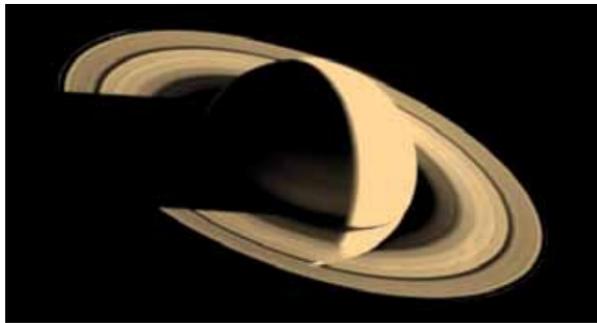


Outdoor Happenings

Saturn - Incomprehensible Beauty of the Heavens

by Spencer Stokes, Dead Horse Point Ranger

Space, the unfathomable vast expanse of everything beyond the earth's atmosphere, is full of objects beyond mankind's understanding. Galaxies composed of hundreds of millions of stars, immense clouds of energized gases, and stars that are thousands of times the size of our sun are just a few of the sights that await astronomers who gaze through telescopes. Though perhaps, the most amazing view that can be had with a telescope is of a neighbor. Saturn, one of the most incredible planets in the solar system, is now visible at a reasonable hour of night. Viewed with high powered telescopes the full grandeur of Saturn is revealed, banded rings adorn the yellowish planet in a sight that will never be forgotten.



earth, to have liquid states of matter on its surface. These are some of the amazing attributes of Saturn that make it one of the most unique planets.

Luckily Saturn is a relatively easy object to find in the night sky. In the month of August look towards the southeastern sky and notice a point of light slightly brighter than the stars surrounding it. Congratulations, you've found Saturn! Even small binoculars will allow you to see the planet and its largest moon, Titan. Larger binoculars will show a slight football shape to the planet and small telescopes will reveal the rings of Saturn.

Saturn is a fascinating planet with many aspects that make it entirely unique. Of course, the most unique attribute of the planet is its massive rings of rust and debris that encircle the planet. These rings extend approximately seventy-five thousand miles out from the planet's equator and are roughly 66 feet in thickness. One hypothesis regarding the rings is that they are the remnants of a destroyed moon. Saturn has many moons, over 82 known moons orbit the massive gas giant. The largest moon, Titan, is the most interesting. It has a thick atmosphere of nitrogen and is the only object in the solar system, besides



Dead Horse Point is located nine miles north of Moab on US 191, and 23 miles southwest on SR313 (32 miles total.) The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Park admission is \$20 per vehicle and is valid for three days.

The Greatest End-of-Summer-Feast: The Moab Music Festival's 29th Season

The Moab Music Festival is back! One of the only events in the U.S. to welcome live audiences during its 2020 Festival, the canyons, rivers, and mesas will again ring with music in concert with the landscape® from August 30 to



Ayano Ninomiya
Photo: Nisha Sondhe

September 16. Southeast Utah's ruggedly stunning desert hosts a particularly powerful 29th slate of events this year, the centerpiece of which is the Moab Music Festival debut of celebrated actor George Takei in the inaugural work from Moab Music Festival's new Commissioning Club. The World Premiere of *Lost Freedom: A Memory*, on Saturday, September 4th at Red Cliffs Lodge, features Takei as narrator and was written by Japanese American composer Kenji Bunch, using Takei's words as the basis for the text, all woven together by Music Director Michael Barrett. The new composition for narrator and chamber ensemble



Manhattan Transfer

recounts the traumatic experience of the Takei family in the U.S. during World War II. The piece is the cornerstone of *Lost Freedom: Japanese American Confinement in the U.S.*, a concert hosted by Takei, honoring and celebrating Japanese American composers.

Moab Music Festival's trademark world-class live musical experiences will also be heard in three signature Grotto Concerts via jet boat excursion into the heart of Canyonlands, which feature Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Corigliano's *Red Violin Caprices*, derived from his Academy Award-winning film score, jumping off the movie screen on to the stage (September 2); and a steel pan and marimba percussion duo making their grotto debut (September 9). Other programs include an intimate evening of music, good company, and a delectable meal at a private home among the buttes and mesas (September 7); and a private ranch concert on the banks of the Colorado to hear the smooth sounds of the Matt Munisteri Quartet (September 8). Four often-sold-out Musical Hikes to a natural wilderness



Violist Cynthia Phelps
Photo: Richard Bowditch



Junction Trio, performing this September

“concert hall” will include electrifying cellist Jay Campbell juxtaposing old and new (September 5); and patrons exploring *Imprints*, marking the 20th anniversary of 9/11, from the tracks of desert animals in the red sand to the legacies of loved ones (September 11), and including the World Premiere of Pulitzer Prize and Grammy-winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis's touching *Elegy* (for those we lost), commemorating the victims of the pandemic. This year's free Labor Day Picnic, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Power, is set in shady and serene Old City Park (September 6), where The Festival's



Violist and Artistic Director Leslie Tomkins
Photo: Richard Bowditch



Pianist and Music Director Michael Barrett at a Private House Concert
Photo: Richard Bowditch

eclectic programming is on display with rousing performances by percussionist/composer Andy Akiho, acclaimed guitarist Jason Vieaux in Pat Metheny's latest work for solo guitar, and soprano Corinne Winters in selections from the American Songbook.

The exuberant Grammy winning Manhattan Transfer will wow audiences with rollicking performances in its signature pop, jazz, R&B, rock & roll, and swing styles (September 11). The Festival continues to follow all local, state, and national health and safety guidelines, prioritizing its commitment to the well-being and comfort of its patrons,



Jay Campbell at a Music Hike
Photo: Elizabeth Leslie Photography

artists, and staff. For a complete list of performances and to purchase tickets, go to www.moabmusicfest.org, or call the Box Office at (435) 259-7003, or visit the Festival Office, 58 East 300 South, Moab, UT 84532. And be sure to mention you read about the Moab Music Festival in *Moab Happenings*.