

VCC Valley Classical Concerts

Bringing a World of Chamber Music to the Pioneer Valley

July 2025

Our 2025-26 Season and Annual Appeal

John Montanari, Artistic Director

Valley Classical Concerts is thrilled to announce our 2025-26 season. We think it's a particularly exciting mix of the familiar and the not-so-much!

All of our concerts will take place at **3:00** in the comfort and glorious sound of **Sweeney Hall** on the campus of our co-sponsor, **Smith College** in Northampton, Mass.

We open on **Sunday, October 12**, with the return of the **Harlem String Quartet**. A communicative ensemble of rare warmth, the Harlem brings a program of Beethoven (Quartet in A Major, Op. 18, No. 5), Britten (his ethereal Quartet No. 2), plus Pulitzer-winner Caroline Shaw's "Entr'acte" and Cuban conductor/composer Guido López-Gavilán's rhythmic "Cuarteto en Guaguancó."

On **Sunday, October 26**, one of the world's most exciting quartets, the **Quartetto di Cremona**, returns with a program of "Serenades," including Hugo Wolf's "Italian Serenade" and Ravel's amazing String Quartet in F Major. Eminent American clarinetist **David Shifrin** joins them for the autumnal Quintet for Clarinet and Strings by Johannes Brahms.

For a complete change of pace, **Sunday, November 16** brings the **Symphony Winds of Boston**. Six current or former woodwind soloists from the Boston Symphony: flutist **Elizabeth Klein**, oboist **John Ferillo**, clarinetist **Christopher Elchico**, bassoonists **Sam Watson** and **Rick Ranti**, and horn player **Rachel Childers** join Smith College pianist **Jiayan Sun** for a colorful program of Beethoven (Quintet for Piano and Winds, Op. 16), Hindemith (Kleine Kammermusik, op. 24, no. 2), German romantic Carl Reinecke (Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Horn, Op. 274) and Czech master Bohuslav Martinů (Sextet for Piano and Winds). Prepare to be astounded!



Harlem String Quartet



Quartetto di Cremona; David Shifrin



Ferillo, Klein, Sun, Childers, Elchico, Ranti, & Watson

2025-26 Season *(continued)*

On **Sunday, February 1**, the impressive young **Isidore String Quartet** will appear. Winner of a 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 2022 Banff International String Quartet Competition, they will show their stuff in two romantic masterworks, Schubert's "Rosamunde" Quartet in A Minor and Brahms' Quartet No. 3 in B-flat Major, along with quartet arrangements of songs by Bach and Brahms.



Isidore Quartet

French-Swiss cellist **Camille Thomas** arrives on **Saturday, March 7**, joined by the splendid pianist **Julien Brocal**. She is a Deutsche Grammophon recording artist who possesses "all the requisite technique and produces a sound I can only liken to drinking hot chocolate: delicious, warming, full of flavour" (Gramophone Magazine). Their varied program includes sonatas by J. S. Bach and Edvard Grieg, plus shorter pieces by Satie, Saint-Saëns, Brocal himself, and Radiohead.



Camille Thomas & Julien Brocal

And for a truly grand finale, on **Saturday, March 21**, the enterprising Boston-based chamber orchestra **A Far Cry** returns to our series with a wonderful program – American composer-performer Shelley Washington's "Middleground," Copland's Appalachian Spring in its delectable original chamber scoring, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral" in an arrangement for fourteen players – not to be missed!

One hour before each concert, we'll have "Concert Conversations" featuring the artists fielding questions from Artistic Director John Montanari and from you, our audience. We'll have lots of fun – so please join us!



A Far Cry

(Programs subject to change.)

We are thrilled with the success of our 2024-25 season. The ensembles were outstanding, while attendance matched and even surpassed pre-pandemic levels. The audience was wildly enthusiastic, and the musicians commented not only on our beautiful Sweeney Concert Hall, but on the warm reception they received. Any wonder that they want to come back? Could we be even more excited about next season?

Yet, a reality: Valley Classical Concerts could not function without the support of our patrons. We cannot rely on ticket sales alone. In fact, they cover only about 50% of the cost of each concert. Grants are increasingly difficult to obtain. We must find ways to continue to attract larger audiences. Artist fees have increased, as our musicians are subject to the same cost increases that plague the rest of us.

That's why we are counting on you to help sustain us. Your donation is an investment, not only in VCC's future, but in its present . . . you are a partner in what is happening on the stage.

We do our best to keep our prices affordable. Consider that in New York or Boston the same artists would cost two or three times what we ask. We discount heavily for students and admit 18 and under for free. We have no separate office and no paid staff . . . our work is done by volunteers. All our revenue goes back into the music. Your generosity makes a huge difference! Please help!

Many thanks,

William Harbison, Board President
Valley Classical Concerts

VCC is a 501(c)(3) organization, Tax ID 22-247-4932

Valley Classical Concerts

PO Box 60424
Florence MA 01062

413-239-0417

office@valleyclassicalconcerts.org
www.valleyclassicalconcerts.org

Board of Directors

Andrea Bonsignore, Concert Manager
Pam Coe
Ian Fraser
David Gang
Luke Goodridge, Contract Specialist
William Harbison, President
John Montanari, Artistic Director
Richard Ranti
Laurel Rogers, Vice President
Jeffrey Saltzman, Office Manager & Treasurer
Michael Sorrell
Richard Teller, Clerk & Editor
Gary Turku
Peter Van Pelt



There are several easy ways to donate:

1. **Send a check, payable to Valley Classical Concerts, to PO Box 60424, Florence, MA 01062**
2. **Donate securely on our website, <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/valleyclassicalconcerts/6428/donations>** Note: if you have an account with us, you'll need your TIX password. If not, please set one up -- it's easy!
3. **Call our office, (413) 239-0417.**
4. **Give via a Donor Advised Fund. Our tax ID is 22-247-4932.**
If you have already made your gift, thank you!



Tickets will go on sale soon! Watch the website!

6-concert subscriptions \$180
4 concert subscriptions \$125
Adults \$35 Students \$10
18 and under FREE
MA Card to Culture FREE



P.O. Box 60424
Florence, MA 01062

Non Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #786
Springfield, MA
01152

***The latest news on
our spectacular
2025-26 season!***

1*1*1*****AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 12345

First Name and Last Name

115 Main Street

Anytown, MA 56789-1234



**Sevenars Concerts
The Academy**

15 Ireland St., off Rte 112
Worthington, Mass.
413-238-5854
www.sevenars.org

Our 57th Anniversary Season!

**Six Sundays at 4:00 p.m.,
July 13 - August 17, 2025**

"Acoustic gem, idyllic" (Berkshire Eagle)
"One of the best small music festivals in
the United States" (Time)



Music Alive!

June - October, in the historic, intimate
West Whately, Mass. Chapel

www.watermelonwednesdays.com

**Spend the summer with
our friends!**