



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble opens 28th season with “Beneath the setting sun” October 11-12

September 12, 2025 – Boston, MA – Chameleon opens its 28th season with *Beneath the setting sun* on **Saturday, October 11, 7:30 PM and Sunday, October 12, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The poignant program of glowing sunsets and fond farewells includes Brahms’ exquisite Quintet in b minor for clarinet and strings, Op. 115; William Grant Still’s *Summerland* for flute and piano; John Adams’ groovy, minimalist *Road Movies* for violin and piano; Gabriel Fauré’s second cello sonata; and Eleanor Alberga’s *No-Man’s-Land Lullaby* for violin and piano.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

William Grant Still’s *Summerland* for flute and piano is a radiant vision of the soul’s journey to the afterlife. It is his arrangement of the second movement of his 1936 suite *Three Visions* for solo piano, written for his wife Verna Arvey. The work tells the story of the human soul after death: the body expires, undergoes judgement, and if it is seen that their past life is a good one, the soul may enter heaven or “*Summerland*.”

John Adams’ *Road Movies* for violin and piano was composed in 1995. He described the piece as “travel music,” and the title as “total whimsy.” Everything about it brings to mind the classical American road trip with bluesy, minimalist, swinging rhythms that project the feeling of driving on the open road with the wind blowing through your hair. It has become, over the years, a bona fide classic of the contemporary repertoire for violin and piano.

In 1921, **Fauré** was commissioned by the French government to compose a *chant funéraire* to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Napoleon. This short work remained front of mind for Fauré who noted that it “turned itself into a sonata.” Reimagined and reorchestrated for cello and piano, it became the middle movement of his **Cello Sonata No. 2 in g minor, Op. 117** which had its premiere on May 13, 1922, and abounds with the spirit of reflection and wisdom that comes from a long, creative life.

Eleanor Alberga’s 1996 *No-Man’s-Land Lullaby* for violin and piano is a moving lament on the fragility of our existence. It is based on a Brahms’ famous cradle song, “Wiegenlied,” Op. 49, No. 4 which subtly reveals itself in fragments, and finally in whole, as the piece unfolds. It was additionally inspired by the First World War, the landscapes of central Europe, and Paul Fussell’s book *The Great War and Modern Memory*.

Finally, **Brahms** – with his exquisite **Clarinet Quintet, Op. 115** – gives us one of the most achingly beautiful twilight works ever written, the parting gift of an extraordinary artist and a life well-lived. It was among a clutch of four final works (along with his Clarinet Trio and two Clarinet Sonatas) composed between 1891 and 1894 for clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, whose playing inspired Brahms to come out of his self-imposed retirement. The Quintet is perhaps the crowning achievement of this spectacular group, illustrating Brahms’ masterful craftsmanship, elegant form and interconnectivity across all four movements, and especially, his ability to illuminate the human spirit like no one else.

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 28th season, Chameleon has performed hundreds of concerts covering a remarkable array of more than 700 *different* works by 400 *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* called us “a wildly gifted

group,” and wrote “the cast of players Boldin can summon to concert after concert simply amazes me.”

ARTISTS

Deborah Boldin, flute
Vivian Chang-Freiheit, piano
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet
Eunae Koh, violin

Nathan Meltzer, violin
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Scott Woolweaver, viola

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 1: Beneath the setting sun

Program: 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

Dates/Times: Saturday, October 11, 2025, 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 12, 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 \$54, \$43, and \$32; with \$5 discounts for students and seniors.

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