

# Aspen Music Festival and School Fact Sheet

The Aspen Music Festival and School, now in its 63rd year, is a high-level training ground for the world's next generation of professional musicians. It is also America's premier music festival, presenting more than 300 musical events in eight weeks, and serving as a summer retreat for any of the world's great musical minds.

Music Directors: Robert Spano 2012 –  
David Zinman, 1998 – 2010  
Lawrence Foster, 1990 – 1996  
Jorge Mester, 1970 – 1990

President and CEO: Alan Fletcher 2006 – present

Main Season: Eight weeks each summer, approximately late June to late August

Number of Events: 300+

Attendees: Approximately 75,000 concert attendees

Types of Events: Orchestral, opera, chamber music, contemporary music, children's events, lectures, panel discussions, master classes, house music concerts, tours

Orchestras: Aspen Festival Orchestra, professionals (principals) and students  
Aspen Chamber Symphony, professionals (principals) and students  
Aspen Concert Orchestra, all students  
American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Orchestra, all students except professional concertmaster

Facilities: Benedict Music Tent, 2050 seats, opened June 2000  
David Karetsky Music Lawn, fields outside the Music Tent, are always open and free  
Harris Concert Hall, 500 seats, opened fall 1993  
Castle Creek Campus, 23-acre site with studios, practice rooms, rehearsal halls

Winter Events: Musical Odysseys Reaching Everyone (MORE) program brings 3-5 musical artists into area schools for presentations and teaching  
Partial series of The Met: *Live in HD* opera broadcasts

Board of Trustees: 50 members  
Chair, Kay Bucksbaum, June 2010 –

National Council More than 100 members

Annual Budget: Approximately \$13 million

Year-Round Staff: 34

Student Body: 630 enroll each summer  
From approximately 40 U.S. states and 40 countries  
Average age 21.9  
Approximately 2000 applicants  
Applications begin in October, final deadline is early January

Educational programs:	Orchestral (on all orchestral instruments) – lessons and orchestra placement Aspen Opera Theater Center Piano Composition American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Guitar Center for Advanced String Quartets Aspen Contemporary Ensemble
Artist-faculty:	Approximately 130 from major conservatories and music schools all over the country
Composers-in-Residence:	Christopher Rouse, George Tsontakis, Sydney Hodkinson, plus one guest each summer
Founded:	In 1949 by Chicagoans Elizabeth and Walter Paepcke as part of the Goethe Bicentennial and Convocation that they organized with participants such as Thornton Wilder, Albert Schweitzer, Ortega y Gasset, and Dmitri Mitropoulos and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. This event spawned both the Aspen Music Festival and School and the political/intellectual think tank, The Aspen Institute.
Alumni include:	Violinists: Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Cho-Liang Lin, Robert McDuffie, Midori, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Kyoko Takezawa Pianists: Ingrid Fliter, Orli Shaham, Yuja Wang, Wu Han, Joyce Yang Conductors: Marin Alsop, James Conlon, James Levine, Leonard Slatkin Singers: Renée Fleming, Barbara Hendricks, Susanne Mentzer, Dawn Upshaw Composers: Philip Glass, Adam Schoenberg, Bright Sheng, Morton Subotnick, Augusta Read Thomas Other: Performer Peter Schickele, cellist Lynn Harrell, guitarist Sharon Isbin, bassist/composer Edgar Meyer, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, flutist Carol Wincenc
Town of Aspen:	Year-round population 6,000 Summer population approximately 16,000 3-1/2 hour drive from Denver Altitude 8,000 feet Average single-family home price \$4.6 million

\*\*\*Current as of March 2011\*\*\*