Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens 2019-2020 Season with Milhaud’s *La création du monde* Suite on October 12 and 13

**September 13, 2019 – Boston, MA** – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens its 2019-2020 season on **Saturday, October 12, 8 PM** and **Sunday, October 13, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. The program, titled **to begin…**, features Darius Milhaud’s *La création du monde*: Suite for piano quintet, Op. 81b as well as 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 premiere of Jeremy Gill’s *…and everywhere the sea* for clarinet and piano.


**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

We begin our 22nd season “at the beginning” with Darius Milhaud’s **jazz-age ballet score, La Création Du Monde in his arrangement for piano quintet, Op. 81b.** The work is a vivid portrait of the creation of the world based on African folk mythology. A carefully stylized jazz/classical mélange that blurs the line between Parisian fashion and pagan ritual, the music demonstrates Milhaud’s desire to reshape the relationship between modernism and popular culture. The ballet premièred in Paris in October 1923 to the desired scandal and uproar, but ten years later Milhaud keenly noted that these “selfsame critics were discussing the philosophy of jazz and learnedly demonstrating that La création was the best of my works.”

Striking lyricism and sunny moods characterize **Beethoven’s “Spring” Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24.** It comes from the end of what scholars refer to as his “first period,” a time of intense growth and development based on the Classical models of Haydn and Mozart. The work’s graceful themes and transparent textures may point to the past, but its dramatic contrasts and sweeping
arpeggios show us a Beethoven who is becoming boldly independent, poised for the future, and ready to break free from Classical restraints.

The single movement **Piano Quartet in a minor** is the only surviving work of chamber music from **Mahler’s** student years at the Vienna Conservatory, dating from around 1876. It was found along with a short sketch of a Scherzo believed to be intended as a second movement of a larger work. The Quartet is more than merely a curiosity, well worth listening to on its own merits. Marked *Nicht zu schnell* (not too fast), it reveals the ways that Mahler absorbed the influences of Schumann and Brahms, while offering a window into the Romantic titan he would become.

Looking at the program theme from another vantage point, **Leos Janacek’s sextet for winds, Mladi (Youth)**, comes from his immensely productive last decade; it was composed in the summer of 1924 in anticipation of his 70th birthday. Janacek was collecting memories for a biography being written about him, and the sextet constitutes a musical reminiscence of his youth at the Brno monastery. The musical contours of Janacek’s works were often inspired by the rhythm and cadence of the Czech language; in this case, he crafted a speech melody of the Czech saying “Youth, golden youth” and borrowed a tune from the boy choristers at the monastery.

Finally, the inspiration for **Jeremy Gill’s …and everywhere the sea for clarinet and piano** came from Virgil’s *Aeneid*: “with land no longer to be seen – the sky was everywhere and everywhere the sea...” In 12 short bagatelles, he navigates variegated currents, bells filling the sky, sun shimmering on the sea like diamonds, and waves crashing into breakers. Gill is a young composer to watch with a host of awards, residencies, and fellowships to his credit. *The New York Times* called his music “vividly colored,” and the *Broad Street Review* praised him for “a stylistic complexity and dramatic richness that rewards attentive listening.”

**ABOUT CHAMELEON ARTS ENSEMBLE OF BOSTON**

Founded in 1998, **Chameleon Arts Ensemble** has built a reputation as Boston’s most adventurous chamber ensemble, integrating old and new repertoire into unexpected programs that are themselves works of art. Over the past two decades, Chameleon has performed more than 325 concerts featuring a remarkable array of nearly 700 different works by 300 different composers presented in smart, thematic programs that appeal to both connoisseurs and newcomers alike. National honors include 2017 and 2015 awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, 2015 and 2004 awards from the Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress, and a pair of Adventurous Programming Awards from ASCAP and Chamber Music America. The Ensemble is led by **Artistic Director and flutist Deborah Boldin**, Her inspired vision and vast knowledge of the chamber music repertoire have garnered widespread acclaim. *The Boston Globe* called Chameleon “a local treasure,” and noted that the Ensemble “has distinguished itself over the course of two decades by sheer dint of its sparkingly imaginative programming.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* wrote “One of the joys of hearing the Chameleon Arts Ensemble comes from Deborah Boldin’s whimsical thematic programming, mixing old and new, letting pieces echo and shed light on each other.”

Chameleon’s exceptional, multi-generational **roster of artists** was called “an all-star lineup of chamber musicians” by *The Boston Globe*, and individually, they have appeared in concert around the world with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Marlboro Music, Boston...
Symphony, Chamber Music Northwest, Music@Menlo, and the Verbier, Ravinia, and Caramoor Festivals, among others. The Boston Musical Intelligencer hailed “One sensed that all the Chameleons were born for chamber music.”

PERFORMERS
Deborah Boldin, flute
Vivian Choi, piano
Nancy Dimock, oboe
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet
Kelli O’Connor, clarinet
Grace Park, violin
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Damian Primis, bassoon
Mika Sasaki, piano
Steven Sherts, French horn
Scott Woolweaver, viola
Stephanie Zyzak, violin

CALENDAR LISTING – 2019-2020 Season
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
Sunday, October 13, 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 $49, $38, and $27, with $5 discounts for students and seniors.

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

*****