BOSTON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Marcus A. Thompson, Artistic Director

Season 2019/2020
Welcome to Season 2019/2020

Playing Favorites

Dear Friends,

In Season 37 we are pleased to offer eight programs at Sanders Theatre. By your request there are three winter concerts at 3 p.m. Our first three in the fall and last two in the spring remain at 7:30, our normal evening time.

When asked who our favorite composer might be, we think the best response can be heard in our commitment to play the widest possible variety of your favorites, and to entice you to discover new dimensions and new favorites in each curated program.

Our programming explores relationships—stylistic, social, historical, seasonal—between composers and works; and, at the personal level, the exciting interactions among our member musicians and honored guests. The season is assembled from among the great works of the past, the classics of the present, and those that engage us in artistic challenges to come. In addition to masterpieces by Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms, the towering First Sonata for Violin and Piano by Béla Bartók returns to our stage after an absence of 26 years. Les Citations by Henri Dutilleux, a stunning virtuosic display inspired by two musical “war correspondents,” quotes music from the 16th through the 20th centuries. It appears along with others intended to honor veterans and show “sympathy with peace and justice” following the national holiday in November.

You will have the opportunities to witness two Boston premieres: the Sonata for Viola and Piano by John Harbison, and the latest gift to us all from the BCMS Commissioning Club, Joan Tower’s Viola Quintet entitled “Purple Rain.” We also perform for the first time works by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel and Clara Schumann, and in our season finale the brilliant First Piano Quintet by Grażyna Bacewicz.

Your continued and generous support for our series and our commitments to the wider community—through our work at Somerville High School, our annual chamber music workshop at MIT, our engagement of talented young players and thinkers through NEC’s visionary Entrepreneurial Musicianship Program, and your presence at our open rehearsals and residencies—allows us to make our favorites your favorites.

Many thanks,

Marcus A. Thompson, Artistic Director

Member Musicians

Peggy Pearson, oboe • Max Levinson, piano • Jennifer Frautschi, violin • Yura Lee, violin • Dimitri Murrah, viola • Marcus Thompson, viola • Raman Ramakrishnan, cello

Guest Artists

Romie de Guise-Langlois, clarinet • Andrew Armstrong, piano • Judith Gordon, piano • Benjamin Hochman, piano • Adrian Morejon, harpsichord • Alexi Kenney, violin • Joanna Kurkowicz*, violin • Robyn Bollinger*, violin • Edward Arron, cello • Gabriel Cabezas, cello • Audrey Chen*, cello • Clancy Newman cello • Thomas Van Dyck, double bass • Robert Schulz, percussion

* BCMS debut
Sundays at Sanders Theatre

9/22/19 • 7:30 pm

Franz Joseph Haydn Piano Trio in C major, Hob. XV:27 (1797)
Dmitri Shostakovich Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57 (1940)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Viola Quintet in C major, K. 515 (1787)
Yura Lee, Alexi Kenney, violins • Dimitri Murrath, Marcus Thompson, violas
Edward Arron, cello • Max Levinson, piano

10/20/19 • 7:30 pm

Clara Schumann Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17 (1846)
John Harbison Sonata for Viola and Piano (2018; Boston premiere)
Johannes Brahms Piano Quartet in A major, Op. 26 (1861)
Yura Lee, violin • Marcus Thompson, viola • Gabriel Cabezas, cello
Max Levinson, Judith Gordon, pianos

11/17/19 • 7:30 pm

Franz Schubert Fantasie for Violin and Piano in C major, D. 934 (1827)
Edward Elgar Piano Quintet in A minor, Op. 84 (1918)
Peggy Pearson, oboe • Jennifer Frautschi, Yura Lee, violins • Marcus Thompson, viola
Clancy Newman, cello • Thomas Van Dyke, double bass • Max Levinson, piano
Adrian Morejon, harpsichord • Robert Schulz, percussion

1/5/20 • 3:00 pm

Franz Schubert Sonata in A minor for Viola and Piano, D. 821, “Arpeggione” (1824)
Anton Arensky Quartet in A minor for Violin, Viola and Two Cellos, Op. 35 (1894)
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50 (1882)
Jennifer Frautschi, violin • Dimitri Murrath, viola • Raman Ramakrishnan, Audrey Chen, cellos
Max Levinson, piano

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Sundays at Sanders Theatre

2/16/20 • 3:00 pm
Ludwig van Beethoven  String Trio in C minor, Op. 9, No. 3 (1797–98)
Béla Bartók  Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano, Sz. 75 (1921)
Gabriel Fauré  Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 15 (1876–79; rev. 1883)
Jennifer Frautschi, violin • Marcus Thompson, viola • Raman Ramakrishnan, cello
Benjamin Hochman, piano

3/22/20 • 3:00 pm
Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel  Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 11 (1840)
Zoltán Kodály  Duo for Violin and Cello (1914)
Antonín Dvořák  Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 87 (1889)
Robyn Bollinger, violin • Marcus Thompson, viola • Edward Arron, cello
Andrew Armstrong, piano

4/26/20 • 7:30 pm
Robert Schumann  Märchenerzählungen, Op. 132 (1853)
Joan Tower  Viola Quintet, “Purple Rain” (BCMS commission; world premiere)
Antonín Dvořák  Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81 (1887)
Peggy Pearson, oboe • Jennifer Frautschi, Yura Lee, violins • Dimitri Murrath, Marcus Thompson, violas • Raman Ramakrishnan, cello • Max Levinson, piano

5/10/20 • 7:30 pm
Max Bruch  Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, Op. 83 (1910)
Béla Bartók  Contrasts, Sz. 111 (1938)
Grażyna Bacewicz  Piano Quintet No. 1 (1952)
Romie de Guise-Langlois, clarinet • Yura Lee, Joanna Kurkowicz, violins
Marcus Thompson, viola • Raman Ramakrishnan, cello • Max Levinson, piano

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Our Mission

To provide the public with exceptional performances of chamber music repertoire from the Baroque era to the present day while fostering understanding and appreciation of the art form, making it more accessible to all.

In the Community

BCMS musicians offer open rehearsals and master classes to students from educational institutions at various levels, and coach participants of all ages in our annual chamber music workshop to deepen their enthusiasm for the genre. Our hybrid fellowship program in cooperation with the New England Conservatory’s Entrepreneurial Musicianship department engages young artists to serve as interns in the office to learn the basic inner workings of running a concert series and to perform with us in concerts and community events. The BCMS Teaching Artist Program at the Somerville High School provides the school’s String Orchestra students weekly coaching as well as free access to our regular concerts.

Subscriber Benefits

Discounts
Save up to 18% off single ticket prices. Enjoy the same saving on additional tickets purchased for your friends and family.

Guaranteed seats
Gain access to purchase tickets to all concerts before single tickets go on sale. Sign up by July 15 to keep your same seats or have early choice of new seats.

Easy ticket exchange and replacement
Call the BCMS office up to five days before a concert and we’ll be glad to exchange your tickets or reprint your lost tickets.

Brahms Circle
Patrons who have subscribed for more than five consecutive years become members of the Brahms Circle. Each member is entitled to receive a complimentary ticket during the season and is invited to special gatherings.

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Flex Pass

The Flex Pass allows you to make the decision to attend a concert at your convenience. Call our office in advance to reserve a seat, or just show your pass at the door and get a ticket on the spot. Good for three admissions to any concerts during the season. At a discounted price of $33 per admission, the Flex Pass gives you access to the $39 tickets in Price III at Sanders Theatre.

Support BCMS

The thrilling experience of live chamber music we bring to you costs more than we can earn in ticket sales. YOU can make a difference. Look for the contribution line on the order form and join the legions of devoted BCMS patrons. Help keep the music playing!

Venues

Sanders Theatre
Harvard University
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge
Free parking at the Broadway Garage

Ways to Subscribe

BY PHONE Call 617.349.0086, Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
ONLINE www.bostonchambermusic.org
BY MAIL Complete the order form and mail with payment to:
Boston Chamber Music Society
60 Gore Street, Cambridge, MA 02141

Single tickets ($63, $51, $39, $27) go on sale after August 1.

Performance photography Chung Yiu Cheng, Wen Huang, Su-pin Tsao
BCMS

Marcus A. Thompson, Artistic Director
Wen Huang, Managing Director
60 Gore Street
Cambridge, MA 02141

“...set such a high bar for musical camaraderie and inspired choice of repertoire...”

– The Boston Musical Intelligencer