



Chameleon

Arts Ensemble
of Boston

Transforming experiences in chamber music.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chameleon Arts Ensemble presents “The Tipping Point” November 21-22

October 23, 2026 – Boston, MA – Chameleon continues its 2026-2027 season with *The Tipping Point* on **Saturday, November 21, 7:30 PM and November 22, 4 PM** at First Church in Boston. The program features works on the precipice of change including Ives’ *Sunrise* for soprano, violin, and piano; Ravel’s sumptuous *Chansons madécasses* for soprano, flute, cello, and piano; Kevin Puts’ *And Legions Will Rise* for violin, clarinet, and marimba; and Béla Bartók’s rarely heard Piano Quintet in C Major, Sz. 23.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

There are few things as extraordinary as the late works of master composers – intoxicating music that is intimate and personal, highly expressive, and rich with the patina of experience. **Charles Ives’** magical final work *Sunrise* for voice, violin and piano is a startling simple piece with big emotional impact. It was completed in 1926 and marks both an end and a beginning by evoking the otherworldly quality of dawn, just before the sun crests on the horizon. Perhaps Ives knew he was near the end of his career. According to his wife, one day in early 1927 he came downstairs with tears in his eyes to say he could compose no more.

Similarly, **Maurice Ravel’s** *Chansons madécasses* (Songs of Madagascar) were written during the final phase of his career, described by him as a turning point in which he returned to “the spirit of melody.” They were commissioned by the great American patroness Elizabeth Sprague

Coolidge; she asked for a set of songs to be accompanied, if possible, by flute, cello, and piano and he was free to choose the texts. The *Chansons* caused a sensation at their premiere in 1926 because the explicit sexuality and political sentiments of the texts by Évariste Parry, and Ravel's daring modernisms. Ravel described them as "a quartet in which the voice plays the role of the principal instrument. Simplicity is all-important." They are Ravel's last works for voice and represent the summit of his vocal art. His lean textures, acerbic harmonic language and economy of means make for one of his most evocative and haunting creations.

Kevin Puts describes his virtuosic trio *And Legions Will Rise* for violin, clarinet, and marimba as a reflection of "the power in all of us to transcend during times of tragedy and personal crisis." It was composed in the summer of 2001 and premiered one month after the twin towers fell in October, giving the piece deeper meaning through the collective grief of 9/11. He notes: "While I was writing it, I kept imagining one of those war scenes in blockbuster films, with masses of troops made ready before a great battle. I think we have forces like this inside of us, ready to do battle when we are at our lowest moments."

Finally, **Béla Bartók** mighty *C Major Piano Quintet, Sz. 23* is a richly scored work that resides in a middle ground... He was 22 years old at the time of its composition. He had recently graduated from the Liszt Academy but not yet embarked on the vast ethnomusicological journey that would inform his mature art, making the Quintet a bit of a unicorn in terms of his output. In it, we can hear both his major early influences – most notably the cyclic forms of Liszt and Strauss and the Hungarian flair of Brahms – as well as his early attempts to integrate his own strongly held Hungarian identity and love for the folk songs and csárdás from the cafes around Budapest.

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 29th 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
Gary Gorczyca, clarinet
Eunae Koh, violin
Mary Mackenzie, soprano
Nathan Meltzer, violin

Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello
Matt Sharrock, percussion
Wynona Wang, piano
Scott Woolweaver, viola

CALENDAR LISTINGS

chamber series 2: The Tipping Point

Program: Charles Ives, *Sunrise* for soprano, violin & piano
Maurice Ravel, *Chansons madécasses* for soprano, flute, cello & piano
Kevin Puts, *And Legions Will Rise* for violin, clarinet & marimba
Béla Bartók, Piano Quintet in C Major, Sz. 23

Dates/Times: Saturday, November 21, 2026, 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 22, 2026, 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**](http://chameleonarts.org). Individual tickets are \$56, \$45, and \$34; with \$5 discounts for students and seniors.

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