Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens virtual fall season with “communing with nature” streaming on-demand October 24 through 31.

October 7, 2020 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens its virtual chamber music season on Saturday, October 24, 7 PM. The program titled communing with nature includes a selection of Duos for two violins by Béla Bartók; Franz Joseph Haydn’s C Major String Quartet, Op. 33, No. 3, “The Bird;” and John Luther Adams seminal work songbirdsongs for two piccolos and three percussion. It will be available to stream on-demand on Chameleon’s website (www.chameleonarts.org) through Saturday, October 31, 11:59 PM EST, and will additionally include artist interviews, downloadable program booklets, and Chameleon’s much-loved essays on the music.


ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Chameleon opens its 23rd season with a program centered on John Luther Adams’ masterpiece songbirdsongs for two piccolos and three percussion. For more than 40 years, Adams has been translating nature and landscape into sound, highlighting our connections with place. To amplify this important sensibility, the entire program was recorded – outdoors, among the birds – on the grounds of The Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, MA.

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.” They are translations, not transcriptions and the result is a stunning achievement of color and beauty.

The **C Major String Quartet, Op. 33, No. 3 “The Bird”** finds **Franz Joseph Haydn** in sparkling form. It was completed in the fall of 1781 and premiered on Christmas Day of that same year. Its nickname, “The Bird,” comes from the violin’s chirping grace notes in the first movement. It’s a glorious piece of high style, wit, and avian associations. Haydn even throws in a touch of gypsy flair before the piece (and the bird) disappears into the air.

Rounding out the program is a selection from Béla Bartók’s 44 Duos for two violins, Sz. 98, BB 104. The Duos were composed in 1931 at the request of the German violinist and pedagogue Erich Doflein. Beyond their intended pedagogical function, Bartók noted that the purpose was to enable “students, from their very first years of study, to play works in which the natural simplicity of folk music can be found.” Indeed, all but two are based on actual folk tunes. However, Bartok being Bartok, they are not mere transcriptions, but marvelous miniatures in which he reshapes the original melodies to reveal his distinctive style and an astonishing range of emotion, texture, color, and character. Our selection begins – in cheeky fashion – with #22, *Mosquito Dance*.

**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.”

**ARTISTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ann Bobo, flute</th>
<th>William Manley, percussion</th>
<th>Scott Woolweaver, viola</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Boldin, flute</td>
<td>Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello</td>
<td>Dave Jamrog, videographer</td>
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<td>Robyn Bollinger, violin</td>
<td>Matt Sharrock, percussion</td>
<td>Patrick Keating, audio engineer</td>
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<td>Julianne Lee, violin</td>
<td>Mike Williams, percussion</td>
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*Chameleon Arts Ensemble 2020-2021 Season – For Immediate Release, 10/7/2020  Page 2 of 3*
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

TICKETS & ACCESS
For tickets and access, concertgoers should visit www.chameleonarts.org or call 617-427-8200. Individual tickets are $15. Ticket buyers will receive an email confirmation with access code to log in and view the on-demand video during the available window.

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

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