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Music for Farms Benefit for The Rockland Farm Alliance

A Music for Farms Benefit Concert for the [Rockland Farm Alliance \(RFA\)](#) will be held on Sunday September 13th at 3 PM at the [Threifold Auditorium](#), 260 Hungry Hollow Road, Chestnut Ridge, New York. A reception following at 4:30 PM at the Pfeiffer Garden (next door) will feature locally grown treats. [Tickets](#) are \$17 Adults and \$12 for students in advance and \$20 and \$15 at the door (seating limited). A raffle of local healthy items will also be held at the reception.

The performers are musicians, composers and farmers John McDowell (piano and percussion) and Emmanuel Vukovich (violin), performing an original composition based on the Parsifal legend as well as classical and tango pieces. McDowell is best known as composer of the score to Oscar winning documentary *Born Into Brothels* and has toured with Rusted Root. Juilliard-educated Vukovich is a former member of the Lloyd Carr-Harris String Quartet, first place winner in the prestigious Fischhoff Competition. They will perform original compositions as well as works by Beethoven, Bach, Argentinean Tango, and a transcription of a piece by Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Rockland Farm Alliance, a broad-based community coalition of farmers, community groups, community activists, local and county officials, and interested citizens. The RFA was formed in early 2007 with a mission to preserve, create and enhance sustainable agriculture in Rockland County, New York. This grassroots effort, which began with a few family farmers, has grown into a powerful community force of over 400 members. During the past 2 years, the RFA has:

- Worked with the Honorable Harriet Cornell and the County to reactivate the Rockland Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board,
- Worked with the County Planning Department to assess the actual acreage of land under production here in Rockland. The Planning Department has created a GIS query tool to help identify active farmland and open space that can be put into farmland.
- Initiated a summit of state and municipal park officials from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New York to discuss efforts to increase agricultural projects on parkland in Rockland County.
- Submitted a proposal to the County and the Town of Clarkstown requesting the lease of five acres of the former Cropsey Farm, now a county and town park. The proposal includes an organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation, an educational farm facility, farmer's market, and produce supply for local schools.
- Submitted a request to help create a sixty-acre farm at the former Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangetown.
- Participated in a farm-to-school feasibility meeting along with the Health Department and local school food directors of many of the county's public school districts. The discussion focused on how to provide local foods to schoolchildren.

Harriet Cornell has called the RFA "a driving force behind the renaissance to save and create farms and to give families an opportunity to become part of our cherished agricultural tradition." After attending a meeting of the RFA, New York State Assemblywoman, Ellen Jaffee, said it was "the largest and most diverse group of citizens gathered for a great cause in Rockland County."

Please join the RFA at this exciting event. If you can't make it, please send a tax- deductible contribution to the RFA through our website [Rockland Farm Alliance \(RFA\)](#)