



Chameleon

Arts
Ensemble

of Boston

25/26

Season 28

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

Deborah Boldin
Artistic Director

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

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Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce Chameleon Arts Ensemble's 28th season and invite you to join us for sublime music and dazzling artistry, in seven captivating programs that continue our unmatched legacy of the most adventurous concerts in Boston. Among the highlights of this year's chamber series are Brahms' exquisite Clarinet Quintet, Ravel's suave Piano Trio, and life-affirming quintets by Beethoven and Dvořák; new and neglected works by Satie, Herbert Howells, Stacy Garrop, and Reena Esmail; and two very special rarities: Louis Vierne's 1917 quintet for piano and strings, and Stephen Albert's moving adaptation of *Finnegans Wake*. Our popular *Up Close* recital series returns with earth-shattering piano trios by Beethoven, Auerbach, and Shostakovich, and violin and piano sonatas of legacy and memory. I hope you agree that we have an exciting year ahead, and I look forward to seeing you at the concerts!

Deborah Boldin, Artistic Director

Season Artists

Deborah Boldin, flute
Claire Bourg, violin
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano
Hazel Dean Davis, French horn
Francesca dePasquale, violin
Nancy Dimock, oboe
Elizabeth Fayette, violin
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet
Nik Hooks, bassoon
Edward Kass, double bass
Eunae Koh, violin
Caitlin Lynch, viola
Mary Mackenzie, soprano
Nathan Meltzer, violin
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Sarah Rommel, cello
Mika Sasaki, piano
Matt Sharrock, percussion
Lishan Tan, harp
Scott Woolweaver, viola
Alice Chenyang Xu, piano
Xiaohui Yang, piano

"an all-star lineup of chamber musicians"
– The Boston Globe



“Like the namesake lizards, the Chameleons matched themselves to a plethora of ideas, colors, timbres, emotions; for them it seemed as natural as drawing breath. Should you want a musical roller coaster ride, do attend one of its concerts.”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer





About Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston

In a city immersed in music, the Chameleon Arts Ensemble is distinguished by superb artistry, luminous performances, and dynamic musical dialogues. Chameleon integrates old and new repertoire into unexpected chamber music programs that are themselves works of art. Now entering its 28th season, this innovative ensemble draws those who love the adventure of music—classic and contemporary. A Chameleon concert is a multifaceted experience in an intimate environment, joining audience and musicians in an exuberant celebration of music.

chamber
series



Beneath the setting sun

Saturday

October 11, 2025

7:30 PM

First Church, Boston

William Grant Still *Summerland* for flute & piano

John Adams *Road Movies* for violin & piano

Gabriel Fauré Sonata No. 2 in g minor for cello & piano, Op. 117

Eleanor Alberga *No-Man's-Land Lullaby* for violin & piano

Johannes Brahms Quintet in b minor for clarinet & strings, Op. 115

Sunday

October 12, 2025

4 PM

First Church, Boston

William Grant Still shares a radiant vision of the soul's journey to the afterlife while John Adams takes us on a groovy, minimalist road trip. Eleanor Alberga transforms a famous cradle song into an exquisite lament on the fragility of our existence, and Brahms – inspired by the alluring voice of the clarinet – offers one of the most achingly beautiful twilight works ever written, the parting gift of an extraordinary artist and a life well-lived.

“unflinching and luminous”

– The Boston Globe

chamber
series



Homeward Bound

Saturday
November 22, 2025
7:30 PM

First Church, Boston

Franz Schubert *Auf dem Strom* for soprano, French horn & piano, D. 943, Op. 119

Stacy Garrop *Postcards from Wyoming* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano & percussion

Charles Ives *The Housatonic at Stockbridge* and other songs for soprano & piano

Ernest John Moeran Fantasy Quartet for oboe & strings (1946)

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quintet in C Major, Op. 29, "Storm"

Sunday
November 23, 2025
4 PM

First Church, Boston

They say home is where the heart is... Faced with impending deafness, Beethoven leans into the storm of his inner vistas with a soaring masterpiece of vitality and richness, while Schubert envisions his hero's final journey to the spirit realm. Ernest Moeran recalls the reedy waters, country lanes, and rolling hills of his youth, Stacy Garrop celebrates the grandeur of the American west, and Charles Ives amplifies the little moments from cities and towns across New England, reminding us that no matter where we are, music always brings us home.

"a spectacular shattering rendition"
– The Arts Fuse

chamber
series



Bards & Ballads

Saturday

February 21, 2026

7:30 PM

First Church, Boston

Rebecca Clarke *Dumka*: Duo Concertante for violin, viola & piano (1940)

Einojuhani Rautavaara *Ballad* for harp & string quintet

Carl Nielsen Wind Quintet, Op. 43, FS 100

Antonín Dvořák Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81

Sunday

February 22, 2026

4 PM

First Church, Boston

Timeless song meets rustic charm in a program of soulful storytellers, idyllic atmospheres, and irresistible joy. Rautavaara opens our mind's eye to the epic ballads of ancient days, and Nielsen brings a symphonist's touch and keen character development to a jewel of the wind quintet repertoire. Clarke taps into the mercurial moods of Eastern European folk music, and Dvořák brings it all together with a perennial favorite that overflows with the poetry, freshness, and spirit of Czech song and dance.

“rediscovery, curiosity, and supersonic performing”

– The Boston Musical Intelligencer

chamber
series



To Wake the Dead

Saturday

April 11, 2026

7:30 PM

First Church, Boston

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* for violin & piano, Op. 42

Herbert Howells Rhapsodic Quintet for clarinet & strings, Op. 31 (1919)

Stephen Albert *To Wake the Dead: Six Sentimental Songs after Finnegans Wake*
for soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello & piano

Sunday

April 12, 2026

4 PM

First Church, Boston

Louis Vierne Piano Quintet in c minor, Op. 42 (1917)

Tchaikovsky shares misty reflections of a dear place, and Howells contemplates an England, and a way of life, destroyed by the First World War. Vierne's epic, late-Romantic treasure is a powerful and emotionally charged work conceived as a votive offering for his son who was killed in action. Stephen Albert adapts James Joyce's nearly incomprehensible text – with its wordplay, dreamlike ambiguity, and half-remembered fragments – into a moving exploration of love, loss, and the cyclical nature of life itself.

“fiercely lavish”
– The Boston Globe

chamber
series



Things Seen Right-to-Left

Saturday

May 16, 2026

7:30 PM

First Church, Boston

Erik Satie *Choses vues à droite et à gauche (sans lunettes)* for violin & piano

Michael Stephen Brown *The Lotos-Eaters* for flute, cello, piano & percussion

Ralph Vaughan Williams *Phantasy* Quintet

Reena Esmail *Jhula Jhule (Back and Forth)* for clarinet & piano

Maurice Ravel *Piano Trio in a minor*

Sunday

May 17, 2026

4 PM

First Church, Boston

Vaughan Williams enralls with a vivid, impressionist daydream of the English countryside, and Reena Esmail weaves a tapestry of sound and memory from her ancestral home. Michael Stephen Brown brings Tennyson's mariners and their psychedelic voyage to life, while Ravel the illusionist challenges our perceptions with a dazzling tour de force of color and texture. We close our 28th season with a phantastic trip down the rabbit-hole where up is down, black is white, and left is right (with...or *without* glasses).

“sparklingly imaginative programming”

– The Boston Globe



“artful programming and world class players”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer

Chameleon Up Close

We invite you to join us for **Chameleon Up Close**, an extraordinary opportunity to see and hear our superb artists featured in recitals in an intimate cabaret setting including our hallmark mix of classic, neglected, and contemporary works. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and sweets along with colorful commentary by Artistic Director Deborah Boldin.

Up Close



Through the Looking-Glass

with Elizabeth Fayette, violin; Sarah Rommel, cello & Xiaohui Yang, piano



Sunday
March 22, 2026
4 PM

Goethe-Institut,
Boston

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70, No. 1, “Ghost”

Lera Auerbach Piano Trio No. 2, *This Mirror Has Three Faces*

Dmitri Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 2 in e minor, Op. 67

There are few works as earth-shattering and soul-stirring as Shostakovich's second piano trio. He brings together the personal, the political, and the unknowable with hypnotic, frenzied rhythms, coded messages of protest, and searing emotional impact. Gutsy and theatrical, Lera Auerbach takes us on a wild ride of mirror images and musical sleights of hand, and Beethoven shows us that he is the king of drama with a whirlwind of ghostly tension and electrifying contrast.

“triumphs of teamwork”
– The Boston Globe

www.chameleonarts.org | 617-427-8200





Behind Me — dips Eternity —

with Francesca dePasquale, violin & Alice Chenyang Xu, piano

Sunday
April 26, 2026
4 PM

Goethe-Institut,
Boston

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Sonata No. 21 in e minor for piano & violin, K. 304

Tōru Takemitsu *Hika* (Elegy) for violin & piano

Claude Debussy Sonate in g minor for violin & piano, L. 140

Sergei Prokofiev Violin Sonata No. 1 in f minor, Op. 80

Mozart's graceful e minor sonata floats on the memory of his mother's passing, Takemitsu's threnody occupies the delicate space between sound and silence, and Debussy reaches the final stop on his harmonic revolution of beauty and light. Big-boned and dark-hued, Prokofiev's sonata vacillates between the gale force intensity of his modernist spirit and sardonic wit and the eternal wind of profound introspection...without beginning or end.

“They electrified with their brilliance.”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer





“Overall, the evening demonstrated once more what this group’s stalwart supporters have always known: Chameleon is a local treasure.”
– The Boston Globe

“40 no-holds-barred minutes...[that] burst with gleaming and crackling energy.”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“The entire evening of colorized old and new fascinated.”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer



Intimate setting.



Adventurous repertoire.



Luminous performances.

25-26 Season at a Glance

Don't miss Chameleon's 28th season of luminous performances in Boston's most intimate concert environments. We integrate old and new music into unexpected programs that are themselves works of art, transporting audiences and transforming the chamber music experience.

Chamber series concerts are at **First Church**, 66 Marlborough Street, and the Up Close recitals are at **Goethe-Institut**, 170 Beacon Street in Boston's Back Bay. Saturday concerts begin at **7:30 PM** and Sunday concerts at **4 PM**.

chamber 1 – Beneath the setting sun

Saturday, October 11, 2025 and Sunday, October 12, 2025

William Grant Still • John Adams • Gabriel Fauré • Eleanor Alberga • Johannes Brahms

chamber 2 – Homeward Bound

Saturday, November 22, 2025 and Sunday, November 23, 2025

Franz Schubert • Stacy Garrop • Charles Ives • Ernest John Moeran • Ludwig van Beethoven

chamber 3 – Bards & Ballads

Saturday, February 21, 2026 and Sunday, February 22, 2026

Rebecca Clarke • Einojuhani Rautavaara • Carl Nielsen • Antonín Dvořák

Up Close 1 – Through the Looking-Glass

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Ludwig van Beethoven • Lera Auerbach • Dmitri Shostakovich

chamber 4 – To Wake the Dead

Saturday, April 11, 2026 and Sunday, April 12, 2026

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky • Herbert Howells • Stephen Albert • Louis Vierne

Up Close 2 – Behind Me — dips Eternity —

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart • Tōru Takemitsu • Claude Debussy • Sergei Prokofiev

chamber 5 – Things Seen Right-to-Left

Saturday, May 16, 2026 and Sunday, May 17, 2026

Erik Satie • Michael Stephen Brown • Ralph Vaughan Williams • Reena Esmail • Maurice Ravel

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a sleeveless red dress, is seated and playing a golden French horn. She is looking intently at the instrument. In the foreground, the out-of-focus hands and bows of other musicians are visible, including a violinist on the left and a cellist on the right. The background shows a blurred indoor setting with plants and a wooden wall.

“Planning a good chamber music program is an art unto itself, and few in town have mastered it so persuasively.”
– The Boston Globe

“a powerful performance that left me in a transported state such as I have rarely experienced.”
– The Berkshire Review for the Arts

“One of the safest bets you can make is that a Chameleon Arts Ensemble concert will be extraordinary.”
– The Boston Musical Intelligencer

Subscribe Today!

Subscriber Benefits

- The best available seats with no waiting in line at the door
- Save 10-20% over single ticket prices
- Receive advance program notes by email
- Exchange your ticket for another performance at no charge
- Receive 10% off any additional single tickets for family or friends



Accessibility

First Church and Goethe-Institut are wheelchair accessible. Please call or email if you require assistance with seating. Large print programs are available at all performances.

Directions to Venues

Concerts are at **First Church, 66 Marlborough Street** at the corner of Marlborough and Berkeley Streets, and at **Goethe-Institut, 170 Beacon Street** between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets in Boston's Back Bay.



Parking is recommended in the garage under the Boston Common – entrance on Charles Street between the Public Garden and the Common. The closest **T Stations** are Arlington on the Green Line and Back Bay on the Orange Line.

How To Order Tickets:

By Mail:

Please make check payable to
Chameleon Arts Ensemble
and mail to:
6 Rocky Nook Terrace
Boston, MA 02130

By Phone: 617-427-8200

Online: www.chameleonarts.org

All seating is **reserved**.

CREDITS

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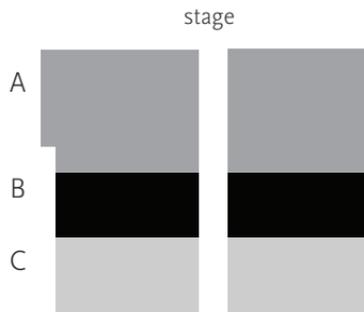
Please note:

Programs and personnel are subject to change.



Seating Locations:

First Church in Boston



Goethe-Institut, Boston



Safety Protocols & Ticket Exchanges

Masks are optional at all Chameleon events.
Visit chameleonarts.org/safety for current policies.

Although ticket exchanges are typically a subscriber-only benefit, if you are sick, have a fever, or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, please stay home and contact us to make arrangements. We regret that we are unable to offer refunds, but you may elect to exchange or donate your tickets.

Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Number
of seats

	A	B	C
_____ Full 7-concert subscription	\$313	\$269	\$225

Chamber Music Series

_____ All 5 concerts – save 20%	\$216	\$172	\$128
_____ Pick 4 concerts – save 15%	\$184	\$146	\$109
_____ Pick 3 concerts – save 10%	\$146	\$116	\$86
_____ Single Tickets	\$54	\$43	\$32

Chameleon Up Close Recital Series

Reserved cabaret seating at Goethe-Institut

- _____ @ \$97: 2-concert subscription – save 10%
- _____ @ \$54: Sun Mar 22 – Through the Looking-Glass
- _____ @ \$54: Sun Apr 26 – Behind Me — dips Eternity —
- _____ Students & seniors: \$5 off single tickets

Please indicate your selections:

All of the chamber music series concerts are at First Church in Boston

Chamber 1 – Beneath the setting sun
___ **Sat Oct 11** ___ **Sun Oct 12**

Chamber 2 – Homeward Bound
___ **Sat Nov 22** ___ **Sun Nov 23**

Chamber 3 – Bards & Ballads
___ **Sat Feb 21** ___ **Sun Feb 22**

Chamber 4 – To Wake the Dead
___ **Sat Apr 11** ___ **Sun Apr 12**

Chamber 5 – Things Seen Right-to-Left
___ **Sat May 16** ___ **Sun May 17**

Payment Method:

- Check (payable to Chameleon Arts Ensemble)
- Visa/Mastercard/Discover:

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV Code (required): _____

Total Ticket Order: \$ _____

Tax-Deductible Contribution: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Return to: Chameleon Arts Ensemble
6 Rocky Nook Terrace, Boston, MA 02130

Thank you for your support!



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

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617-427-8200
www.chameleonarts.org

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**“The performance was sensational, a fact the audience
clearly appreciated.”
–The Boston Globe**



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please share it with a friend.