

# DownEast New Music

Clare Monfredo and Edward Kass, Artistic Directors

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DownEast New Music aims to bring acclaimed young artists to DownEast Maine for exciting performances of new chamber music. We aim to present thoughtful programming showing the breath and beauty that exists in the music of today. Through presenting performances by accomplished local and international musicians, we will enrich DownEast Maine's lively arts community with a vibrant array of new sounds that surprise, engage, and emotionally affect audiences. With innovative combinations of instruments, new perspectives, and diverse voices, we hope to show a side of contemporary chamber music that delights and inspires people.

## *Why contemporary music?*

We believe that contemporary music represents the way western classical music engages with communities, ideas, and themes of today. Contemporary music also represents a much more diverse body of voices than Western classical music, which results in an exciting array of new sounds that surprise and delight audiences. Though contemporary music often has the reputation of being inaccessible or overly intellectual, it has been my experience that it powerfully engages audiences and leads to memorable and exciting performances.

## *Why DownEast Maine?*

DownEast Maine is a community that has a demonstrated interest in both contemporary art and live music performance. Our co-founder, Clare, grew up in Seal Harbor and has strong personal connections to this community of artists and arts-enthusiasts. However, contemporary music is rarely played in public concerts for this community, and there are no organizations explicitly dedicated to the performance of contemporary music in the area. We think this is an ideal environment to start a new music festival featuring performances by rising young artists of exciting contemporary pieces.

## **Our goals:**

**Summer 2023:** We are planning a two-week summer festival with performances of two programs of chamber music for different instrumentations during the first half of July. We will perform both programs at St. Mary's in Northeast Harbor and at the Blue Hill Congregational Church.

**Next 3-5 Years:** We would like to establish DownEast New Music as a central part of the cultural and musical offerings of the region. This would include establishing a longer season featuring more concerts and more performers, either continuously over the summer or dispersed throughout the year, as well as programming that moves beyond traditional concert spaces into other forms of creative engagement, including collaborations with educational institutions as well arts and cultural establishments. DownEast Maine has so many beautiful different types of indoor and outdoor spaces that can already envision holding incredibly special and memorable musical events.

## **Donate:**

DownEast New Music is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of DownEast New Music must be made payable to "Fractured Atlas" only and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Tax-deductible donations can be made to us at <https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/downeast-new-music>.