

Constella Festival to unveil 2015 season



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Music videos and a national public relations campaign part of new strategy



Photo
(Photo: The Enquirer/Liz Dufour)

The Constella Festival of Music and Fine Arts is changing its season and possibly its concept, too.

Founder Tatiana Berman says that the festival, held in the fall since it was founded in 2011, will return in April in a new, scaled-back version.

Berman says she felt that the fall season "was over-saturated with arts." The festival, she says, also came up against [FotoFocus](#), featuring exhibitions of lens-based art and events all over the city.

"We learned our lesson," she says. "I think April will work better for us."

Berman is rethinking the festival's concept, as well. Originally planned as a collaborative festival, its goal for three years was to shine a light on all of Cincinnati's arts organizations as they kicked off in the fall, while bringing in major names such as Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Anthony McGill, composer Nico Muhly and others.

Now, Berman is producing music videos – aimed at reaching a broader audience, she says. And she hopes that a national public relations campaign will potentially draw out-of-town audience members.

She will reveal details on Oct. 17, at the culmination of a three-day "Constella Showcase," featuring two performances by the nutty classical duo of Igudesman and Joo.

Berman will announce the complete festival lineup at the 21c Museum Hotel, Downtown. Throughout the evening, there will be a screening of several music videos, including one featuring Berman, and a premiere of the first music video by the Grammy Award-winning group Roomful of Teeth. There also will be a sneak peek of [the new documentary film "Maestro"](#) starring Paavo Jarvi, Bell, Hahn, Lang Lang, and Pekka Kuusisto.

Igudesman and Joo -- pianist Hyung-ki Joo and violinist Aleksey Igudesman -- describe their musical comedy act as part concert, part stand-up and part theatrical spectacle. Their inspiration can be traced to the great Dane Victor Borge, the actor Dudley Moore, Jack Benny and PDQ Bach. They also draw from Monty Python, Chico Marx, Spike Jones and the creators of "South Park," to name a few, they said in an interview with the Enquirer last year.

Their comedy sketches have garnered more than 35 million views on YouTube. They appeared locally with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra in 2013, but Berman says they are bringing a new show for their performance on Oct. 16 at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. They also will present a public interactive workshop with SCPA students on Oct. 15.

Constella Showcase events

Oct. 15: Igudesman and Joo: 8 to 88: Musical Education for Children of All Ages, a workshop. 6 p.m., SCPA's Mayerson Theater, 108 W Central Parkway, Over-the-Rhine. Free, but registration is required at www.constellafestival.org.

Oct. 16: An Evening with Igudesman and Joo, 8 p.m. SCPA's Mayerson Theater. Tickets: \$25; \$12 students, plus fees, at www.constellafestival.org.

Oct. 17: Constella 2015: The Announcement. 8 p.m., 21c Museum Hotel Cincinnati, 609 Walnut St. Registration required at www.constellafestival.org.

Information: 513-633-6061 or www.constellafestival.org.



Igudesman and Joo(Photo: Provided)