



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2022

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble presents “Gods and Monsters” on October 29-30

September 29, 2022 – Boston, MA – Chameleon continues its 25th anniversary season with *Gods and Monsters* on **Saturday, October 29, 8 PM and Sunday, October 30, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. A “seasonal” offering of fantastical visions and striking scenes, the program is bookended by the richly imagined inner world of Robert Schumann with his *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73 for clarinet and piano and Piano Trio No. 3 in g minor. In between are Cynthia Lee Wong’s Piano Quartet (After Poe); Andre Caplet’s *Conte fantastique d’après “Le Masque de la Mort Rouge”* for harp and string quartet; and Andrew List’s *The Gargoyles of Notre Dame* for flute, clarinet, string trio, piano, and percussion.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Robert Schumann wrote his three *Fantasiestücke for clarinet and piano* over a period of just two days in February of 1849. Both the title and the material suggest a “flight of fancy,” bolstered by the imagination and contrast that form the core Schumann’s art. The end result is a vivid character study that moves from dark to light, from inward reflection to extroverted exuberance.

Similarly, **Schumann’s** penchant for fantasy is on full display in his *Piano Trio No. 3 in g minor, Op. 110*. The work was completed in 1851 and made a deep impression on his wife Clara, who played the premiere and described it in her diary: “It is original and increasingly passionate, especially the scherzo, which carries one along with it into the wildest depths.” The Trio is cast in four movements with thematic links that suggest a kind of multi-chapter fairy tale. The music is

restless and moods shift frequently. Voices intertwine like characters with the spontaneity, passion, and poetry of the best of Robert Schumann.

Andrew List's *The Gargoyles of Notre Dame* for flute, clarinet, string trio, piano, and percussion was composed in 2011 and intended as a portrait of the secret lives of the statuary at the famous cathedral. List notes: "After visiting the church many times I realized that during the day they appear as statues warding off evil spirits and serving as rainspouts but at night when the lights go off, they come to life and run all over the church dancing, screaming and singing!"

With **Cynthia Lee Wong's Piano Quartet**, the program takes a more serious turn. The work is inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's *Ligeia*. It explores feelings of quiet endurance, emotional devastation, silence, inner space, and the inevitability of time through the lens of the story and Wong's loss of her father to cancer. The work was co-commissioned by Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and La Jolla Music Society in 2010. This will be its Boston premiere.

Finally, **Andre Caplet's** elegant and chilling *Conte fantastique d'après "Le Masque de la Mort Rouge"* for harp and string quartet is a rarity on the concert stage. It dates from 1909 and resembles a score to a Hitchcock thriller, as Caplet tells Poe's tale of horror through the harp's magically creepy soundscapes, strange harmonics, glissandos, and other innovative effects.

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." Chameleon's exceptional, multi-generational **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
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano
Elizabeth Fayette, violin
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet
Piero Guimaraes, percussion
Franziska Huhn, harp

Eunae Koh, violin
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Sarah Rommel, cello
Mika Sasaki, piano
Scott Woolweaver, viola

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 2: Gods and Monsters

Program: Robert Schumann, Drei Fantasiestücke for clarinet & piano, Op. 73
Andrew List, *The Gargoyles of Notre Dame* for chamber ensemble
Andre Caplet, *Conte fantastique d'après "Le Masque de la Mort Rouge"*
Cynthia Lee Wong, Piano Quartet (After Poe)
Robert Schumann, Piano Trio No. 3 in g minor, Op. 110

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, October 29, 2022, 8 PM
Sunday, October 30, 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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