



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens 25th Anniversary Season with “Vienna Dreams” on Oct. 1-2

September 7, 2022 – Boston, MA – Chameleon opens its 25th anniversary season with *Vienna Dreams* on **Saturday, October 1, 8 PM** and **Sunday, October 2, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The program explores chapters in Viennese musical history and their continuing influences today. It includes Mozart’s Quartet in D Major for flute and strings, K. 285; selections from Arnold Schoenberg’s *Das Buch der hängenden Gärten* for soprano and piano, Op. 15; and Brahms’ Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 26, alongside two homages: Aaron Jay Kernis’ *Mozart en Route (or, A Little Traveling Music)* for string trio and Elliott Schwartz’s *Vienna Dreams* for clarinet, viola, and piano.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Unquestionably the capital of classical music, Vienna has long been a magnet for composers, painters, philosophers, and artists of all kinds. Mozart, Brahms, and countless others went to the City of Dreams to make their own come true, and in doing so created a rich and lasting musical legacy.

Brahms arrived in Vienna as an ambitious young musician, settled there in his early thirties, and remained for the rest of his life. The **A Major Piano Quartet** was premiered in Vienna in 1862 with the Brahms at the piano and joined by members of the famed Hellmesberger Quartet. It is one of his most poised and lyrical conceptions, offering an Olympian size – at nearly 50 minutes – and richness of mood that testify to his love of Schubert.

Born in Salzburg in 1756, **Mozart** moved to Vienna when he was 25, and the next 10 years, until his death in 1791, were the most fruitful and successful period of his life. The **D Major Flute Quartet** predates this happy period. It was commissioned in 1777 by the amateur flutist and wealthy merchant Ferdinand De Jean who requested “three short, simple concertos and a couple of

quartets.” Though Mozart famously disparaged the flute and did not complete the commission to De Jean’s satisfaction, the D Major Quartet is the gem of the set – graceful, refined, irresistibly charming, and overflowing with youthful optimism.

Arnold Schoenberg’s haunting *Book of Hanging Gardens* for soprano and piano, Op. 15 is a collection of songs on texts by the German symbolist poet Stefan George. It was completed in 1909 and marked his break with traditional harmony and the beginning of the Second Viennese School. Indeed, Schoenberg was aware of its significance writing: “Until now, I lacked the strength and confidence to make it a reality. But now that I have set out along this path once and for all, I am conscious of having broken through every restriction of a bygone aesthetic.”

Aaron Jay Kernis’ 1991 *Mozart en Route (or, A Little Traveling Music)* for string trio was inspired by a letter from Mozart in which he complains of being uncomfortably jostled during a carriage ride. Kernis cleverly introduces quotations from Mozart’s Divertimento for Strings, K.563 with a wink and a nod to Nashville. Similarly, **Elliott Schwartz** weaves together fragments from Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, and the ghost of Schoenberg (his description) into his 1998 ***Vienna Dreams* for clarinet, viola, and piano.**

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 25 years, Chameleon has performed more than 350 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 2020, 2017 and 2015 awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, two 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 have appeared with such venerable organizations as Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Marlboro Music, Boston Symphony, Chamber Music Northwest, Music@Menlo, and the Verbier, Ravinia, and Caramoor Festivals. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* wrote “one sensed that all the Chameleons were born for chamber music,” and “the cast of players Boldin can summon to concert after concert simply amazes me.”

ARTISTS

Deborah Boldin, flute	Jessica Xylina Osborne, piano
Francesca dePasquale, violin	Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Mary Mackenzie, soprano	Scott Woolweaver, viola
Kelli O'Connor, clarinet	

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 1: **Vienna Dreams**

Program: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Quartet in D Major for flute & strings, K. 285
Elliott Schwartz, *Vienna Dreams* for clarinet, viola & piano
Arnold Schoenberg, selections from
Das Buch der hängenden Gärten for soprano & piano, Op. 15
Aaron Jay Kernis, *Mozart en Route (or, A Little Traveling Music)* for string trio
Johannes Brahms, Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 26

Date/Time & Saturday, October 1, 2022, 8 PM
Location: Sunday, October 2, 2022, 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 & SAFETY

Individual tickets are \$50, \$39, and \$28; with \$5 discounts for students and seniors. Attendees can review up-to-date **safety protocols** prior to each Chameleon performance this season at <https://chameleonarts.org/safety>.

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