FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  February 1, 2019
contact: Gabriel Langfur, Managing Director
phone: 617-427-8200
email: info@chameleonarts.org
website: www.chameleonarts.org

Chameleon Arts Ensemble presents “a play of light and shadow” with works by Mozart, Messiaen, Faure, Thea Musgrave, and Kristin Kuster on March 2 and 3

February 1, 2019 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble resumes its 2018-2019 chamber music series with a play of light and shadow on Saturday, March 2, 8 PM and Sunday, March 3, 4 PM at First Church in Boston. The program examines contrast and contradiction, light and dark, by way of Mozart’s Kegelstatt Trio in E-flat Major for clarinet, viola, and piano, K. 498; Olivier Messiaen’s atmospheric birdsong, Le Merle Noir for flute and piano; Thea Musgrave’s Night Windows for oboe and piano; Kristin Kuster’s Ando: Light Against Shade for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion; and Gabriel Faure’s luminous Piano Quartet No. 1 in c minor, Op. 15.


ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The program is anchored by two classics. Mozart sets the stage with his sparkling and elegant Trio in E-flat Major for clarinet, viola, and piano, K. 498. The Trio was completed in August of 1786, the same year in which The Marriage of Figaro was premiered. The nickname Kegelstatt (skittleground) comes from an apocryphal story that Mozart was playing the game of skittles, also known as “keggles” (similar to bowling) while composing the piece. Gabriel Fauré’s Piano Quartet No. 1 in c minor, Op. 15 is a gloriously luminous work that comes out of a dark period of his life when his fiancée suddenly broke off their engagement. Despite this, there is little sense of personal tragedy in the music. The c minor Quartet stands as a remarkable achievement in color, clarity, playfulness, and warmth, and an undisputable masterwork of the French chamber repertoire.
The program as a whole takes its cue from **Kristin Kuster’s Ando: Light Against Shade for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion.** Premiered in 2003 at the Composers Conference and Chamber Music Center at Wellesley College, the work pays tribute to the great Japanese architect Tadao Ando, whose minimalist, spatial designs explore what he calls “man’s confrontation with nature through architecture.”

Similarly, **Thea Musgrave’s Night Windows for oboe and piano** creates highly charged emotional moments inspired by light and space. The work was commissioned in 2009 by the International Double Reed Society, and its title comes from Edward Hopper’s famously voyeuristic painting of a woman in an apartment window. Musgrave notes: “Walking down a darkened street it’s hard to resist looking in through lighted windows and catching a glimpse of other people’s lives. The imagination lingers…” With Night Windows, Musgrave creates her own imaginary illuminated scenes that reflect the loneliness of Hopper’s painting.

Finally, **Olivier Messiaen** was the most important French composer of the second half of the twentieth century, and one of the most unique and independent figures in all of music history. He considered birds to be “the greatest musicians existing on our planet...Just as Bartók wandered through Hungary to collect folk songs, so did I spend many years in the French provinces to write down the songs of birds.” **Le Merle Noir (The Blackbird) for flute and piano** was written in 1952 as a test piece for the Paris Conservatory. As with all of Messiaen’s pieces that portray birdsong, *Le Merle Noir* is not an exact transcription, but a marvelous fantasy that uses the sound of the Blackbird (his favorite European songbird) as its starting point.

**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.”

**PERFORMERS**

Deborah Boldin, flute     Vivian Choi, piano     Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Francesca dePasquale, violin     Nancy Dimock, oboe     Matt Sharrock, percussion
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano     Gary Gorczyca, clarinet     Scott Woolweaver, viola
CALENDAR LISTING - 2018-2019 Season

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
Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4 PM
First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

The closest subway stops are Arlington Street on the Green Line and Back Bay Station on the Orange Line. First Church in Boston is wheelchair accessible.

TICKETS
Individual tickets are $47, $36, and $25, with $5 discounts for students and seniors.

Telephone: 617-427-8200
WWW: www.chameleonarts.org
E-mail: info@chameleonarts.org

******

Mass Cultural Council
Boston CCLICAL COUNCIL