

VCC Valley Classical Concerts

World-Class Chamber Music on Your Doorstep!

September 2025

2025-26 Tickets Now on Sale!

John Montanari, Artistic Director

At last, after a long summer, Valley Classical Concerts is back! And we are incredibly excited about our new season, which will explore the familiar and the less-so in equal measure. Once again, all 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**. Their program, “Echoes of Inspiration,” includes 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 Guaguanco.” The Harlem Quartet has been called “fresh, bracing, and intelligent.” Come find out why.

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 in B Minor by Johannes Brahms.

For a complete change of pace, **Sunday, November 16** brings the **Symphony Winds of Boston**. A veritable “dream team” of 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** -- will 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

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



Isidore Quartet

Franco-Belgian 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). Their eclectic program "Rendez-Vous," includes J. S. Bach's third viola da gamba sonata and Edvard Grieg's glorious cello sonata, plus shorter pieces by Satie, Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Thomas and Brocal themselves, and Radiohead.



Camille Thomas & Julien Brocal

And for a truly grand finale, on **Saturday, March 21**, the ever-innovative Boston-based chamber orchestra **A Far Cry** returns. They will open with "SAY," Shelley Washington's searing essay on being of mixed race in contemporary America. Copland's "Appalachian Spring" follows, in its original chamber scoring. The concert -- and VCC's season -- concludes with a spectacular 1811 arrangement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral" for strings. Not to be missed!

Come early . . . One hour before each concert, John Montanari moderates "**Concert Conversations**" between the performers and members of the audience. It's free-form, informative, and fun!

(Programs subject to change.)



A Far Cry



Subscription and Single Tickets Now on Sale!

Ticket Prices:

6-Concert Subscription: \$180*

4-Concert Selection: \$125

Adults: \$35.00 College Students: \$10.00

18 and Under: *FREE* at the Door

**EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare Cardholders:
FREE at the Door****

***If you subscribed last season and would like the same seats, we will hold them through October 12, unless we hear from you. Last year's 4-concert packages (selections) are not renewable.**

****Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture program is in collaboration with the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Public Health's WIC Nutrition Program, and the Massachusetts Health Connector.**

**To order tickets online, please go to
<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/6428>**



Or ...

Having difficulty with online ticketing?

We can help you through the process!

Need to make special arrangements?

Have a question?

**Please call or email (413) 586-0458,
boxoffice@valleyclassicalconcerts.org, and
one of our friendly, patient box office
volunteers will assist you.**

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Camille Thomas (Mar. 7)

We on the Board are truly excited about the 2025-26, season. We have a true variety of ensembles, from string quartet with clarinet, to the BSO winds with Jiayan Sun at the piano, a world-famous cellist, two renowned string quartets, and to end the season, A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra. We are able to continue to showcase such internationally recognized ensembles because of the generosity of our loyal patrons.

"Music washes the dust of everyday life away from the soul" (Berthold Auerbach). As you sit and enjoy live music and shut out the turmoil of the world, please consider donating to Valley Classical Concerts so we can survive and thrive in the future. Thank you! William Harbison, President.

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



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The Harlem String Quartet (October 12)