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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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¹ Yellow Barn hosts concert by resident artist Sarah
² Rommel

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⁴ TEXT BODY:

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⁵ Yellow Barn's 17th season of Artist Residencies continues
⁶ this month with cellist Sarah Rommel, who returns with her
⁷ Arioso Project, culminating in a free public performance that
⁸ serves as its East Coast premiere Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m.
⁹ in the Big Barn.

¹⁰ Following the hourlong performance, Artistic Director
¹¹ Seth Knopp will moderate a conversation between Rommel and

12 the audience about the program and her work to secure a future
13 for Arioso.

14 Sarah Rommel (Yellow Barn '18) aims to bring to light
15 James Simon's Arioso for solo cello, written in 1929 and
16 unknown at the time of the composer's death in Auschwitz.
17 Arioso was dedicated to the cellist Eva Heinitz, who emigrated to
18 the United States and eventually settled in Seattle in 1948, where
19 she became a much-respected and well-known cello professor.

20 The Arioso manuscript is now part of the permanent
21 collection of the University of Washington. Rommel has
22 commissioned five composers from Iran and the United States "to
23 write a reflection on this piece as a way to resurrect it into the
24 present day, through themes of creativity under oppression and in
25 the context of more relevant and contemporary understandings of
26 adversity," wrote organizers in a news release.

27 Composer Simon (1880–1944) was a pianist and
28 composer whose works are still being discovered today. Despite
29 several opportunities to emigrate during World War II, Simon was
30 "so devoted to his homeland of Germany that he remained in
31 Europe during the conflict, a decision that would eventually
32 claim his life in the gas chambers of Auschwitz in 1944,"
33 organizers said. "It was observed that moments before his death,
34 he was seen jotting down what would be the last bits of music he
35 would ever contribute to this world."

36 Through this project, Rommel says, she strives to present
37 a platform for early-career, diverse composers to be uplifted and
38 heard. With support from Royalty Research Fund at the University
39 of Washington, The Barlow Foundation, and a private patron with
40 fiscal sponsorship through the American Composers Forum,
41 Rommel commissioned new works from composers Aftab
42 Darvishi, Rene Orth, Hilary Purrington, Kian Ravaei, and Derrick
43 Skye.

44 In 2008, Yellow Barn instituted its Artist Residencies, the
45 first retreat program in the United States created specifically for
46 professional, performing musicians.

47 The purpose of the Artist Residencies "is to further the art
48 of the performance of classical music by providing an
49 environment conducive to undistracted study, an exchange of
50 ideas and opportunities for performance. Their content is defined
51 by artists' proposals and Yellow Barn's artistic vision."

52 Yellow Barn Artist Residencies are open to professional
53 musicians of any age and at any stage of their career.

54 Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling 802-387-
55 6637. For more information, visit yellowbarn.org.

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