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## RARE AS A DAY IN JUNE

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IN CLASSICAL MUSIC, June is really the cruelest month. Oh, it's summertime, all right, and music is suddenly everywhere, seemingly lured by the sun and growing right out of the cracks in the sidewalk. But while blues and retro and hip-hop and emo and screamo and post-post-everything singer/songwriters are partying down for the tourists, classical music lovers are suddenly adrift. Orchestras and chamber ensembles have ended their regular performing seasons and July festivals have yet to start. Everybody's on holiday.

We can expect just a few healthy breezes to blow through all this dead air, and one of those happens this afternoon. Ahead of its summer season of classical and popular events, Ocean Grove's Great Auditorium will present the season finale of the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra, 3:30 p.m. today in Ocean Grove. The Youth Orchestra organization sports a variety of ensembles for various age levels and abilities. This afternoon's concert will feature performances by the members of the Senior Youth Orchestra, the Intermediate String Orchestra, Preparatory String Orchestra and the Chamber Music Players.

The Great Auditorium is located at 54 Pitman Ave., Ocean Grove. Donations will be accepted at the door. For more information visit the NJSYO Web site, [www.njsyo.org](http://www.njsyo.org) or the Ocean Grove Web site, [www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org).

A second upcoming classical event is a Two River Theatre performance by pianist Xiayin Wang, who has performed several times in this area with the chamber ensemble Amity Players as well as in solo recitals. A young Chinese-born pianist, Wang made her Carnegie Hall debut last year and has won numerous awards both in China and the U.S. Her first solo CD, with performances of Bach, Mozart, Ravel, Scriabin and Gershwin, was released last year on the Marquis label. (See review in APP Music Notes 7/29/07: "Tone, Technique, Distinguish Wang")

For this program, Wang has arranged a charming grab-bag of composers, most of whom are closely associated to national traditions, including contemporary Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla (the man who did for the tango what Chopin did for the mazurka), "La Valse" by French Impressionist Maurice Ravel, and U.S.S.R. prodigal son Sergei Prokofiev's "Sarcasms," Op. 17.

Also on the bill will be Alexander Scriabin's *Fantaisie, Op. 28*, the monumental Busoni transcription of J.S. Bach's Chaconne and three of Domenico Scarlatti's charming one-movement sonatas, works that helped herald the dawn of the Classical era.

Wang will perform at 8 p.m. June 14 at Two River Theater, 21 Bridge St., Red Bank. Tickets are \$20 and be purchased through the Two River Web site, [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org) or by calling (732) 345-1400.

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