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## RAVINIA FESTIVAL LAUNCHES WEEKLY *RAVINIA TV*

First episode features performances by Chicago and Ramsey Lewis on July 3

Upcoming episodes to feature Ravinia-exclusive performances from CSO concertmaster Robert Chen, pianists Kevin Cole and Jorge Federico Osorio, singer/songwriter Andrew Bird, and vocalists Sylvia McNair, Michelle DeYoung, and Michelle Areyzaga

**HIGHLAND PARK, IL** — Ravinia Festival today announced the launch of a 20-minute weekly variety show, *RaviniaTV*, webcast on Ravinia’s YouTube channel and Facebook page every Friday at 7 p.m. CDT. The series, sponsored by Exelon, kicks off July 3 with jazz legend **Ramsey Lewis** performing from his living room, as well as one of the most successful rock bands of all time, **Chicago**, sharing world-premiere performances of songs recorded from a concert last year.

“It broke our hearts when the Covid pandemic forced Ravinia to cancel a season for the first time since the Great Depression, so the whole team got together to create ways to stay connected to the Ravinia Family, our artists, and audiences in what would otherwise be our silent summer,” said Ravinia President and CEO **Welz Kauffman**. “So many of the longtime legends, as well as nascent stars, associated with Ravinia shared the same sense of urgency to keep the music playing as we all struggle with the hardships of this strange new reality. The solution was a show that not only shares music but offers a casual, conversational feeling like you would have on the Lawn at Ravinia.”

The show, created by **Nick Pullia**, Ravinia’s longtime director of communications, breaks down into departments like a magazine, including “Ravinia from Home,” in which guests share their work from their living rooms as well as new performances recorded on Ravinia’s main stage without an audience; “Zoom into Highland Park,” which familiarizes audiences with the movers and shakers of Ravinia’s hometown; “Chicago’s Own,” which spotlights local music makers; “Reach Teach Play,” directed to young viewers; and “TOPical5,” which features Chicago radio personalities counting down the top five songs related to our reality—such as **Melissa Forman** from WLIT counting down the top hair bands while craving a little hair care of her own, or **Maggie Clennon Reberg** of WFMT essaying the top operatic “mad scenes.”

STREAMING ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK



All performances will be unique to *RaviniaTV*. Upcoming episodes feature singer/songwriter **Andrew Bird**; the **Chen Quartet**, comprising Chicago Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Robert Chen and his family, with CSO principal clarinetist **Stephen Williamson**; the **Lincoln Trio; Bowmanville**; singer/composer **Tony DeSare**; soprano **Michelle Areyzaga**, an alumna of Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, accompanied by **Welz Kauffman**; singer/actress **Sylvia McNair** (an almost annual Ravinia guest, who starred in *Camelot* and *The Most Happy Fella*) and Gershwin-expert pianist **Kevin Cole**; Ralph Covert's **Bad Examples** and **Ralph's World**; and, in a special episode celebrating the 50th anniversary this summer of Janis Joplin's lone Ravinia concert, Jefferson Starship frontwoman **Cathy Richardson** (who for years starred as Joplin in the musical *Love, Janis*) leading her band in a tribute to the most iconic woman in rock history.

Each episode also includes interviews with such guests as Ravinia Chief Conductor and Curator **Marin Alsop**, plus new features on such topics as how both civil unrest and the pandemic and its economic fallout might affect the art produced in this era, or how to help your kids keep sane while social distancing.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/raviniafestival](http://www.youtube.com/raviniafestival)

Ravinia welcomes all festival fans to follow, connect, and interact online with @RaviniaFestival on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), as well as its blog, [backstage.ravinia.org](http://backstage.ravinia.org). Ravinia Festival is a not-for-profit organization.

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