



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble closes its 27th season with “Exultation is the going” on May 17-18

April 17, 2025 – Boston, MA – Chameleon closes its 27th season on **Saturday, May 17, 7:30 PM and Sunday, May 18, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston with an ecstatic meditation at the intersection of heaven and earth, sea and sky. Titled ***Exultation is the going***, it includes Arvo Pärt’s *Fratres* for violin and piano; York Bowen’s 1932 Phantasy Quintet for bass clarinet and string quartet; Kevin Puts’ *Seven Seascapes* for flute, French horn, strings and piano; and Beethoven’s “Archduke” Trio, Op. 97.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Composed during **Beethoven’s** final descent into deafness and the beginning of his singular inward odyssey, the **Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97, “Archduke”** is a crowning achievement of the repertoire, a work of bountiful beauty and sweeping grandeur for a trio of virtuosos. As with nearly every genre he touched, Beethoven radically transformed the piano trio starting at Op. 1 in 1785 and peaking with the *Archduke*. The seventh trio was composed in a flurry of inspiration over a three-week period in March of 1811, but the first public concert did not take place until April of 1814 in what would be Beethoven’s final appearance as a performer. It earned its nickname by way of its dedicatee – Beethoven’s friend, patron, and student, Archduke Rudolph – but it stuck because of the work’s inexhaustible invention, symphonic scope, and majestic nature.

Another in a long line of rarities to appear on Chameleon programs, **York Bowen’s Phantasy Quintet** for the unique combination bass clarinet and strings is a gorgeous, flowing serenade of farewell. Bowen was described by Camille Saint-Saëns as “the most remarkable of the young British composers,” and in the years preceding the first World War, was widely known as a pianist and as a composer. Since then, he has fallen into obscurity. Constructed in one, large unbroken arc,

his 1932 quintet serves as a vehicle for Bowen's late Romantic influences, keen interplay between the instruments, and atmospheric moods that evoke a time long past, and provides a rare opportunity to hear the beauty of the bass clarinet in an eloquent and expressive soloist capacity.

There are few living composers who are as admired as Estonian **Arvo Pärt**, and fewer still whose popularity extend beyond the classical music world. *Fratres* (1977) is an early example of his self-titled "Tintinnabuli-style" of composition. Tintinnabuli comes from the Latin word meaning bell. It is heavily influenced by Gregorian chant, evokes an atmosphere of reverence and elation, and sounds at once modern and ancient. *Fratres* exists in numerous instrumentations from duos to string and saxophone quartets to cello octet and wind band. The version for violin and piano was premiered by violinist Gidon Kremer in 1980 at the Salzburg Festival.

Rounding out the program is **Kevin Puts' *Seven Seascapes* for flute, French horn, violin, viola, cello, double bass, and piano**. Taking snippets of poetry as the basis for seven miniature movements (including Emily Dickinson's "Exultation is the going of an inland soul to sea"), Puts gives voice to the wonders of the ocean. The work was composed and premiered in 2013 and though the poetry suggests a visual and visceral approach to the music, he was largely focused on an "inward" journey, with the sea as a metaphor for our subconscious.

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 our 27th season, Chameleon has performed more than 400 concerts covering a remarkable array of nearly 700 *different* works by 350 *different* composers brought together in smart, thematic programs that connect with our shared humanity and appeal to 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.

Flutist and Artistic Director Deborah Boldin leads the Ensemble, and her unique vision and vast knowledge of the repertoire have garnered widespread acclaim. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* (BMI) wrote "One of the joys of hearing Chameleon comes from Boldin's whimsical thematic programming, mixing old and new, letting pieces echo and shed light on each other." *The Arts Fuse* commended her for "making the past as immediate as the present," and *The Boston Globe* hailed, "planning a good chamber music program is a delicate art unto itself, and few in town have mastered it as persuasively." Our multi-generational **roster of artists** was called "an all-star lineup of chamber musicians" by *The Boston Globe*, and they regularly appear with groups such as Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Marlboro Music, Boston Symphony, Chamber Music Northwest, Music@Menlo, and the Verbier, Ravinia, and Caramoor Festivals, among others. *BMI* wrote "the cast of players Boldin can summon to concert after concert simply amazes me."

ARTISTS

Deborah Boldin, flute	Edward Kass, double bass	Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Hazel Dean Davis, French horn	Caitlin Lynch, viola	Sarah Rommel, cello
Elizabeth Fayette, violin	Nathan Meltzer, violin	
Gary Gorczyca, bass clarinet	Jessica Xylina Osborne, piano	

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 5: Exultation is the going

Program: Arvo Pärt, *Fratres* for violin & piano
York Bowen, Phantasy Quintet for bass clarinet & string quartet, Op. 93 (1932)
Kevin Puts, *Seven Seascapes* for flute, French horn, violin, viola, cello, bass & piano
Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97 “Archduke”

Dates/Times: Saturday, May 17, 2025, 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 18, 2025, 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.

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