

VCC Valley Classical Concerts

Bringing a World of Chamber Music to the Pioneer Valley
JUNE 2023

The 2023-24 Season, from October to April

**John Montanari,
Artistic Director**

NO brag, just fact: Valley Classical Concerts' 2023-2024 season is the most varied, most adventurous, and most musically scrumptious in our history. Check these out:

On **Sunday, October 22, 3 p.m.** at the Bombyx Center in Florence, the Viano String Quartet – first-prize winner at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, in residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center – will demonstrate how high the bar has been set by the current generation of young quartets. Their program, “Memoirs,” consists of brief works by Franz Schubert, Florence Price, Krzysztof Penderecki and Antonín Dvořák, followed by Bedřich Smetana’s searing Quartet No. 1, “From My Life.”

Our old friends from Boston, the Borromeo String Quartet, have for decades been one of America’s most consistently probing and interesting chamber ensembles. On **Sunday, November 12, 3 p.m.** at Sweeney Concert Hall, the Borromeo will do



Viano String Quartet



Borromeo String Quartet



Merz Trio

some Bach from “Well-Tempered Clavier,” Jamaican composer Eleanor Alberga’s “Remember,” Bartók’s Quartet No. 6, and the Beethoven Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127.

For stunning artistry combined with an innovative program, the **Sunday, February 4, 3 p.m.** concert at Sweeney by the multiple

prize-winning Merz Trio is a must. Their program, “Alma Mahler Goes West,” explores the musical and cultural collisions of the Second Viennese School (Schoenberg, Berg, Webern) with the new, through the lens of Alma (wife of Gustav) Mahler’s fabled journeys through the United States. The first half consists of brief works of composers ranging from Berg and

Webern and Britten to Charles Ives and Thelonious Monk, as well as Alma herself. Then on the second half, the Merz will perform Arnold Schoenberg’s gorgeous “Verklärte Nacht” (“Transfigured Night”) in the transcription for piano trio by noted Schoenbergian pianist Eduard Steuermann.

Continued next page

2023-24 Season *(continued)*

TAMAR Zorman is the winner of the 2011 Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition and a recipient of the 2014 Borletti-Buitoni Award and the 2013 Avery Fisher Career Grant – and as you may recall, violinist of the

Lysander Trio, whom we presented in 2022.

With his frequent partner, pianist Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė, Zorman will open and close his **Saturday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.** concert at Sweeney with two of the 19th century's

most melodic violin works, Schubert's Sonata in A Major, D. 574 and César Franck's Sonata in A Major, separated by works by Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina and Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz.

Violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson have been two of the brightest names in chamber music for decades, best known for their trio with the late pianist Joseph Kalichstein. Now, they've formed a new ensemble, the *Espresso!* Piano Quartet, with pianist Anna Polonsky and violist Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, to explore the rich but comparatively seldom played repertoire for piano quartet, as they will at Sweeney on **Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.** And they have three great examples on their program: Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Mendelssohn's Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 1, and Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 25.

The Junction Piano Trio consists of three notable soloists who also happen to perform magnificently together. We've been trying to present them for several years, but scheduling hassles and Covid intervened. On **Sunday, April 21, 4 p.m.** (one hour later than usual) at Bombyx, they'll finally show up with a terrific program of American composer John Zorn's



Itamar Zorman, Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė

JAMIE JUNG

MONIKA POŽERSKYTĖ



Junction Piano Trio

"Ghosts," Charles Ives's witty and visionary Piano Trio, and – how better to conclude our season? – Beethoven's Piano Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 97, better-known to chamber music lovers worldwide as the "Archduke."

Don't forget that each concert is preceded by one hour with "Concert Conversations," wherein the artists will take questions from your humble servant as well as from the audience. See you there!



Espresso!

SHERVIN LAINEZ, MARGARET KOGOS

WE are pleased to share with you the details of our coming season, and we seek your support to help us make it happen.

Like most nonprofit organizations, we depend heavily on donations. Ticket sales make up only about half of our revenue. In order to continue to fulfill our mission of presenting internationally known chamber ensembles for our patrons and music lovers, we face the challenge of paying musicians' ever-increasing fees. In fact, over half of our expense budget is now for artists' fees and lodging.

So, as we look forward to the 2023-24 season, please consider giving generously to help cover the costs. Use the remittance slip below to pay by check or credit card, or go to valleyclassicalconcerts.org to donate electronically. We thank you for helping us share the joys of chamber music.

Ticketing Available Online

Online ticketing for individual tickets and subscriptions will be available starting August 15 through the VCC website at www.valleyclassicalconcerts.org/tickets.

In August you will receive our ticket brochure with complete concert details and ticket order form.

Previous subscribers may retain their customary seats at any time by emailing info@valleyclassicalconcerts.org or by leaving a message at 413-586-0458 before September 12, at which time their seats will be released to the general public.

Ticket Prices

- Adults.....\$35
- Children.....\$ 5
- Adults bringing children\$10
- Students 18 and older with ID\$10

Subscriptions

- Six concerts\$180
- Four concerts..... \$125

Valley Classical Concerts

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— **Catherine Drinker Bowen**



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