

# Highlights of Enthusiastic Patrons' Memorable Moments...

In general, Mr. Denk's charm and intelligence were evident in all the programming and made for a highly enjoyable festival.

I especially liked Jeremy Denk's approach to classical music not always having to be so serious. Light-hearted is o.k., too.

*The Classical Style: An Opera (of Sorts)* What an undertaking and I loved every minute....yes I have the Rosen book and have read it in parts as it was extremely useful. What a concept! What a libretto! What fun! Hats off however, to the composer Steven Stucky! I'm so glad Jeremy and Tom convinced him to take on this project. The score was brilliant and I was impressed with how well prepared the production for the world premiere. The first Ojai opera! And a world premiere! I'd love to study the score and see all the surprises. How many times did they go round the circle of fifths? Hahahah

Hands down: *The Classical Style*. We loved it and wished we could sit through it twice. (Two of us are trained musically; the third, just a music lover.) Next I'd have to say Jeremy Denk playing the Ligeti Etudes.

*Choral Fantasia* was the highlight of my Festival experience. The Knights paired with Jeremy Denk's pianistic talents along with the well prepared Chorus was the performance for me. Combining the Ligeti Etudes was an example of Tom Morris' talent for programming. Quite eclectic yet with common threads.

I found the Uri Caine group's performance of Rhapsody in Blue incredibly exciting. I always carry a sketchbook and draw people sitting or standing near the lawn area. There was a very fashionable young man who always wore a hat of some kind, usually a paperboy, and during the day he used a paper parasol to sit in the sunny section of the lawn. He watched through opera glasses. He was fun to draw.

I thought the two Sunrise concerts were supreme. And lots more as well: Jeremy Denk, Ara G, and Christopher H are all so very smart and interesting. Storm Large- well what can one say! She's the Real Deal. Denk's opera was fun and also smart. I thought the whole ambience of the festival was fun, festive, elegant, and inclusive. Smiles ran rampant throughout the weekend.

I very much enjoyed the novelty and creativity of the Charles Rosen opera, Also, I was very impressed by the Knights--reminded me of a great group who would also do so well at Ojai, Pink Martini. I liked so much of the program. The Saturday morning Ives got me a little sleepy in parts, but maybe that is a good thing.

I wished I could spend all four days in Ojai. The organization was perfect. Enough restrooms, very clean. I watched afterwards the videos and the program and artists are outstanding. Also very funny especially my first language is German.

Both Late night concerts were excellent. I loved the discussions on Thu and Fri but must admit that I liked Jeremy's discussion of the idea of the opera more than the opera itself. Brooklyn Rider and that venue were amazing but so was Sun morning at Meditation Mount and I am not a choral lover usually.

Excellent musicians, sound quality & a lovely setting - maybe consider moving the Festival up a month for cooler weather.

Always a thrilling lineup and one event contributes to the memory of the other. That interconnectedness is what is so cool

Just the variety and skill of the musicians - variety in the program. Nice way to catch up with folks. I like to hear the comments as it helps construct my view.

*Seven Deadly Sins* most memorable program! Conversations with strangers always a memorable plus.

I enjoyed going to the area with the green chairs. I met a number of new people there and had some interesting conversations. It's a great idea - especially for those of us who come to the Festival alone. I exchanged cards with several people and will be able to continue the acquaintanceship next year.

Introduced one of my adult sons to the festival and it was fun to see his amazement at all that is the OMF. Liked the Weil piece Saturday night.

It was all memorable.....Just wonderful. Jeremy is a treasure and he put together a great experience for all of us. To hear him play is heavenly... what a talent. The opera! What a treat.....

Loved the pleasure of Ojai Festival attendees as well as just Ojai people at free concert in park along with vitality of Friday night.

Lying on my back staring at the sky and trees while listening to live music

Lying with my young son under the giant oak on the lawn listening to Mozart on a gorgeous Sunday morning and getting a picture that captured the moment - smiles all around:-)

Morton Feldman's *Rothko Chapel*. I have loved this piece for years, so it was a thrill to hear it performed live.

*Seven Deadly Sins* was an immersive experience with music singing and story. I found myself arguing with the politics, meaning I cared about what was being presented

Sitting in the middle of the choir at Sunday Sunrise concert. My whole body was immersed in the sound, and my soul was deeply touched by the power of the voices around me.

So many. Delighted there were lots of chances to hear Jeremy Denk play. Wonderful to hear Janacek and Schubert back to back. Lots of fun watching Beethoven, Mozart and Hayden, Tonic, Dominant, and Subdominant slug it out! Friday night fun! Did I forget Andrew Norman's Light Screens and how the nature spirits lighted up on the oaks? Sorry FLW windows, the spirits of Ojai jumped in and took over! (I think this is more than one memory, oh well)

Sunday morning: sitting in that beautiful bowl with the trees and their dappled sunlight and listening to Mozart and the bird's responses. It was exquisite.

Talking with all members of Brooklyn Rider after their Saturday morning performance.

Talking with some of the performers in a relaxed casual atmosphere

Talking with the members after the performance was so memorable.

The attentive focus of the audiences.

The *Classical Opera (of Sorts)* is a stellar example of what the Ojai Festival is all about - the best in new and creative musical collaboration.

The ending of Uri Caine's Goldberg Canons on Sunday morning, bringing a spirited program to an almost spiritual conclusion.

The Ives program on Saturday morning was a revelation, in terms of my not being familiar with the pieces, and their being performed by such incredible musicians. The interspersing of the underlying hymns sung by Hudson Shad was brilliant.

The Ives Violin Sonatas were perfectly performed. The Ligeti was truly mind-bending and remarkable. Denk's first interview about the overall festival was intelligent and very helpful.

THE LIGETI WAS AMAZING! I was thoroughly entertained by Steve Stucky's piece. Timo Andres' work was a terrific piece of programming. Nota Bene: ALL THESE RECENT COMPOSITIONS GOT HUGE STANDING OVATIONS! The notion that the Ojai Festival needs to "tone down" the programming to include older and more familiar works is demonstrably false.

The movie *32 Short Films on Glenn Gould* was very moving, the Opera was marvelous, the Rothko Chapel was a pleasant surprise; and the Sunday Canonade (except for the Uri Caine) was very illuminating. Discovering Hudson Shad was also a treat.

The Opera was fantastic. We loved Jeremy Denk playing the Ligeti. Timo Andres was also amazing. Liked the mix of more traditional classical music with the more contemporary.

The Opera was wonderful and fun for my whole family. The Mozart interpretation was amazing. Seeing John Adams was exciting. The conductor responding to the police siren was funny.

The programs and performances were excellent. I came for the Ives and Weill, but "Rothko Chapel" was an unexpected surprise.

The Saturday Sunrise concert - perfect space, lovely silhouetted California scene through barn doors, beautiful music, and charming performers.

The second half of the 11 AM Sunday morning's concert was totally enjoyable! And again as in past years the sound reinforcement was first rate. I always go to the mixer area afterwards and complement them on this.

The Sunday Sunrise hymns----so lovely, poignant---and the entire audience seemed to be moved by the experience

There were so many: The opera plus Haydn, Timo playing *Kreisleriana*, Lisa Kaplan and Jeremy playing Lisa's piano four hands duet, We just about thoroughly enjoyed the entire Festival with each event becoming, for us, a "memorable moment," eg. Uri Caine's Mahler Reimagined, Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* with Storm Large and Hudson Shad, Mozart's Coronation Concerto update, and the Mozart Jupiter plus the Canonade. We had to miss a couple of them due to sheer exhaustion. I have to say the Christopher Hailey's notes were incredible, a real highlight too.

This year was the first time that my husband and I were able to experience the sunrise performances. Both concerts were so special because of the intimate spaces, fantastic artists and well planned set.

Timo Andres sat next to me during a concert - only at Ojai do we get to discover the warmth and humanity of our artists in the next seat over

Uri Caine's performances...not just a moment, but a series of really amazing, out of the box musical experiences.

We enjoyed everything about this year's festival and only wish we had selected more concerts.

We loved the Opera on Friday night and were particularly taken with both the Ives Saturday Evening (very beautiful as the sun set and the moon rose over Libbey Bowl). The Seven Deadly Sins was also a highlight.

We never would have thought to pair the Schubert and Janacek pieces the way Jeremy did, and they were fascinating. We understand and appreciate music so much better when we know more about it. Also, we loved the pairing of the four Ives Sonatas with the quartet's singing of hymns that were quoted in them. And, of course, we especially loved the opera!

While experimental, the music this year, as opposed to others, was comprehensible and melodic.

Wow, so many memorable moments this year, but if I had to choose only one it would be the Thursday discussion with Jermy Denk, really eliminating for what was coming for the next four days. What an interesting person and Ara is always an excellent interviewer, what a privilege to hear these talks.

ALL of Christopher Hailey's interviews, Storm Large and Hudson Shad in *Seven Deadly Sins*----- outstanding!!

Almost front row for the Gershwin mixup -- wonderful! We will remember Thurs. and Friday's performances a long time. Magical.

Being inspired to write the article *The Color of Music*.

Found the afternoon talks at the church to be very informative and most interesting. Enjoyed Andres' concerto and most of the Denk performances. The Knights orchestra was excellent. Was very amused by the Saturday inclusion of irreverent short canons that are rarely performed. Enjoyed the Weill piece very much.

I chose the sunrise concerts to specifically hear Brooklyn Rider. I decided to attend the Sunday one as well. If I had to predict the experience of where an aficionado of classical music would arrive in the afterlife, I hope it would be like the program on Meditation Mount.

I loved everything, but what stands out for me is the Ives performances, particularly Jeremy Denk's. He found lyricism in pieces where I had never experienced it before. Ditto with his performance of the Ligeti *Etudes*. I feel sure this is the best reading of these pieces that I will ever hear!

I'm sure that some classical music purists were disgruntled with Uri Caine's reworking of the Gershwin songbook, but that concert absolutely captured me- as a result of that set (and, by extension, the decision to host Jeremy Denk as music director, and to cultivate such wonderfully adventurous programming), I have already purchased passes for the 2015 Festival. Deepest thanks to everyone involved in this year's festival- it was an extraordinary event, and we can't wait for next year!

Interviews, conversations and panels. Especially with Jeremy and those who knew Charles Rosen well. Jeremy's recital. The last Beethoven piece.

Jeremy Denk's performance on Thursday night was compelling and transformative. He built connections through interpretation that I believe no one else could have done. Perhaps the most inspiring musical moment of the weekend was the late night performance of Rothko Chapel on Saturday evening. It was a gorgeous performance in an ideal setting.

The curation of the program was outstanding. I loved the Mozart piano concerto with the recomposed piano part. Brilliant idea, brilliantly recomposed, just outstanding. And the canons on Sunday were memorable as well.

The musical offerings (by Denk and Brooklyn Rider) at the Thursday talks. The wonderful little Mozart rondo offered us by Denk at a morning rehearsal. Altogether this was a joyous, inspirational festival. Thank you.

The program composition on Sunday. It showed off the particular talents of a large group of the participants. Very well diversified with plenty of good humor..

The program we saw was outstanding, Jeremy Denk and Jennifer Frautschi playing the beautiful Ives sonatas for violin and piano. I thought the programming of the Festival was wonderfully eclectic and ambitious, and would urge the powers that be to bring Mr. Denk back for a second tour of duty. It was also terrific to watch the video streaming of the programs I was unable to attend.

We got there early, drove up from LA. And at 10:10 a.m. on Saturday Jeremy Denk is warming up on stage in his jeans and t-shirt and my friend and I sit up close in the shade--maybe only 4 other people around us--and we listen and it's like a private concert. It was wonderful. Thank you.

As someone who came from overseas seeing the Libbey Bowl and the surrounding area so beautifully dressed for the festivities to come is something I'll never forget. Even though I'm half a world away I'm sure Ojai Festival will draw me back again.

Hearing Jeremy Denk perform in this intimate setting in the Libbey Bowl, AND actually meeting and talking with Jeremy while waiting to be seated in a restaurant. Also, during the Saturday morning concert, there was a cacophony of crows in the trees that provided a counterpoint to Charles Ives music that I think Ives would have enjoyed!