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## **Brevard Music Center Breaks Ground on Parker Concert Hall**

**Coming in Summer 2020: BMC's New Lakeside Performance and Year Round Multi-Purpose Event Space**

**Brevard, NC**—At a recent groundbreaking ceremony, **Brevard Music Center** proudly revealed the early stages of a breathtaking new lakeside structure—its first major construction project in more than 50 years. Overlooking scenic Lake Milner and designed by Platt Architecture PA, the \$6 million **Parker Concert Hall** will become BMC's first ever *year-round* performance venue and the first multi-purpose event space built since 1964's Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium.

Opening in June 2020, the hall will serve as the summer home of BMC's growing piano, chamber, classical guitar, and jazz programming. Featuring excellent acoustics and a seating capacity of 400, the hall's innovative, retractable modular system from Belgium will allow for ultimate flexibility in floor plan design as well as transform the hall into an accommodating multi-purpose space for performances, community gatherings, weddings, business retreats, and a wide variety of special events and celebrations. BMC will begin accepting hall reservations for the fall of 2020, which will include catering and banquet options for up to 250 individuals.

"The joy of seeing aspiring musicians, in the company of other like-minded youth, became an inspiration to us," said **Drs. Tom and Joanne Parker**, lead sponsors of the Parker Concert Hall. The concept of a building that would meet student needs represented a melding of the Parkers' strong belief in active philanthropy (a bi-directional process of mutually shared ideas and common interests) with the overall strategy and mission of BMC. "The Brevard Music Center—with its mission, vision, and values—seemed the perfect place to express those interests. The national standing of BMC within summer musical festivals for youth is quite remarkable. This new hall anchors BMC's position, even enhancing it, and provides an even greater attraction for national and international students to attend."

The new Parker Concert Hall will serve as a dramatic, natural setting for year-round performances and events that not only enrich the lives of our residents but also drive dollars to local businesses in our community. "With this inspiring addition to its 181-acre campus, Brevard Music Center reinforces its presence as a vital and integral part of our community's cultural fabric and its international reputation as a sought-after designation for artistic excellence in education and programming," said **Brevard Mayor Jimmy Harris** at the April 2019 groundbreaking ceremony. "Brevard Music Center's new concert hall will be a tremendous asset to Transylvania County as both a performance space and community-builder," added **County Commission Mike Hawkins**. "I applaud the Music Center for its vision and for its ongoing

dedication to providing yet another welcoming space to local non-profits and organizations who share a mutual commitment to making Brevard a better place to live and work."

*To learn how to support this effort, please contact **Dave Perrett** in the Brevard Music Center development office at **828-862-2121** or [dperrett@brevardmusic.org](mailto:dperrett@brevardmusic.org).*

### **ABOUT BREVARD MUSIC CENTER | SUMMER INSTITUTE & FESTIVAL**

Founded in 1936, the **Brevard Music Center** stands as one of this country's premier summer classical music training programs and festivals. Each year, 500 gifted students (ages 14 through post-college) come to the Music Center from across the United States and around the world to study with a distinguished faculty and renowned guest artists.

Each summer, students participate in a vigorous program of instruction and performance led by **BMC Artistic Director and alumnus Keith Lockhart, the Principal Conductor of the Boston Pops and Chief Guest Conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra in London**. Brevard's hallmark is the powerful sense of community that re-emerges every June through August as faculty and students present more than 80 remarkable concerts to summer audiences totaling over 40,000.

For more information on BMC, visit [brevardmusic.org](http://brevardmusic.org), call **(828) 862-2100**, "like" the Brevard Music Center on Facebook, follow [@brevardmusic](https://twitter.com/brevardmusic) on Twitter and Instagram, stream season highlights via [SoundCloud](https://soundcloud.com/brevardmusic), and visit the Brevard Music Center [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel for performance videos from previous festival seasons.

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