



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon presents “Pioneers and Pathmakers,” an Up Close recital of works for violin and piano on April 7

March 8, 2024 – Boston, MA – Violinist Elizabeth Fayette and pianist Mika Sasaki share a Chameleon Up Close recital titled “Pioneers and Pathmakers” on **Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 4 PM** at Goethe-Institut, Boston. 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. *The New York Times* praised Ms. Fayette’s “alluring, lustrous sound and seasoned virtuosity.” *The Arts Fuse* commended Ms. Sasaki for exploring “every radiant line, orchestral-like texture, and stormy aside with boldness and graceful humor.”



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

Gutsy, gripping, wild, and glorious...**Bartók’s first violin sonata** is one of his most personal and original creations, filled with innovations inspired by the rustic folk music he collected in Eastern Europe. It was completed in 1921 and dedicated to the eminent Hungarian violinist Jelly Arányi, niece of the famous violinist Joseph Joachim. In the 1920s, Bartók’s music reached a peak of modernity and

dissonance, and the first violin sonata is indeed a complex work requiring superhuman agility from both players. The violin and piano often appear to inhabit entirely different musical worlds while at the same time, commenting and rhapsodizing on one another's material in seemingly spontaneous fashion. The work as a whole is an amalgam of influences – Hungarian folksong and composers he admired such as Debussy, Stravinsky, and Schoenberg – yet the end result is 100% Bartók and a landmark in his compositional development.

Kaija Saariaho forged a singular path as well, wrestling an ultra-modern language into some of the most vivid, dream-like music of the 21st century. *Tocar* was commissioned by the Sibelius Violin Competition and premiered by all 20 semi-finalists in Helsinki in 2010. The title in Spanish means “to touch, to play” and in it, Saariaho explores those intimate, physical sensations with vivid color and magnetic tenderness.

Finally, **Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 10 in G, Op. 96** is without a doubt one of the pinnacles of violin/piano literature. The work dates from 1812, the end of his so-called Middle Period following closely after the composition of the Seventh and Eighth Symphonies, and features a fascinating equality of dialog between the two instruments. It offers a perfect marriage of elation and intimacy, showing us a kinder, gentler side and ushering in the new age of Romanticism.

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 Elizabeth Fayette is an in-demand chamber musician and orchestral leader. She recently served as a guest concertmaster with the Milwaukee Symphony and the Princeton Symphony. From 2016-2020, she was first violin with the Vega String Quartet, and is currently a member artist of the Manhattan Chamber Players, New York Classical Players, and the Marinus Ensemble. Her festival appearances include Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, Music from Angel Fire, Aspen Music Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, and many others.

Mika Sasaki's chamber music appearances are myriad including Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Music Northwest, Manhattan Chamber Players, Ensemble Mélange, Yellow Barn, Caramoor, and many others. She is an alumna of Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, and her performances have been broadcasted on WQXR, WFMT, All Classical Portland, and Radio Sweden. Ms. Sasaki is currently Chamber Music Institute faculty at the prestigious Music@Menlo and previously taught at Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

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

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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