Chameleon Strings in Bach-centered Up Close Recital on Sunday, February 3

January 4, 2019 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble presents Chameleon Up Close featuring violinist Robyn Bollinger, violist Scott Woolweaver, and cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer, on Sunday, February 3, 2019, 4 PM, at Mary Norton Hall at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston. The program, centered on Bach, includes Mozart’s string trio arrangement of the Prelude and Fugue, BWV 883; Dmitry Sitkovetsky’s exquisite arrangement of the Goldberg Variations, BWV 988; and Alfred Schnittke’s haunting String Trio. 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.”


ABOUT CHAMELEON UP CLOSE
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.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The Goldberg Variations stands as a pillar of western music both for its transcendent beauty and for the wonder of Bach’s invention. Dmitry Sitkovetsky’s arrangement for string trio was made in 1985 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Bach’s birth, and it is dedicated to the memory of Glenn Gould. The arrangement highlights the work’s striking counterpoint, vast architecture, and spiritual depth. Sitkovetsky notes: “I hope listeners will share in my life-long journey through the Goldberg Variations and my love of the music; indeed in the very first publication of the Variations, in 1742, J. S. Bach states that the spirit of the piece is ‘for the enjoyment of music lovers.’”
As a young composer, Mozart used Bach as a model to hone his skills and his take on the *Prelude and Fugue, BWV 883* comes from a series of six such arrangements for string trio dating from 1782. **Alfred Schnittke** similarly pays homage to the master, as he too blurs the line between emotion and art. His simply-titled *String Trio* was composed in 1985 in celebration of Alban Berg’s centenary. Despite Schnittke’s bracing, Modernist aesthetic, it is a surprisingly Classical work that, like the *Goldberg*, explores the contrasts between simplicity (Aria) and complexity (Variation).

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

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. The *Boston Globe* noted “The evening demonstrated once more what this group's stalwart supporters have always known: Chameleon is a local treasure.”

**Violinist Robyn Bollinger** has received top prizes at many international competitions, among them the International Fritz Kreisler Competition, the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition, and the Louis Spohr International Competition. **Violist Scott Woolweaver** has performed with the Boston Chamber Music Society, Boston Symphony and Pops, Martha’s Vineyard Chamber Music Society, the Cape & Islands Festival, Boston Baroque, Collage New Music, Handel & Haydn Society, and many others. **Cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer** is one of Boston's most sought-after artists. He is principal cellist of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as a member-artist of Emmanuel Music, Winsor Music, Ibis Camerata, and Monadnock Music.

**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

The closest subway stops are Copley on the Green Line and Back Bay Station on the Orange Line. Old South Church is wheelchair accessible.

**TICKETS:** Individual tickets are $47 with $5 discounts for students & seniors. Cabaret-style seating.

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