



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon closes 25th anniversary season with “Diversions & Entertainments” on May 20 and 21

April 21, 2023 – Boston, MA – Chameleon closes its 25th anniversary season with *Diversions & Entertainments* on **Saturday, May 20, 8 PM and Sunday, May 21, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The program offers a giant dose of joy by way of Schubert’s towering celebration of instrumental splendor, the Octet in F Major, D. 803, Op. 166; Paul Hindemith’s Kleine Kammermusik for wind quintet, Op. 24, No. 2; John Musto’s captivating Divertimento for flute, clarinet, viola, cello, piano, and percussion; and the g minor Fantasie for violin and piano by Florence Price.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

There are few works as irresistible and joyous as **Schubert's Octet in F Major, D. 803, Op. 166**. Tracing both forward and back, he followed in the footsteps of the Classical masters and gave us glimpses into the drama of the Romantic age to come. The work dates from 1824 and was commissioned by Count Ferdinand von Troyer, an accomplished clarinetist. The Count requested that it be modeled after Beethoven’s extremely popular Septet, Op. 20, and Schubert obliged, adding a second violin to expand the string sound. In doing so, Schubert raised the 18th century divertimento style to a supreme level and created one of the most beloved works in the repertoire, simultaneously intimate and expansive, and endlessly inventive.

The **Fantasie No. 1 in g minor for violin and piano** is the first of **Florence Price's** two works in that genre. Its date – July of 1933 – places it in the vicinity of some of her best-known works

including the d minor Piano Concerto and First Symphony which was performed at the 1933 World's Fair by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Though brief, the Fantasie offers a remarkable window into Price's art and the ways she merged African American folksong, rhythm, and harmony with post-Romantic concert music.

In between are two modern evocations of the outdoor serenade. **Paul Hindemith's Kleine Kammermusik, Op. 24, No. 2** belongs to the series of eight works with the Kammermusik title dating from 1922 to 1927. It is at once wry, lean, and chic, reflecting his interest in neo-Baroque and neo-Classical forms. Despite the designation, "Little Chamber Music," it is a substantial and virtuosic composition that remains a cornerstone of the wind quintet repertoire.

John Musto offers a more urban perspective with his 1999 **Divertimento** scored for the novel combination of flute, clarinet, viola, cello, piano, and percussion. The work is a vibrant melding of styles, with affectionate nods to West Side Story, Bartók, and Poulenc, and moods that range from brash to wistful, edgy to languid.

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	Elizabeth Fayette, violin	Matt Sharrock, percussion
Robyn Bollinger, violin	Gary Gorczyca, clarinet	Scott Woolweaver, viola
Hazel Dean Davis, French horn	Nik Hooks, bassoon	Amy Yang, piano
Nancy Dimock, oboe	Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello	Randall Zigler, double bass

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 6: Diversions & Entertainments

Program: Florence Price, Fantasie No. 1 in g minor for violin & piano
Paul Hindemith, Kleine Kammermusik for wind quintet, Op. 24, No. 2
John Musto, Divertimento for flute, clarinet, viola, cello, piano & percussion
Franz Schubert, Octet in F Major, D. 803, Op. 166

Date/Time & Location: Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8 PM
Sunday, May 21, 2023, 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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