

Olympic Music Festival on Washington's Olympic Peninsula

by Dan Youra, travel writer

Imagine a turn-of-the-century dairy farm nestled on 55 acres of tranquil farmland on Washington's beautiful Olympic Peninsula...the sounds of exquisite chamber music floating in the air.

Inside the beautiful barn, world-renowned musicians clad in blue jeans are entralling Northwest natives and visitors with outstanding music from the most-beloved classical composers.

Enjoy music in the barn during the festival's 25th anniversary season at 2PM any Saturday or Sunday through September 7, 2008.

Pack a picnic, bring your friends, and spend a wonderful day roaming the Festival grounds before the concert. We've got plenty of picnic tables, donkeys to amuse you (and eat your leftovers), and places to explore in our unique pastoral environment!

The Olympic Music Festival was voted "Best Classical Music Festival" by readers of The Seattle Weekly,

In 1966, Alan Iglitzin and other members of the Philadelphia String Quartet moved to Seattle to become the University of Washington's Quartet-in-Residence, a position it held until 1982. During its 30-year tenure, the Quartet made numerous international tours and recorded much of the chamber music repertoire.

In 1984, Mr. Iglitzin fulfilled a lifelong dream by founding the Olympic Music Festival on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. While he originally intended the Festival to be a summer home for the Philadelphia String Quartet, Mr. Iglitzin soon discovered that Northwest audiences were seeking an idyllic setting for the enjoyment of chamber music.

Since its opening season, the Festival has grown from three weekends to twelve. Today, more than 12,000 people attend "Concerts in the Barn" every summer, many coming from as far away as Canada and California. During the summer, Festival performances are broadcast by Classical KING-FM and throughout the year on National Public Radio's "Performance Today."

To find the concerts, from Seattle and east of Puget Sound take the Bainbridge Island or Edmonds/Kingston Ferry, cross Hood Canal Bridge, travel 10 miles west of the bridge (Route 104), take the "Olympic Music Festival" and Quilcene exit, turn right onto Center Road. The Festival is 1/2 mile ahead on the right.

For more information or to order tickets call (360) 732-4800.

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