



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2023

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens 26th season with “La Belle Époque” on October 14-15

September 14, 2023 – Boston, MA – 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 and the period before the outbreak of World War I, 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.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

From the streets of Paris to the Hungarian countryside, Chameleon begins its second quarter-century with a program of beauty, light, and joie de vivre. **Ernest Chausson’s Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 30** is one of only a handful of chamber works from his short life; he died at age 44 in a bicycling accident. It was completed in 1897 when Chausson was at the height of his compositional powers and is a singular utterance that embodies the Romanticism of the time with its warm melodies and shimmering textures. Similarly, **Lili Boulanger’s 1911 Nocturne et cortège for violin and piano** is an impeccably crafted miniature of exquisite nighttime stillness and a procession more akin to a buoyant jaunt down a Parisian boulevard than one of solemn ceremony. She was the first woman to win the Prix de Rome and too, died young, in 1918 at the age of 24.

Big-boned and serious, **Zoltán Kodály’s 1914 Duo for violin and cello** captures both the growing tensions of the time and his efforts to transform folk materials into refined concert music. Kodály

notes: “Our intention has not been to break with the past, but to renew and strengthen the links by recreating the atmosphere of the ancient, forgotten melodies, by erecting new structures from their scattered stones. These old songs are our heirlooms; their creators, long since silent, are our true ancestors.” The result is thrilling, edge-of-your-seat music that remains as potent today as it was 100 years ago.

Claude Debussy’s *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé for soprano and piano* was completed in 1913. Reflective, mercurial, and spare, Debussy animates the Symbolist’s poems to reveal a universe of shifting colors and impressions ranging from sensual to dreamlike, each suggesting the movement of light and air.

Finally, **Eric Moe’s *Frozen Hours Melt Melodiously into the Past*** brings the program into the present with intellectual and poetic richness. Composed in 2009, the title and inspiration for the work comes from the great proto-Romantic poet, Goethe. Moe notes that he “consciously evokes Romantic notions of the sublime, placing heroic struggle and pathos in a contemporary context and seeing how they fare.”

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. Now entering its 26th season, Chameleon has performed more than 400 concerts featuring a remarkable array of nearly 650 *different* works by 325 *different* composers brought together in smart, thematic programs that connect with our shared humanity and 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* noted that the Ensemble “has distinguished itself over the course of two decades by sheer dint of its sparkingly imaginative programming.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* (BMI) 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.”

Chameleon’s exceptional, multi-generational roster of 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. *BMI* 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

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Deborah Boldin, flute | Caitlin Lynch, viola | Deborah Selig, soprano |
| Claire Bourg, violin | Kelli O'Connor, clarinet | Alice Chenyang Xu, piano |
| Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano | Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello | |
| Francesca dePasquale, violin | Sarah Rommel, cello | |

CALENDAR LISTINGS

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

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

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.

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

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