

# PRESS RELEASE

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## THE GRAND CANYON MUSIC FESTIVAL

*“... a treat for eyes and ears.”*

- **The New York Times**

Robert Bonfiglio, Founding Director Clare Hoffman, Artistic Director

### PRESENTS

THE SIXTEENTH SEASON OF ITS  
NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSER APPRENTICE PROJECT  
(NACAP)

Sunday, September 4, 2016

**WHAT:** Native American Composer Apprentice Project (NACAP). Recipient of the New Music USA New Music Educators Award and the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

For three weeks in August and September, NACAP teaching Composers-in-Residence Raven Chacon, Michael Begay, and Blair Quamahongnewa tutor talented school students from Navajo, Hopi and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community schools in the art of composition, resulting in new works for string quartet. Students participate in workshops, rehearsals, performances and recordings of their works with NACAP’s 2016 ensembles-in-residence The Catalyst Quartet and Sweet Plantain. The student composers' works are performed at Native American reservation schools and the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock and Scottsdale Community College, and culminating in world premieres during an all-day NACAP Fair at Grand Canyon Music Festival on Sunday September 4.

**WHO:** COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE Raven Chacon, Michael Begay (Navajo Nation,) and Blair Quamahongnewa (Hopi); ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE The Catalyst Quartet and Sweet Plantain. Students from 5 Navajo and Hopi Reservation schools and Salt River High School in Scottsdale.

### WHEN:

Reservation tour, August 22-September 1, 2016.

Scottsdale Community College, August 29, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Navajo Nation Museum, September 1, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Grand Canyon world premiere performances of student works, Sunday September 4, 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Reservation tour: Tuba City High School, Tuba City Boarding School, Grey Hills Academy, Tuba City, AZ; Chinle High School, Chinle, AZ; Whitehorse High School, San Juan, Utah; Salt River High School, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale. Community Concerts: Navajo Nation Museum, Scottsdale Community College. World premiere performances of student works Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon National Park

**TICKETS:** Admission to NACAP events is free.

For complete schedule information and tickets visit [www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org](http://www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org)

Winner: New Music USA's New Music Educators Award

Winner: President's Council on the Arts and the Humanities

National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

Winner: Governor's Arts Award

Two-time Winner: ASCAP-Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming

**SPONSORSHIP.**

*The Grand Canyon Music Festival is sponsored in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts through appropriations from the Arizona State Legislature, and with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts; and with support from WESTAF, the Western State Arts Federation; Grand Canyon National Park; Canyon Plaza Resort Grand Canyon; Red Feather Lodge; Best Western Premier Grand Canyon Squire Inn; Albright Training Center; Xanterra Resorts; Transcanyon Shuttle; North Country Health Care, Grand Canyon Clinic; Vishnu Press; Grand Canyon Lions Club; Grand Canyon Rotary; Delaware North, and many other individual and corporate sponsors.*

*The Festival administers the Native American Composers' Apprentice Project (NACAP) with support from the National Endowment for the Arts; Y.E.S. for Diné Bideyah and partner schools through funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts; the ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund; the Arizona Woman's Partnership; Santa Fe Natural Tobacco; NewMusic USA; and the Densford Fund. Expansion of NACAP to Whitehorse High School in Utah is funded in part by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums and the National Endowment for the Arts. Expansion of NACAP to Salt River High School on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Scottsdale is funded in part by the the Scottsdale Council on the Arts.*