Chameleon Arts Ensemble Announces 2019-2020 Season Programs

July 30, 2019 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble is pleased to announce its 2019-2020 season programs. Chameleon’s goal is to transform the listening experience by exploring both the rich tradition and the continual evolution of the chamber music art form. Over the past two decades Chameleon has received extensive critical acclaim for its world-class performances, and for the enduring and innovative programming of Artistic Director Deborah Boldin.

The 2019-2020 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 12 and 13, and continuing with performances on December 7 and 8, February 29 and March 1, April 18 and 19, and May 9 and 10. All chamber series concerts are held at First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. The recital series, Chameleon Up Close, includes performances on February 9 and March 29 at Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street in Boston’s Back Bay.

2019-2020 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES
Chameleon begins its 22nd season on Saturday, October 12, 8 PM and Sunday, October 13, 4 PM, both at First Church in Boston, with a program titled to begin… The centerpiece is Darius Milhaud’s La création du monde: Suite for piano quintet, Op. 81b. His jazz-age score is a vivid portrait that blurs the line between Parisian fashion and pagan ritual. Also on the concert are Mahler’s first – and only – chamber work, the Piano Quartet in a minor; Leoš Janáček’s Mladi (Youth) suite for wind sextet; Beethoven’s “Spring” Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24; and the world premiere of Jeremy Gill’s …and everywhere the sea for clarinet and piano.

On Saturday, December 7, 8 PM and Sunday, December 8, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, we explore the hazy intersections between sleeping and waking, life and dreams, with five works filled with imagination, poetry, and invention. Fauré’s celestial cycle, La chanson d’Ève for soprano and piano, Op. 95, reveals the Garden of Eden with its sensual delights, and Schumann’s E-flat Major Piano Quartet, Op. 47 is a reflection of humanity in all its complexity and contradiction. We’ve paired these classics with Arthur Benjamin’s 1949 Le Tombeau de Ravel “Valses-caprices” for clarinet and piano; Theo Verbey’s Four Preludes to Infinity for oboe and strings; and Helen Grime’s evocation of the harvest moon, Luna for flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn, piano, and percussion.
The chamber music series resumes in 2020 with a tribute to Mozart titled *whose fragments we inherit* on Saturday, February 29, 8 PM and Sunday, March 1, 4 PM at First Church in Boston. Romanticized by history as the ultimate child prodigy, Mozart produced a staggering body of work in his 36 short years, glorious music of crystalline clarity and sublime beauty. With a masterpiece among masterpieces, his Quintet in A Major, K. 581 gave birth to the voice and soul of the clarinet. Steven Stucky’s Serenade for wind quintet brings Mozart’s popular entertainment form into the 21st century, and Schnittke’s *Moz-Art* for two violins pays tribute with more than a touch of Mozartian humor. Also on the program are Mendelssohn’s Variations Concertantes for cello and piano, Op. 17 and Haydn’s “Gypsy” Piano Trio in G Major, Hob. XV:25.

*a legacy of fearless song* on Saturday April 18, 8 PM and Sunday April 19, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, highlights the resilience of the human spirit and the ways we use music to make sense of the world around us. Of special note is Pavel Haas’ third String Quartet, completed in 1938 as Czechoslovakia was being annexed. We present this rare work alongside Beethoven’s Cello Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102, No. 2; Arvo Pärt’s *Spiegel im Spiegel* for clarinet and piano; Guo Shang: *Hymn to the Fallen* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano by Shen Yiwen; and Shostakovich’s Piano Trio No. 2 in e minor, Op. 67.

The season finale, *a thousand tales sung*, on Saturday, May 9, 8 PM and Sunday, May 10, 4 PM at First Church in Boston, features five fantastical works of whimsy and enchantment including Robert Schumann’s “Fairy Tales” for clarinet, viola, and piano, Op. 132; Miriam Gideon’s *Rhymes from the Hill* for soprano, clarinet, cello, and marimba; Karol Szymanowski’s *Mythes* for violin & piano, Op. 30; William Alwyn’s portrayal of deadly water nymphs, *Naiades* – Fantasy Sonata for flute and harp; and Brahms’ illustration of Goethe’s *Werther*, the Piano Quartet No. 3 in e minor, Op. 67.

**UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES**

Our recital series gives audiences members 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 and feature our hallmark mix of classic, neglected and contemporary works.

On Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 4 PM at Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, flutist Deborah Boldin, violist Scott Woolweaver, and harpist Franziska Huhn essay trios at the crossroads of old and new. Debussy’s classic harp trio recalls the elegance of the French baroque, enrobed in his gorgeous 20th century sound world. Sofia Gubaidulina’s *Garden of Joy and Sorrows* similarly blends past and present through delicate whispers and otherworldly effects. Rounding out the program are Rameau’s Pièces de clavecin in concerts No. 5 in d minor, Arthur Foote’s *At Dusk*, and Ravel’s Sonatine en Trio. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* called Mr. Woolweaver “one of Boston’s most respected violists” and noted, “Huhn produced a multitude of colors—breathtaking in the upper registers.” *The Boston Globe* praised Ms. Boldin for “surpassingly beautiful contributions.”

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Up Close 2 on Sunday, March 29 at 4 PM features violinist Robyn Bollinger, cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer, and pianist Vivian Choi. The New York Times praised Mr. Popper-Keizer as “imaginative and eloquent.” The Boston Globe noted that Ms. Bollinger’s “performance seemed to catch fire… at the service of bold musical expression,” and The Boston Musical Intelligencer hailed “Choi gave it a sparkling performance, full of poise and charm.” Their program includes Clara Schumann’s Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 17; Joan Tower’s Big Sky, inspired by the expansive beauty of the Andes, and Schubert’s monument of the repertoire, the Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 100, D. 929.

TICKETS & DIRECTIONS
For tickets or more information, concertgoers can call 617-427-8200 or visit www.chameleonarts.org. Individual tickets for the chamber music series are $49, $38 and $27, with $5 discounts for students and seniors. Subscription prices range from $73 to $284. Single tickets for Chameleon Up Close are $49; two-concert subscriptions are $88.

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 over 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.”

2019-2020 SEASON ARTISTS
Deborah Boldin, flute  Jeremy Gill, lecturer  Kelli O’Connor, clarinet
Robyn Bollinger, violin  Gary Gorczyca, clarinet  Grace Park, violin
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano  Franziska Huhn, harp  Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Vivian Choi, piano  Eunae Koh, violin  Damian Primis, bassoon
Francesca dePasquale, violin  Mary Mackenzie, soprano  Kenneth Renshaw, violin
Nancy Dimock, oboe  Ayano Ninomiya, violin  Sarah Rommel, cello
Mika Sasaki, piano          Matt Sharrock, percussion          Scott Woolweaver, viola
Elizabeth Schumann, piano   Steven Sherts, French horn          Stephanie Zyzak, violin

CALENDAR LISTINGS - CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Chamber Series 1:  to begin…

Program:  Gustav Mahler, Piano Quartet in a minor
           Jeremy Gill, ...and everywhere the sea for clarinet & piano – world premiere
           Leoš Janáček, Mladi (Youth) suite for wind sextet, JW VII/10
           Ludwig van Beethoven, Violin Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 “Spring”
           Darius Milhaud, La création du monde: Suite for piano quintet, Op. 81b

Date/Time & Location:  Saturday, October 12, 2019, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
                       Sunday, October 13, 2019, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Chamber Series 2:  slow dreams of eternity

Program:  Gabriel Fauré, La chanson d’Ève for soprano & piano, Op. 95
           Helen Grime, Luna for flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn, piano & percussion
           Arthur Benjamin, Le Tombeau de Ravel “Valses-caprices” for clarinet & piano
           Theo Verbey, Four Preludes to Infinity for oboe & string trio
           Robert Schumann, Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47

Date/Time & Location:  Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
                       Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Chamber Series 3:  whose fragments we inherit

Program:  Felix Mendelssohn, Variations Concertantes cello & piano, Op. 17
           Steven Stucky, Serenade for woodwind quintet
           Franz Joseph Haydn, Piano Trio No. 39 in G Major Hob. XV:25 “Gypsy”
           Alfred Schnittke, Moz-Art for two violins
           Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581

Date/Time & Location:  Saturday, February 29, 2020, 8 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston
                       Sunday, March 1, 2020, 4 PM, First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Chamber Series 4:  a legacy of fearless song

Program:  Ludwig van Beethoven, Cello Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102, No. 2
           Pavel Haas, String Quartet No. 3 (1937-38)
Arvo Pärt, *Spiegel im Spiegel* for clarinet & piano  
Shen Yiwen, Quintet: *Guo Shang: Hymn to the Fallen*  
for flute, clarinet, violin, cello & piano  
Dmitri Shostakovich, Piano Trio No. 2 in e minor, Op. 67

**Date/Time & Location:**  
**Saturday, April 18, 2020, 8 PM,** First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston  
**Sunday, April 19, 2020, 4 PM,** First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

### Chamber Series 5: a thousand tales sung

**Program:**  
Miriam Gideon, *Rhymes from the Hill* for soprano, clarinet, cello & marimba  
William Alwyn, *Naiades* – Fantasy Sonata for flute & harp  
Johannes Brahms, Piano Quartet No. 3 in e minor, Op. 60

**Date/Time & Location:**  
**Saturday, May 9, 2020, 8 PM,** First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston  
**Sunday, May 10, 2020, 4 PM,** First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

### CALENDAR LISTINGS - CHAMELEON UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES

#### Up Close 1:  
Deborah Boldin, flute; Scott Woolweaver, viola & Franziska Huhn, harp

**Program:**  
Maurice Ravel, Sonatine en Trio for flute, viola & harp  
Arthur Foote, *At Dusk* (1920)  
Jean-Philippe Rameau, Pièces de clavecin en concerts No. 5 in d minor  
Sofia Gubaidulina, *Garden of Joy and Sorrow*  
Claude Debussy, Sonata for flute, viola & harp, L. 137

**Date/Time & Location:**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2020, 4 PM**  
Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston

#### Up Close 2:  
Robyn Bollinger, violin; Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello & Vivian Choi, piano

**Program:**  
Clara Schumann, Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 17  
Franz Schubert, Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 100, D. 929

**Date/Time & Location:**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2020, 4 PM**  
Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston