Sandbox Percussion launches PS21's abridged 2020 season Friday with a pair of concerts at 6 and 8 p.m. in the Chatham, N.Y. performing arts center's open-air Pavilion Theater.

VICTOR CACCESE - PROVIDED BY PS21
PS21's open-air Pavilion Theater goes live this week

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CHATHAM, N.Y. — Performance Spaces for the 21st Century — PS21 — launches its abridged 2020 season this week with the first live performances and the start of a film series in its 350-seat open-air Pavilion Theater.

Only 31 pairs of tickets will be available for each program.

The contemporary chamber music quartet Sandbox Percussion performs Friday evening at 6 and 8; followed July 24 by Calidore String Quartet in a pair of all-Beethoven programs at 6 and 8 p.m. These concerts also will be live-streamed.

Sandbox Percussion — Jonathan Allen, Victor Caccese, Ian Rosenbaum and Terry Sweeney — will perform works by Andy Akiho, Julia Wolfe, Amy Beth Kirsten, Julius Eastman, Nick DiBerardino, and Steve Reich.

The Calidore's 6 p.m. concert will feature Beethoven's Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130, together with "Grosse Fugue" Op. 133, at 6 pm. In their 8 p.m. program, the group will pair Beethoven's String Quartet No. 16 in F major, Op. 135, and the Quartet in A Major, Op. 18, No. 5. The quartet's members are Jeffrey Myers and Ryan Meehan, violins; Jeremy Berry, viola; and Estelle Choi, cello.
Curated by members of local fire companies, the "Firefighters' Select" film series begins Thursday with "Catnip Nation," a documentary about stray cats; selected by the Chatham Rescue Squad. All films in this series will be shown 7 p.m. Thursdays.

In addition to "Firefighters Select," PS21 will present "Artists' Choice," a series of films chosen by a variety of regional artists from various disciplines that illustrate how movies have inspired their work.

"Just a month ago, bringing live performances back to PS21 before the fall seemed like an impossible dream," PS21 officials said in a recently released statement. "But dreams sometimes come true. Thanks to our unique open-air Pavilion Theater situated on 100 acres of rolling hills and meadows, we will usher in an abridged summer season ... ."

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Sandbox Percussion presented more than 30 performances throughout the United States last season and made their United Kingdom debut at the Vale of Glamorgan festival in Cardiff where they premiered a new work by Benjamin Wallace for percussion quartet and fairground organ. The quartet has released its debut album with Coviello Classics.

Recipient of a 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant and a 2017 Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists, the Calidore String Quartet first made international headlines as winner of the $100,000 Grand Prize of the 2016 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition. The quartet is celebrating its 10th anniversary and the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth by presenting cycles of his string quartets. Highlights of recent seasons have included performances in major venues throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

Complete program and ticket information is available on the PS21 website — ps21chatham.org — or by phone at 518-392-6121.

PS21 is at 2980 Route 66.