

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<u>Chameleon Arts Ensemble celebrates 25 years with Bach's Complete Brandenburg Concertos on November 19-20</u>

October 27, 2022 – Boston, MA – Chameleon Arts Ensemble celebrates 25 years of community and collaboration with the original "chameleon" ensemble on Saturday, November 19, 2022, 8 PM and Sunday, November 20, 2022, 4 PM at First Church in Boston. Groundbreaking in their time, the Brandenburg Concertos brought together diverse instrumental voices in unheard-of combinations, for audacious, virtuosic music that remains an inexhaustible source of discovery and delight.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The six Brandenburg Concertos come from one of the happiest and most productive periods of Bach's life. He wrote them while serving as Kapellmeister in the small town of Cöthen and composing music for the court. They were presented as a set to the Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721 as a kind of "job application" for Bach to leave his employ at the time. There is no evidence that the Margrave ever thanked, or paid, Bach for his magnificent work, and they apparently lay untouched in the Margrave's library until his death. Luckily for us, they were found and preserved by one of Bach's pupils and eventually made their way into the collection of the Royal Library of Berlin. The works were brought to light during the Bach revival started by Mendelssohn in 1829 and published in 1850.

Each of the six Concertos requires a different combination of instruments, some with solo roles, and has a distinct character. Though not conceived as such, they have become regarded as a cycle, and stand as a summit of the Italian Concerto Grosso style, as well as a benchmark of Baroque music that has the power to move us nearly three centuries later.

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 sparklingly 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 Nik Hooks, bassoon Grace Shryock, oboe Hazel Dean Davis, French horn Sooyun Kim, flute Gabe Shuford, harpsichord Eunae Koh, violin Lisa Sung, viola Francesca dePasquale, violin Nancy Dimock, oboe Joshua Michal, French horn Scott Woolweaver, viola Michael Dobrinski, trumpet Cara Pogossian, viola Randall Zigler, double bass Elizabeth England, oboe Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello Stephanie Zyzak, violin Rhonda Rider, cello Joshua Gordon, cello

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 3: The Brandenburgs

Program: J. S. Bach, Complete Brandenburg Concertos, BWV 1046–1051

Date/Time & Saturday, November 19, 2022, 8 PM **Location:** Sunday, November 20, 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.

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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