Chameleon Arts Ensemble Announces Fall 2020 Season Programs

September 29, 2020 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble is pleased to announce its Fall 2020 season of three vibrant chamber music programs that bring our collective sentiments to the fore.

Chameleon’s Fall 2020 virtual chamber music series includes two newly-recorded programs and a “Rewind” event featuring archival concert video. Each will be available to stream on-demand for one week, and will include supplemental interviews, Q&A, downloadable program booklets, and our much-loved essays on the music. The virtual chamber series programs will be available to stream on Chameleon’s website (www.chameleonarts.org): October 24-31 and December 5-12; “Chameleon Rewind” runs from November 14-21.

As always, our 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. This season’s virtual offerings will continue to celebrate the essential Chameleon spirit of creativity and adventure.

FALL 2020 VIRTUAL CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Chameleon opens its 23rd season with a program titled *communing with nature*, featuring John Luther Adams’ *songbirdsongs* for two piccolos and three percussion. *songbirdsongs*, composed over a six year period between 1974 and 1980, is based on Adams’ studies of actual bird songs and their environments. Rather than a traditional score, he provides a collection of unordered phrases that the musicians interpret by spontaneously interacting with one another and following instructions derived from each bird’s unique pattern and singing behavior. Adams describes his songs as “echoes of rare moments and places where the voices of birds have been clear and I have been quiet enough to hear.” This seminal work will be complemented by a selection of duos by Béla Bartók and Franz Joseph Haydn’s C Major String Quartet, Op. 33, No. 3, nicknamed “The Bird.” The program is being recorded – outdoors – on the grounds of The Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, MA. It will be available to stream on-demand from Saturday, October 24 through Saturday, October 31, 2020 at www.chameleonarts.org.
Chameleon’s second virtual chamber music program, titled *interrupted and in between*, will be available to stream on-demand at [www.chameleonarts.org](http://www.chameleonarts.org) from Saturday, December 5 through Saturday, December 12, 2020. The program, recorded without an audience at the Goethe-Institut, Boston, includes Kodaly’s 1905 Intermezzo for string trio; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s Ballade for violin and piano, Op. 73; and two pointedly “interrupted” works. The great British composer Harrison Birtwistle’s *An Interrupted Endless Melody* (1994) signifies the continuation of music without the limits of time. He pairs three fixed piano parts with a single oboe line, without clear beginning or end, which the oboist can realize in an infinite number of ways. **Brahms’ Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8** is one of the most transcendent works in the repertoire. Thirty-five years after its initial composition he undertook a complete renovation of the score, revising themes and tightening the formal structures. The result is a work in which the full expression of the young Brahms’ unabashed heart is made even more vivid by the impeccable craftsmanship of the master he had become.

Between these two programs will be our first Chameleon Rewind entry titled *remembering joy*. It will include two works from our archives: Francis Poulenc’s Sextet for piano and winds, performed in April 2019, and Felix Mendelssohn’s Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20, performed at our 20th anniversary celebration in May 2018. The program will be available to stream from Saturday, November 14 through Saturday, November 21 at [www.chameleonarts.org](http://www.chameleonarts.org).

**TICKETS & ACCESS**
For tickets and access, concertgoers should visit [www.chameleonarts.org](http://www.chameleonarts.org) or call 617-427-8200. Individual tickets for the chamber music series are $15. Chameleon Rewind is free, but registration is required. Ticket buyers and registrants will receive an access code to log in and view the on-demand videos during the available window.

**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](http://www.chameleonarts.org) 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.”
FALL 2020 ARTISTS

Ann Bobo, flute
Deborah Boldin, flute
Robyn Bollinger, violin
Vivian Choi, piano
Francesca dePasquale, violin
Nancy Dimock, oboe
Joshua Gordon, cello
Eunae Koh, violin
Danny Koo, violin
Julianne Lee, violin
William Manley, percussion
Ayano Ninomiya, violin
Kelli O’Connor, clarinet
Grace Park, viola
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Damian Primis, bassoon
Mika Sasaki, piano
Matt Sharrock, percussion
Steven Sherts, French horn
Mike Williams, percussion
Scott Woolweaver, viola

CALENDAR LISTINGS – VIRTUAL CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

chamber series 1: communing with nature

Program:
Béla Bartók, Selections from 44 Duos for two violins, Sz. 98, BB 104
Franz Joseph Haydn, String Quartet in C Major, Op. 33, No. 3 “The Bird”
John Luther Adams, *songbirdsongs* for two piccolos & three percussion

Dates: Stream on-demand at www.chameleonarts.org
Saturday, October 24 – Saturday, October 31, 2020

rewind 1: remembering joy

Program:
Francis Poulenc, Sextet in C Major for piano & winds, FP 100
Felix Mendelssohn, Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20

Dates: Stream on-demand at www.chameleonarts.org
Saturday, November 14 – Saturday, November 21, 2020

chamber series 2: interrupted and in between

Program:
Zoltán Kodály, Intermezzo for string trio
Harrison Birtwistle, *An Interrupted Endless Melody* for oboe & piano
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Ballade for violin & piano, Op. 73
Johannes Brahms, Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8

Dates: Stream on-demand at www.chameleonarts.org
Saturday, December 5 – Saturday, December 12, 2020

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