



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2023

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble Announces its 2023-2024 Season Programs

August 1, 2023 – Boston, MA – The Chameleon Arts Ensemble is pleased to announce its 2023-2024 season programs.

Over the past 25 years, Chameleon has built a reputation as Boston’s most adventurous chamber ensemble, integrating old and new repertoire into unexpected chamber music programs that are themselves works of art. The Ensemble has received extensive critical acclaim for its world-class performances, the staggering array of works it has presented, and for the enduring and innovative programming of Artistic Director, Deborah Boldin – transforming the listening experience by exploring both the rich tradition and the continual evolution of the chamber music art form.

The 2023-2024 **chamber music series** includes five vibrant and innovative programs at First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. Concerts are on Saturday evenings at 8 PM and Sunday afternoons at 4 PM, on October 14 and 15 and November 18 and 19, 2023, and continuing on February 24 and 25, April 20 and 21, and May 18 and 19, 2024 at First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. The 2024 **Chameleon Up Close** recital series includes performances on March 17 and April 7 at the Goethe-Institut, Boston, 170 Beacon Street.

Chameleon’s exceptional, multi-generational roster of **artists** was called “an all-star lineup of chamber musicians” by *The Boston Globe*, and individually, they have appeared in concert around the world with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Marlboro Music, Boston Symphony, Chamber Music Northwest, Music@Menlo, and the Verbier, Ravinia, and Caramoor Festivals, among others. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* hailed “One sensed that all the Chameleons were born for chamber music,” and *The Boston Classical Review* commented “This was playing of the highest kind.”

2023-2024 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Chameleon opens its 26th season with *La Belle Époque* on **Saturday, October 14, 8 PM and Sunday, October 15, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. Taking its cue from the turn of the century, the program includes Lili Boulanger’s Nocturne et cortège for violin and piano; Zoltán Kodály’s Duo for violin and cello, Op. 7; Claude Debussy’s *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé* for soprano and piano; and Ernest Chausson’s A Major Piano Quartet, Op. 30 along with Eric Moe’s *Frozen Hours Melt Melodiously into the Past* for flute, clarinet, string trio and piano.

As near as memory – on **Saturday November 18, 8 PM and Sunday November 19, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston, is a poignant program of memorials and elegies anchored by Sergei Rachmaninoff's Trio élégiaque No. 2 in d minor, Op. 9. The concert also includes the US premiere of Charlotte Bray's *Fire Burning in Snow* for soprano, oboe, clarinet, violin and cello and two rarities: Giacomo Puccini's *Crisantemi* for string quartet and Gordon Jacob's Sextet in B-flat Major for piano and winds, Op. 6.

Our first program of 2024 is titled *Seeking Syllables* and takes place on **Saturday, February 24, 8 PM and Sunday, February 25 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. Felix Mendelssohn's *Lieder ohne Worte* for cello and piano, Op. 109; Johannes Brahms, Piano Quintet in f minor, Op. 34; and Sebastian Currier's tour de force song cycle *Vocalissimus* scored for soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion. Currier takes a single poem – "To the roaring wind" by Wallace Stevens – and sets it 18 times from 18 different points of view and personalities.

Shadows, Canons, Veils on **Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8 PM and Sunday, April 21, 2024, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston includes Rebecca Clarke's 1926 Midsummer Moon for violin and piano (1926); Canadian composer Serge Arcuri's Les Furieuses enluminures for flute, clarinet, piano and string quartet; Beethoven's Quintet in E-flat Major for piano and winds, Op. 16; Thomas Adès kaleidoscopic reimagining of Francois Couperin's Les baricades mystérieuses for clarinet, bass clarinet, viola, cello and double bass; and Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in g minor, Op. 57

We close our 26th chamber music series on **Saturday, May 18, 2024, 8 PM and Sunday, May 19, 2024, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The program, with its cheeky title *Water, water, every where* includes Guy Ropartz's *Prélude, Marine et Chansons* for flute, violin, viola, cello and harp; Hanns Eisler's *Fourteen Ways to Describe the Rain* for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello and piano; the Boston premiere of David Bruce's *The Consolation of Rain* for oboe, cello, percussion and harp; and Schubert's Quintet in A Major for piano and strings, D. 667, "Trout."

RECITAL SERIES - CHAMELEON UP CLOSE

Our recital series gives audiences members the opportunity to see and hear Chameleon's superb artists in an informal and "up close" way. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* praised "the artfully chosen works," hailed "the two stars treated us to a thrilling performance," and noted "one felt charmed even before a sound was produced." This year's series will take place at the Goethe-Institut, Boston, transformed into an intimate cabaret setting. The programs are hosted by Artistic Director Deborah Boldin and feature our hallmark mix of classic, neglected and contemporary works.

On **Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 4 PM** at Goethe-Institut, Boston, **violinist Eunae Koh, cellist Sarah Rommel and pianist Jessica Xylina Osborne** essay piano trios of grace and grandeur including Clara Schumann's Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 17; Joan Tower's *Big Sky*, inspired by the expansive beauty of the Andes; and Schubert's monument of the repertoire, the Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 100, D. 929. **Up Close 2 on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 4 PM** at Goethe-Institut, Boston features violinist Elizabeth Fayette and pianist Mika Sasaki. The duo will take on works by three composers who left an indelible mark on our musical consciousness: Beethoven's final Violin Sonata, No. 10 in G Major, Op. 96; Kaija Saariaho's *Tocar* for violin and piano; and Béla Bartók's Sonata No. 1 for violin and piano, Sz. 75, BB. 84.

TICKETS & VENUES

For tickets or more information, concertgoers can call **617-427-8200** or visit chameleonarts.org. Individual tickets are \$52, \$41, and \$30; with \$5 discounts for students and seniors. Subscriptions range from \$81-\$302.

Masks are now optional at Chameleon events; **safety protocols** and policies are posted at <https://chameleonarts.org/safety>.

First Church in Boston (66 Marlborough Street) and the Goethe-Institut (170 Beacon Street) are wheelchair accessible. The closest subway stops are Arlington Street on the Green Line and Back Bay Station on the Orange Line.

ABOUT CHAMELEON ARTS ENSEMBLE OF BOSTON

Founded in 1998, **Chameleon Arts Ensemble** has distinguished itself as one of Boston's finest, most versatile chamber ensembles. Chameleon is led by **Artistic Director and flutist Deborah Boldin**. Her inspired vision and vast knowledge of the chamber music repertoire have garnered widespread acclaim. 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. On the occasion of their 20th anniversary, *The Boston Globe* noted: "The Chameleon Arts Ensemble has distinguished itself over the course of two decades by sheer dint of its sparkingly imaginative programming. Its concerts are the slow food of local chamber music, events where sounds and sensibilities, rhapsody and reverie, old music and new, are balanced with care and a sense of individual voice." *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."

2023-2024 ARTISTS

Deborah Boldin, flute	Nik Hooks, bassoon	Deborah Selig, soprano
Claire Bourg, violin	Eunae Koh, violin	Matt Sharrock, percussion
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano	Mary Mackenzie, soprano	Scott Woolweaver, viola
Hazel Dean Davis, French horn	Kelli O'Connor, clarinet	Alice Chenyang Xu, piano
Francesca dePasquale, violin	Jessica Xylina Osborne, piano	Ina Zdorovetchi, harp
Nancy Dimock, oboe	Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello	Stephanie Zyzak, violin
Elizabeth Fayette, violin	Sarah Rommel, cello	
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet	Mika Sasaki, piano	

CALENDAR LISTINGS – 2023-2024 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

chamber series 1: La Belle Époque

Program: Lili Boulanger, Nocturne et cortège for violin & piano
Eric Moe, *Frozen Hours Melt Melodiously into the Past* for flute, clarinet, strings & piano
Zoltán Kodály, Duo for violin & cello, Op. 7
Claude Debussy, *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé* for soprano & piano
Ernest Chausson, Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 30

Dates/Times: Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8 PM

Sunday, October 15, 2023, 4 PM

Location: First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

chamber series 2: As near as memory –

Program: Giacomo Puccini, *Crisantemi* for string quartet
Charlotte Bray, *Fire Burning in Snow* for soprano, oboe, clarinet, violin & cello
Gordon Jacob, Sextet in B-flat Major for piano & winds, Op. 6
Sergei Rachmaninoff, Trio élégiaque No. 2 in d minor, Op. 9

Dates/Times: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 8 PM

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 4 PM

Location: First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

chamber series 3: Seeking Syllables

Program: Felix Mendelssohn, *Lieder ohne Worte* for cello & piano, Op. 109
Sebastian Currier, *Vocalissimus* for soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano & percussion
Johannes Brahms, Piano Quintet in f minor, Op. 34

Dates/Times: Saturday, February 24, 2024, 8 PM

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 4 PM

Location: First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

Up Close 1: Big Sky

with Eunae Koh, violin; Sarah Rommel, cello & Jessica Xylina Osborne, piano

Program: Clara Schumann, Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 17
Joan Tower, *Big Sky* (2000)
Franz Schubert, Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 100, D. 929

Date/Time: Sunday, March 17, 2024, 4 PM

Location: Goethe-Institut, Boston, 170 Beacon Street

Up Close 2: Pioneers and Pathmakers

with Elizabeth Fayette, violin & Mika Sasaki, piano

Program: Ludwig van Beethoven, Violin Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 96
Kaija Saariaho, *Tocar* for violin & piano
Béla Bartók, Sonata No. 1 for violin & piano, Sz. 75, BB. 84

Date/Time: Sunday, April 7, 2024, 4 PM

Location: Goethe-Institut, Boston, 170 Beacon Street

chamber series 4: Shadows, Canons, Veils

Program: Rebecca Clarke, *Midsummer Moon* for violin & piano (1926)
Serge Arcuri, *Les Furieuses enluminures* for flute, clarinet, piano & string quartet
Ludwig van Beethoven, Quintet in E-flat Major for piano & winds, Op. 16
Thomas Adès, *Les baricades mystérieuses* for clarinet, bass clarinet, viola, cello & bass
Dmitri Shostakovich, Piano Quintet in g minor, Op. 57

Dates/Times: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8 PM

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 4 PM

Location: First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

chamber series 5: Water, water, every where

Program: Guy Ropartz, *Prélude, Marine et Chansons* for flute, violin, viola, cello & harp (1928)
Hanns Eisler, *Fourteen Ways to Describe the Rain* for flute, clarinet, string trio & piano
David Bruce, *The Consolation of Rain* for oboe, cello, percussion & harp
Franz Schubert, Quintet in A Major for piano & strings, D. 667, "Trout"

Dates/Times: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 8 PM

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 4 PM

Location: First Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston

