro Allegro Pass (all four Lincoln Theater evenings), \$549.

### Patron Pass

Whether for a single day, a weekend, or the entire festival, Patron Pass holders enjoy vintner's luncheons, winery dinners, and other exclusive events. Additional benefits include prime concert seating, valet parking, and concierge services. All Patron Passes include a tax-deductible donation. Evening Patron Pass from \$850. All-Day Patron Pass from \$1,000. Opening or Closing Weekend Patron Pass \$3,000. Five Day Super-Pass \$5,500. All-Access Festival Passport \$10,000.

*For more information and to purchase passes, visit [www.festivalnapavalley.org](http://www.festivalnapavalley.org) or call 888.337.6272.*