

25th Anniversary Timeline

With our silver anniversary upon us, we invite you to share in recollecting the memorable events that have brought us to this 25th season of

Music in the Vineyards.

The festival began out of a deep love for chamber music and the Napa Valley. Each of these is a powerful force in its own right; when combined, we see how they have created a lasting institution.

There isn't space or time to acknowledge the many leaders and volunteers who put in countless hours to build the festival. We are especially indebted to the founders, who believed in the concept, rolled up their sleeves, and pulled off what seemed like the impossible. It is because of these people that we are celebrating a quarter century of

Music in the Vineyards.

Thank you as well to you, our dedicated patrons, for sustaining us and carrying us to this milestone. It has been an absolute joy.



January 1, 1995 –

A modest house concert is performed at the home of Gail & Harry Adams to gauge interest in a possible chamber music festival. Several attendees later serve on the festival's founding Board of Directors.



Pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** performs our first fund-raiser, a benefit recital at Robert Mondavi Winery.



The **debut season of MITV** features six concerts on a shoestring budget, requiring that Artistic Directors **Michael & Daria Adams** play in EVERY piece.

1995

MITV Presidents

1995 – 1999: Ralph Mendelson

1997

Kitchens in the Vineyards

launches in the spring, a home and garden tour that grows in popularity to attract 1,000+ patrons and provides financial stability for the organization. The festival expands to double the number of concerts, meaning more musicians, more rehearsal time, and more tickets to sell.



MITV develops a meaningful partnership with **Ron & Diane Miller**, who graciously offer Silverado Vineyards as a venue for three concerts each season, as well as use of the River House, which serves as a home base for musicians, rehearsals, and post-concert events for musicians and supporters.

MITV acquires a nine foot “Hamburg” model **Steinway piano** with the help of board members who personally guarantee the loan.



May 1, 2002 – MITV loses its founder and executive director, **Gail Adams**, to pancreatic cancer, a devastating loss that puts into question the future survival of the festival.

In Gail's honor, the Board of Directors rallies to present the 8th Season, featuring the premiere of *To Live in This World*, a work commissioned from David Evan Thomas dedicated to Gail's memory.

Joan Lounsbury is hired as Executive Director, for a tenure of five fruitful years.

1998

MITV Presidents

1999

2001

2000 – 2002: David Marsten

2002

2003 – 2005: Melinda Mendelson

MITV celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Napa Valley Opera House with mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**.



Evie Ayers is hired on as Executive Director. Hailing from the UK with an arts administration background, Evie is an integral part of the festival's success to this day.

Roll Over Beethoven is created, a pro-am style fundraiser highlighting amateur vintner musicians and professional musicians collaborating in a memorable night of classical, jazz and rock 'n roll.



MITV celebrates its **20th Anniversary Season**, punctuated by a devastating earthquake that strikes the night before the final concert. MITV also launches its Solo Instrumental Competition, awarding talented high school musicians scholarship prizes and the opportunity to perform in a special showcase concert during festival.

2004

2007

2010

2014

2005 – 2007: Bonnie Thoreen

2008 – 2010: Deborah Tonella

2010 – 2012: Greg Evans

2012 – 2013: Carl Thorsen

2013 – 2014: Anne Golden

2014 – 2016: James Rockett

Here's to the next 25 years!

MITV launches its **Apprentice String Quartet Program** to identify and nurture an emerging ensemble while giving back to the local community. The ensemble collaborates with professional musicians during the festival and performs free outreach concerts around the Napa Valley.



The **25th Anniversary Season** celebrates MITV's rich history and the significant impact the festival has made on the Napa Valley's arts community. To mark the occasion, composer **TJ Cole** is commissioned to write a string sextet and a concert dedicated to the memory of Gail Adams features the reprise of David Evan Thomas' *To Live in This World*, performed by Gail's granddaughter, soprano **Tori Tedeschi Adams**.



We can't think of a better way to honor our past than by looking to the future with hope and dedication to our mission; to enrich people's lives through the power of music.

As the cultural landscape of the Napa Valley has evolved and our festival has grown in scope and quality, our stalwart leadership has stayed true to the core tenets

of who we are. Our education program continues to grow giving us the ability to provide access to chamber music for all ages and walks of life in our community. We believe this delicate balance of thoughtful growth and intentional intimacy is paramount to the concert experience.

We've come a long way in the past 25 years, and we are excited to see where the next 25 years will take us. One thing is certain, Music in the Vineyards is here to stay, and we are grateful to those who have forged a path to ensure quality chamber music will be presented here in the Napa Valley for many years to come.

25th Anniversary Honorary Committee

Melinda & Ralph Mendelson, *Chairs*

Joan Crowley, Robilee Frederick Deane, Peter McCrea,
David Marsten, Bonnie Thoreen

A special thanks to this incredible group of people who have dedicated countless hours over the past 25 years to the success of **Music in the Vineyards**.

2018

2016 – 2018: Anne Evans

2019

2018 – 2019: Deborah Tonella



Music! Music! Music! That is what it is all about!

From 1994 to the present day, we have been proud to be part of **Music in the Vineyards** as it brings high quality chamber music to the Napa Valley. The rewards of volunteering for a community organization are doubled when two things that you love benefit from your efforts—in our case, the Napa Valley we call home, and a chamber music festival that brings joy to our lives and the lives of Valley residents.

There are many things about **Music in the Vineyards** that are important to us and to our community. The wonderful musicians that come to the Napa Valley from all over the country, and in some cases the world, have not only entertained us with their excellent performances but have become our dear friends. The generosity of the Napa Valley is showcased by the wineries that provide intimate venues for performances and individuals up and down the Valley who provide housing for the musicians each year. We admire the Board and management of the organization that has carefully guided **Music in the Vineyards** so that it has remained viable throughout its history. There are community concerts, scholarships, and free rehearsals in many locations for the people of the Valley to enjoy.

There has not been a moment in the hours, days, and weeks that we have given to MITV from our days as Board Presidents or traveling to conferences and other festivals to “learn the ropes” or setting up the first office or parking cars at Kitchens in the Vineyards that we regret. We treasure the great friendships we have enjoyed over the years. Working for and with all participants in **Music in the Vineyards** has always been fun and we always cherish the MUSIC — especially the Mendelssohn Octet!

Melinda & Ralph Mendelson