



Chameleon
Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble presents “Homeward Bound” on November 22 and 23

October 24, 2025 – Boston, MA – Chameleon continues its 28th season with *Homeward Bound* on **Saturday, November 22, 7:30 PM** and **Sunday, November 23, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The program explores the resonance of place and the meaning of “home” through Beethoven’s String Quintet in C Major; Schubert’s *Auf dem Strom* for soprano, French horn, and piano; Stacy Garrop’s *Postcards from Wyoming* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion; Ernest Moeran’s Fantasy Quartet for oboe and strings; and a selection of songs for soprano and piano by Charles Ives including *The Housatonic at Stockbridge*.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Anchoring the program, **Beethoven’s String Quintet in C Major, Op. 29** is a surprisingly neglected masterpiece and his sole composition for the medium. Written in 1801, the Quintet is a marvelously inventive work of symphonic scale. It comes from the period when Beethoven was growing acutely aware that his deafness would never improve. He turned inward, was socially isolated, desperate and pondering suicide, yet none of these personal struggles are evident in this shining, joyful, and optimistic music. The nickname “Storm” comes from the rushing 16th notes in the last movement.

The first performance of **Schubert’s *Auf dem Strom*** for soprano, French horn, and piano took place in 1828 on the first anniversary of Beethoven’s death. It was intended as a tribute to the great composer and also subtly established Schubert’s right to be considered Beethoven’s natural and

worthy successor. In it, Schubert imagines Beethoven crossing the river and returning to his eternal “home.” In it, Schubert references the funeral march from the *Eroica* Symphony as well as Beethoven’s song cycle *An die Ferne Geliebte*, which Schubert reputedly adored.

Ernest Moeran’s Fantasy Quartet for oboe and strings was composed in 1946, near the end of his life, and dedicated to the famous English oboist Leon Goossens. Constructed in one large unbroken arc, the piece is filled with nostalgia and the atmosphere of his childhood home, Norfolk. To further emphasize the countryside, Moeran uses folk tunes from the area – including “Seventeen come Sunday” and “The Pretty Ploughboy” – as the basis for his themes.

Stacy Garrop’s Postcards from Wyoming (scored for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion) was composed in 2014 while she was in residence at the Ucross artist colony. The colony is situated on a 20,000-acre cattle ranch at nearly 4,000 feet in elevation with fewer than 150 people living within the town. The piece was inspired by the beauty of the land and sky and the wildlife who can the region “home.”

There is no one who captures the people, places, and spirit of New England like **Charles Ives**. His songs offer a potent mix of memory and feeling and the ways in which they shape us as humans. “The Housatonic at Stockbridge” (1914) began its life as the middle movement of *Three Places in New England* for orchestra, which Ives reimagined in song in 1921. Like Beethoven, we can *feel* the personal and the connection with Nature: strolling along the river, contemplating the sublime. Other songs in our set include classics such as “Ann Street” and “The side show,” and “A night song,” “There’s a lane,” and “They are there,” among others.

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
Claire Bourg, violin
Hazel Dean Davis, French horn
Francesca dePasquale, violin
Nancy Dimock, oboe
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet

Caitlin Lynch, viola
Mary Mackenzie, soprano
Sarah Rommel, cello
Matt Sharrock, percussion
Wynona Wang, piano
Scott Woolweaver, viola

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 2: Homeward Bound

Program: 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”

Dates/Times: Saturday, November 22, 2025, 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 23, 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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