Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                                            July 25, 2018
contact: Gabriel Langfur, Managing Director
phone: 617-427-8200
email: info@chameleonarts.org
website: www.chameleonarts.org

Chameleon Arts Ensemble Announces its 2018-2019 Season Programs

July 25, 2018 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble is pleased to announce its 2018-2019 season programs. Over the past 20 years, Chameleon has received extensive critical acclaim for its world-class performances, and for the enduring and innovative programming of Artistic Director Deborah Boldin, transforming the listening experience by exploring both the rich tradition and the continual evolution of the chamber music art form.

The 2018-2019 chamber music series includes five vibrant and innovative programs performed by the area’s leading chamber musicians. The concerts take place on Saturday evenings at 8 PM and Sunday afternoons at 4 PM, beginning on October 13 and 14, and continuing with performances on December 1 and 2, March 2 and 3, April 6 and 7, and May 18 and 19. All chamber series concerts are held at First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. The recital series, Chameleon Up Close, includes performances on February 3 and April 28 at Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street in Boston’s Back Bay.

2018-2019 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES
Chameleon begins its third decade on Saturday, October 13, 8 PM and Sunday, October 14, 4 PM, both at First Church in Boston, with *where past and future meet*, a program of “breakthrough” works that highlight the composers’ evolving styles. Haydn cautioned Beethoven against including the c minor Piano Trio in his first – Opus One – publication, suggesting it was far too advanced for public consumption, because it pushed away from Classical confines to expand both the emotional and technical scope of the traditional piano trio. Also on the concert are Richard Strauss’ Cello Sonata, Op. 6; Anton Webern’s keen arrangement of Arnold Schoenberg’s Chamber Symphony No. 1, Op. 9 for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano; Krzysztof Penderecki’s Quartet for clarinet and strings, and Earl Kim’s response to the bombing of Nagasaki (which he witnessed), *Now and Then* for soprano, flute, viola, and harp.

On Saturday, December 1, 8 PM and Sunday, December 2, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Igor Stravinsky’s masterpiece, *L’Histoire du Soldat*. Premiered in September of 1918, the work tells a Faustian tale of a soldier who sells his violin to the devil in exchange for wealth and knowledge. The First World War is the obvious backdrop, and *L’Histoire* is a complex, layered allegory of the profound changes it brought. Stravinsky drew his musical inspiration from popular music of the time such as ragtime, tango, and jazz. The economy of means with regard to nearly every aspect of the piece – melody, rhythm, and instrumentation – is astonishing. Sharp, sarcastic and brilliant, it serves as a bridge between his Russian period and the...
neoclassic style he was soon to adopt. We’ve paired it with Stravinsky’s rarely-heard Concertino for string quartet; Camille Saint-Saens’ neo-baroque Septet in E-flat Major for trumpet, string quartet, double bass, and piano, Op. 65; and Joan Tower’s vibrant homage to the master, Petroushskates for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano.

The chamber music series resumes in 2019 with a play of light and shadow on Saturday, March 2, 8 PM and Sunday, March 3, 4 PM at First Church in Boston. In it, we examine the delicate contrasts of light and dark by way of Mozart’s Kegelstatt Trio for clarinet, viola, and piano; Olivier Messiaen’s atmospheric birdsong, Le Merle Noir for flute and piano; Thea Musgrave’s Night Windows for oboe and piano; and Gabriel Faure’s luminous Piano Quartet No. 1 in c minor, Op. 15. The program as a whole takes its cue from Kristin Kuster’s Ando: Light Against Shade for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion. Her work was inspired by the minimalist, spatial designs of the great Japanese architect, Tadao Ando.

upon one note on Saturday April 6, 8 PM and Sunday April 7, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, is organized around music’s “home base” – the key of C. It includes Haydn’s Piano Trio No. 43 in C Major, Hob. XV:27; Francis Poulenc’s Sextet in C Major for piano and winds; and Oliver Knussen’s...upon one note – Fantasia after Purcell for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano; alongside one of the most beloved works in the repertoire, Schubert’s Cello Quintet in C Major, D. 956.

The season finale, in the twilight air, on Saturday, May 18, 8 PM and Sunday, May 19, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, explores the concept of “swansongs.” The centerpiece is Brahms’ String Quintet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 111. Brahms intended the Quintet to be his final publication; he was at the peak of his compositional powers and poured everything he had into it. The result is one of the most exhilarating, colorful, and refined works in his catalog. Also on the concert are late works by Ravel and Faure: the G Major Violin Sonata and d minor Piano Trio, Op. 12; Arnold Bax’s Elegiac Trio for flute, viola, and harp; and Elliott Carter’s exquisite essay on the passage of time, Tempo e Tempi for soprano, oboe, clarinet, violin, and cello.

UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES

Our recital series gives audiences the opportunity to see and hear Chameleon’s superb artists in an informal and “up close” way. The Boston Musical Intelligencer praised “the artfully chosen works,” and hailed “the two stars treated us to a thrilling performance.” The performances will take place at Mary Norton Hall on the second floor of Old South Church, transformed into an intimate cabaret setting with table seating. The programs are hosted by Artistic Director Deborah feature our hallmark mix of classic, neglected and contemporary works.

On Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 4 PM at Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, we present an epic string trio program featuring violinist Robyn Bollinger, violist Scott Woolweaver, and cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer. Bookending the afternoon are two works by Bach – Mozart’s arrangement of the Prelude and Fugue, BWV 883 and Dmitry Sitkovetsky’s stunning arrangement of the Goldberg Variations, BWV 988. In between, the Chameleons take on Alfred Schnittke’s 1985 String Trio, a work that belongs among the finest of the medium. The New York Times recently noted “it was the young violinist Robyn Bollinger who held me captive.” The Boston Musical Intelligencer called Mr. Woolweaver “one of Boston’s most respected violists,” and praised Mr. Popper-Keizer for “a stunning, absolutely unforgettable rendition.”
Up Close 2 on **Sunday, April 28 at 4 PM** features **soprano Mary Mackenzie and pianist Vivian Chang-Freiheit.** *The Boston Globe* praised the duo: “their performance, was sensational, a fact the audience clearly appreciated.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* noted “[They] ranged brilliantly over a huge spectrum…this memorable performance was evocative, cathartic, and simply ravishing.” Their program explores themes of life and love through Robert Schumann’s masterpiece *Frauenliebe und –leben*, Op. 42; Schubert’s *Gretchen am Spinnrade*, Jake Heggie’s, *The Deepest Desire* for soprano, flute, and piano; and Ralph Vaughan Williams’ journey from birth to death, Ten Blake Songs for soprano and oboe. Rounding out the program is *Youkali* and other cabaret songs by Kurt Weill. Flutist Deborah Boldin and oboist Nancy Dimock will join for the Heggie and Vaughan Williams.

**TICKETS & DIRECTIONS**

For tickets or more information, concertgoers can call **617-427-8200** or visit [www.chameleonarts.org](http://www.chameleonarts.org). Individual tickets for the chamber music series are $47, $36 and $25, with $5 discounts for students and seniors. Subscription prices range from $68 to $272. Single tickets for Chameleon Up Close are $47; two-concert subscriptions are $84.

First Church in Boston and Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church are wheelchair accessible venues. The closest subway stops are Arlington Street on the Green Line and Back Bay Station on the Orange Line.

**ABOUT CHAMELEON ARTS ENSEMBLE OF BOSTON**

Founded in 1998, **Chameleon Arts Ensemble** has distinguished itself as one of Boston’s finest, most versatile chamber ensembles. For 20 years, Chameleon and Artistic Director **Deborah Boldin** have consistently earned unqualified praise for integrating old and new repertoire into unexpected chamber music programs that are themselves works of art. They were recognized nationally with 2009 and 2007 Awards for Adventurous Programming from Chamber Music America and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. *The Boston Globe* recently noted: “The Chameleon Arts Ensemble has distinguished itself over the course of two decades by sheer dint of its sparkingly imaginative programming. Its concerts are the slow food of local chamber music, events where sounds and sensibilities, rhapsody and reverie, old music and new, are balanced with care and a sense of individual voice.”

The artists of the Ensemble are highly respected and sought-after performers, with growing national and international reputations. Their superb artistry and finely honed collaborative skills ensure luminous performances and dynamic musical dialogues. *The Arts Fuse* praised them for “a spectacular, shattering rendition.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* hailed “Chameleon’s interpretation riveted, offering a seemingly entirely new way of hearing a familiar piece.”

**2018-2019 SEASON ARTISTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flute</th>
<th>Cello</th>
<th>Percussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Boldin</td>
<td>Joshua Gordon</td>
<td>William Manley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Bollinger, violin</td>
<td>Rebekah Heller, bassoon</td>
<td>Ayano Ninomiya, violin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Bowden, trumpet</td>
<td>Whitacre Hill, French horn</td>
<td>Kelli O’Connor, clarinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano</td>
<td>Mark Holloway, viola</td>
<td>Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Choi, piano</td>
<td>Eunae Koh, violin</td>
<td>Elizabeth Schumann, piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Dimock, oboe</td>
<td>Gabriel Langfur, trombone</td>
<td>Scott Woolweaver, viola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Gorczyca, clarinet</td>
<td>Mary Mackenzie, soprano</td>
<td>Randall Zigler, double bass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALENDAR LISTINGS - CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Chamber Series 1:  where past and future meet

Program: Richard Strauss, Sonata in F Major for cello & piano, Op. 6
Earl Kim, Now and Then for soprano, flute, viola & harp
Arnold Schoenberg, Kammersymphonie No. 1, Op. 9 (arr. Webern)
Krzysztof Penderecki, Quartet for clarinet & string trio
Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Trio in c minor, Op. 1, No. 3

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, October 13, 2018, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street
Sunday, October 14, 2018, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street

Chamber Series 2:  L’Histoire at 100

Program: Igor Stravinsky, Concertino for string quartet
Joan Tower, Petroushskates for flute, clarinet, violin, cello & piano
Camille Saint-Saëns, Septet in E-flat Major
for trumpet, string quartet, bass & piano, Op. 65
Igor Stravinsky, L’Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier’s Tale)

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, December 1, 2018, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
Sunday, December 2, 2018, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Chamber Series 3:  a play of light and shadow

Program: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Trio in E-flat Major
for clarinet, viola & piano, K. 498 Kegelstatt
Olivier Messiaen, Le Merle Noir for flute & piano
Thea Musgrave, Night Windows for oboe & piano
Kristin Kuster, Ando: Light Against Shade for chamber ensemble
Gabriel Fauré, Piano Quartet No. 1 in c minor, Op. 15

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Chamber Series 4:  upon one note

Program: Franz Joseph Haydn, Piano Trio No. 43 in C Major, Hob. XV:27
Francis Poulenc, Sextet in C Major for piano & winds, FP 100
Oliver Knussen, ...upon one note for clarinet, violin, cello & piano

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
Sunday, April 7, 2019, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
Chamber Series 5: in the twilight air

Program: Maurice Ravel, Sonata for violin & piano No. 2 in G Major
Gabriel Fauré, Piano Trio in d minor, Op. 120
Elliott Carter, Tempo e Tempi for soprano, oboe, clarinet, violin & cello
Arnold Bax, Elegiac Trio for flute, viola & harp
Johannes Brahms, String Quintet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 111

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

CALENDAR LISTINGS - CHAMELEON UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES

Up Close 1: Robyn Bollinger, violin; Scott Woolweaver, viola & Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello

Program: J.S. Bach, Prelude & Fugue, BWV 883 (arr. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)
Alfred Schnittke, String Trio
J.S. Bach, Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 (arr. Dmitry Sitkovetsky)

Date/Time & Location: Sunday, February 3, 2019, 4 PM
Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston

Up Close 2: Mary Mackenzie, soprano & Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano

Jake Heggie, The Deepest Desire for soprano, flute & piano
Kurt Weill, Selected Cabaret Songs
Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ten Blake Songs for voice & oboe

Date/Time & Location: Sunday, April 28, 2019, 4 PM
Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston

*****