



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleons essay piano trios of grace and grandeur at Up Close recital on Sunday, March 17

February 16, 2024 – Boston, MA – Chameleon resumes its popular “Up Close” recital series on **Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 4 PM** at Goethe-Institut, Boston. **Violinist Eunae Koh, cellist Sarah Rommel, and pianist Jessica Xylina Osborne** will 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. *The Pioneer Press* called Ms. Koh “technically unflappable, a model of poise and empathy.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* noted that Ms. Rommel “worked at the top of her game and gave captivating accounts.” *The Washington Post* called Ms. Osborne a “a superb pianist...with a refreshing mellowness and poetic touch.”



ABOUT OUR UP CLOSE RECITAL SERIES

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.” The series place at the Goethe-Institut, Boston, transformed into an intimate cabaret setting with a complimentary glass of wine and refreshments. Artistic Director Deborah Boldin serves as host, sharing colorful commentary and her unique insight into each work.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

At its best, chamber music is a conversation between friends, and nowhere is that more apparent than within the piano trio genre, grand canvases filled with intimate expression. **Clara Schumann’s** under-appreciated gem – the **Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 17** – embodies the drama of the Romantic era with transparency and grace. It was written in 1846 and is considered one of her finest works. She was a

keen student of Bach and brought her contrapuntal skills to bear in the Trio. Although Clara began composing early (as part of the broad musical education given to her by her father), the practical matters of life, caring for her husband Robert, and her considerable career as a performer prevented her from realizing success as a composer. She all but stopped writing at the age of 36, and we are left to wonder what else she might have achieved had she chosen to continue.

Joan Tower contemplates the expansive beauty of the Andes in her single movement piano trio composed in 2000. About the work she writes: “*Big Sky* is a piece based on a memory of riding my horse Aymara around in the deep valley of La Paz, Bolivia. The valley was surrounded by the huge and high mountains of the Andes range; and as I rode I looked into a vast and enormous sky. It was very peaceful and extraordinarily beautiful. We never went over one of these mountains, but if we had, it might have felt like what I wrote in this piece.”

Finally, **Schubert**, at the end of his life, stretches to the horizon with a monument of the repertoire. The **E-flat Major Piano Trio, D. 929**, was first performed in January of 1828 and was an immediate success. Robert Schumann wrote “A Trio by Schubert passed across the musical world like some angry comet in the sky.” The multi-layered work exemplifies Schubert’s expansive approach to Classical forms, lasting nearly 45 minutes, with an unimaginable range of color, texture and expression for only three instruments.

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 in 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.

Violinist Eunae Koh is a member of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and previously served as concertmaster with the Haffner Sinfonietta and as guest concertmaster of the New York Classical Players and Symphony in C. She made her concerto debut with the Seoul Symphony at the age of 9 and has since appeared with the Auckland Philharmonic, Colby Symphony, and Korean Chamber Orchestra, among others. She was awarded the Special Prize at the Isang Yun International Competition and second prize and chamber music prize at the prestigious Michael Hill International Competition.

Cellist Sarah Rommel is a top prizewinner in the George Enescu International Cello Competition and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and recipient of a Frank Huntington Beebe Fund Grant and Jack Kent Cooke Young Artists Award. She has appeared at many festivals including Music from Angel Fire, Chamber Music Palisades, Caramoor’s Rising Stars Series, Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, and Marlboro Music. She recently toured with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO). She is currently based in Seattle where she is Artist-in-Residence and cello instructor at the University of Washington.

Pianist Jessica Xylina Osborne regularly performs with some of the classical music world's biggest stars, including Hilary Hahn, Ani Kavafian, and Timothy Eddy, among many others. Recent appearances have included Carnegie Hall, the Seoul Arts Center, the Kennedy Center, Walton Gardens in Ischia, Italy, and the Louvre Museum in Paris. Radio broadcasts include performances on A Prairie Home Companion, Performance Today, and WQXR's McGraw Hill Young Artists' Showcase in New York. This fall, she joined the faculty at Longy School of Music, and also teaches at Third Street Music School Settlement in New York and is a member of the collaborative piano faculty at Heifetz Institute.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

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

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

For tickets or more information, concertgoers can call **617-427-8200** or visit chameleonarts.org. Individual tickets are \$52 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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