



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleons explore boundaries of expression in Up Close recital on Sunday, April 30

March 31, 2023 – Boston, MA – Chameleon presents an “Up Close” recital on **Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4 PM** at Goethe-Institut, Boston. It explores the boundaries of expression and features violinist Francesca dePasquale, clarinetist Gary Gorczyca, and pianist Vivian Chang-Freiheit. The program includes *the* 20th century classic for the combination – Bartók’s *Contrasts*, Sz. 111, BB 116 – along with Sebastian Currier’s *On the Verge* for clarinet, violin, and piano; Schumann’s Violin Sonata No. 1 in a minor, Op. 105; Carl Reinecke’s *Fantasiestücke* for clarinet and piano, Op. 22; and Estonian composer Helena Tulve’s *Saar* (Island) for clarinet and violin. *The Strad* praised Ms. dePasquale’s “immaculate and discreet phrasing,” and *The Boston Globe* praised Mr. Gorczyca’s “profound expressivity.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* noted Ms. Chang-Freiheit was “soulful, passionate, playful, delicate, and her sense of ensemble brilliant.”



ABOUT THE CHAMELEON UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES

Our recital series gives audiences members the opportunity to experience Chameleon’s superb artists in an informal and “up close” way. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* praised “the artfully chosen works,” and hailed “the two stars treated us to a thrilling performance.” The concerts take place Goethe-Institut, Boston transformed into an intimate cabaret setting. Artistic Director Deborah Boldin serves as host, sharing colorful commentary and her unique insight into each work.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

There are few composers as colorful, provocative, and personal as **Béla Bartók**. He found his voice in folk music creating an idiom that bridged the gap between popular and concert music. ***Contrasts for clarinet, violin, and piano*** was composed in 1938 for the great jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman, based

on, but not directly quoting, Hungarian and Romanian dances. It exploits the possibilities of the clarinet and violin to the hilt, with barbaric energy, quixotic shifts, and wondrous, breathless calms, and has become *the* classic of the violin/clarinet/piano repertoire, inspiring countless other works.

Among them is **Sebastian Currier's 1997 *On the Verge***. The work's nine miniature movements stand at the edge of excess with quirky, ever-changing moods. Currier's inspiration came from the title "Almost too serious" in Schumann's *Kinderscenen*. He notes: "Implicit in the title is an aesthetic boundary which, although it may be approached, should not be crossed... It is this idea of being on the verge of some extremity or another that becomes the basis of my piece."

Robert Schumann's Violin Sonata No. 1 in a minor, Op. 105 is a late work, composed in less than a week in September of 1851. It is the most concise of his three violin sonatas and showcases Schumann's poetic genius, riding the waves of emotion from the most delicate utterings to extravagant outpourings of passion and verve.

Carl Reinecke's Fantasiestücke for clarinet & piano, Op. 22 comes from the world of Robert Schumann. The two were friends and Schumann held him in high esteem and dedicated Op. 72 Fugues for piano to Reinecke. The four Fantasy Pieces were composed around 1845 when Reinecke was only 21 years old. They were designed to be played by either clarinet or violin and follow in tradition of Romantic character pieces with variable moods and undeniable charm.

Estonian composer **Helena Tulve's *Saar (Island)* for clarinet and violin** is an exploration of the variety of texture that can be conjured from just two instruments with many inventive, extended techniques. It was composed in 1993 and also addresses questions of displacement and isolation.

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.

Violinist Francesca dePasquale is a member of the Aletheia Piano Trio and her many chamber music collaborations include appearances with Manhattan Chamber Players, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth, Open Chamber Music at IMS Prussia Cove, Music in the Vineyards, Olympic Music Festival, and Music@Menlo. She is a First Prize winner of the Irving M. Klein International String Competition and recipient of a prestigious career grant from the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing and Visual Arts. She is currently a member of the violin faculty at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Clarinetist Gary Gorczyca holds the Jackson Prize for outstanding musical achievement from the Tanglewood Music Center. His many appearances include Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Odyssey Opera, Collage New Music, Boston Musica Viva, and the Norfolk and Rockport Chamber

Music Festivals. He has appeared on numerous recordings including the soundtrack to *Saving Private Ryan* with John Williams conducting, and as soloist for Elliott Schwartz's Chamber Concerto on BMOP/Sound.

Pianist Vivian Chang-Frieheit made her solo debut with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the age of 16. She has performed in Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall, the 92nd Street Y, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and in venues throughout the United States and Europe. Ms. Chang-Frieheit has also collaborated and toured with singers in performances presented by the Marilyn Horne Foundation. She is a frequent guest artist with the Formosa Chamber Music Society at Carnegie Hall and Artist Faculty and Piano Department Lead of Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard in Geneva, Switzerland.

CALENDAR LISTINGS – 25th Anniversary Season

Chameleon Up Close 1: On the Verge

with Gary Gorczyca, clarinet, Francesca dePasquale, violin & Vivian Chang-Frieheit, piano

Program: Robert Schumann, Violin Sonata No. 1 in a minor, Op. 105
Sebastian Currier, *On the Verge* for clarinet, violin & piano
Carl Reinecke, Fantasiestücke for clarinet & piano, Op. 22
Helena Tulva, *Saar* (Island) for clarinet & violin
Béla Bartók, *Contrasts* for clarinet, violin & piano, Sz. 111, BB 116

Date/Time & Sunday, April 30, 2023, 4 PM
Location: Goethe-Institut, Boston, 170 Beacon Street

The closest subway stops are Arlington Street on the Green Line and Back Bay Station on the Orange Line. Goethe-Institut, Boston is wheelchair accessible.

TICKETS & SAFETY

Individual tickets are \$50 with \$5 discounts for students and seniors. Cabaret-style seating. Attendees can review up-to-date **safety protocols** at <https://chameleonarts.org/safety>.

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