

VCC Valley Classical Concerts

World-Class Chamber Music on Your Doorstep!

September 2026

2026-27 Tickets Now on Sale!

Summer seemed too short! We hope yours was full of music! Valley Classical Concerts is back, with an exciting new season that you won't want to miss. Four of our events will be in the comfort and glorious sound of Sweeney Concert Hall at Smith College. Our first two concerts will be at another of the Valley's fine halls, Chapin Auditorium on the beautiful campus of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, while our Smith home undergoes renovation. All our concerts begin at 3:00 p.m., with a free pre-concert discussion (see below) at 2:00.

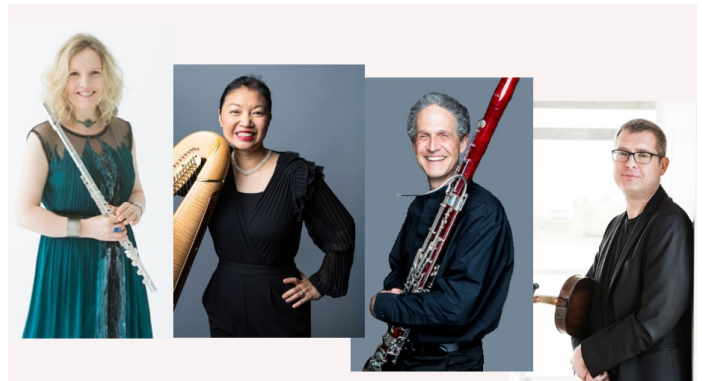
We open on **Saturday, October 10**, with the **Boston Chamber Music Society**. Seven of Boston's best soloists – violinists Jennifer Frautschi and Alyssa Wang, violists Cara Pogossian and Marcus Thompson, cellist Raman Ramakrishnan, bassist Thomas van Dyck, and pianist Max Levinson – will present Mozart's Piano Quartet no. 2, K. 493, in E-flat, Mendelssohn's impassioned String Quintet No. 2, op. 87, in B-flat, and a true rarity, Vaughan Williams' Piano Quintet in C Minor.

Sunday, November 22, will be a treat; the **Boston Symphony's Principal Flutist Lorna McGhee** and **Principal Harpist Jessica Zhou** will be joined by former Associate Principal Bassoon Richard Ranti and violist David Harding for a program including J. S. Bach's Flute Sonata in E-flat, André Jolivet's "Pastoral de Noel," Ravel's Sonatine, Saint-Saëns' Fantasie for Flute and Harp, and Debussy's Trio with Flute, Viola and Harp.

We're back at Smith on **Saturday, February 13**, with the brilliant young **Verona Quartet**. They're bringing Erich Wolfgang von Korngold's String Quartet no. 2, Philip Glass' Quartet no. 3, "Mishima" (honoring Glass' 90th birthday), and arguably Beethoven's greatest utterance in the genre, his Quartet no. 14, op. 131, in C-sharp minor.



Boston Chamber Music Society



Musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra



Verona Quartet

2026-27 Season

Saturday, March 6 marks the return to Sweeney Hall of **Richard Goode**, surely a national treasure among classical pianists in the United States, to play J. S. Bach's Partita in B-flat, BWV 825, and a selection of Johannes Brahms' pieces from opp. 76, 116, and 118. The recital concludes with Franz Schubert's massive, magnificent, sometimes enigmatic Sonata in D major, D.850.



Richard Goode, piano

Young, cutting-edge, and just a little quirky (they took their name from a favorite chef), the **Balourdet Quartet** is back on **Saturday, March 20**. They'll treat us to one of Giacomo Puccini's few non-operatic works, "Crisantemi," Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 3, and a work commissioned for the Balourdet, Eric Nathan's "Beyond Waves," followed by Ludwig van Beethoven's glorious Quartet no. 15, op. 132, in A minor.



Balourdet Quartet

VCC's season finale comes on **Sunday, May 2**, with a second appearance by the brilliant **Isidore String Quartet**. Their program includes Joseph Haydn's Quartet, op. 20, no. 5, in F minor, Billy Childs' Quartet no. 4, Anton von Webern's "Langsamer Satz," and Felix Mendelssohn's tragic Quartet no. 6, op. 80, in F minor.



Isidore String Quartet

There are lots of reasons to arrive early, including close parking and walking Mount Holyoke's and Smith's gorgeous campuses. The best reason is to **join us at 2:00 before each concert**, when VCC's Artistic Director John Montanari moderates "**Concert Conversations**" among the performers and members of the audience. It's free-form, informative, and fun!

(Programs subject to change.)

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



Subscription and Single Tickets Now on Sale!

Ticket Prices

- 6-Concert Subscription: \$180*
- 4-Concert Selection: \$125
- Individuals: \$35 College Students: \$10
- 18 and Under: Free at the Door
- EBT, WIC, and Connector Care Cardholders free at the Door**

Purchasing Tickets

To order tickets online, please go to:

<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/6428>

Last year's 4-concert packages (selections) are not renewable. Checks sent to VCC without a ticket invoice will be returned. Please note that we will have open seating at Chapin Hall.

If you encounter difficulties with online ticketing we can help you through the process! Do you need to make special arrangements, like being sent an invoice, or reserving seats for family members 18 or under? 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.

From the VCC President

We on the Board are truly excited about our 2026-27 season. We can continue to showcase such internationally recognized musicians because of the generosity of our loyal patrons. 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! We are especially grateful to Mount Holyoke College for hosting our first two concerts. — Laurel Rogers, President

"Music is the tool to express life — and all that makes a difference." (Herbie Hancock)

*If you subscribed last season and would like the same seats, we will hold them through October 10, unless we hear from you.

**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.

Valley Classical Concerts

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Valley
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The Isidore String Quartet - May 2, 2027