



**cm** FRIENDS OF  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC

**2024/2025  
SEASON**

*E. Natan*

## 2024/2025 SEASON

### TAKÁCS QUARTET

SUN, SEP 8, 2024 | 4:00 PM

KAREN SLACK, *SOPRANO*  
KEVIN MILLER, *PIANO*

WED, OCT 2, 2024 | 7:30 PM

### ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

FRI, OCT 18, 2024 | 7:30 PM

### DOVER QUARTET

SUN, NOV 17, 2024 | 4:00 PM

AWADAGIN PRATT, *PIANO*

WED, DEC 4, 2024 | 7:30 PM

TONY SIQI YUN, *PIANO*

SUN, JAN 5, 2025 | 4:00 PM

### DANISH STRING QUARTET

THU, FEB 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM

BENJAMIN BEILMAN, *VIOLIN*  
STEVEN OSBORNE, *PIANO*

THU, MAR 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM

### QUARTETTO DI CREMONA BASIL VENDRYES, *VIOLA*

WED, APR 9, 2025 | 7:30 PM

### MIRÓ QUARTET

STEVEN BANKS, *SAXOPHONE*

WED, MAY 14, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Cover art: "The Quartet," generously donated to Friends of Chamber Music by Ed Natan, was painted in 2017 upon the death of Walter Levin, founder of the internationally-acclaimed LaSalle Quartet (1947-1987). The LaSalle Quartet performed twice on FCM's Chamber Series: January 8, 1959 and January 16, 1980. Learn more about the artist at [ednatanart.com](http://ednatanart.com).

Dear Friends,

Our 2024-2025 season features artists renowned for their virtuosity and extraordinary talent, including the much anticipated return of the Danish String Quartet, Grammy Award-winning Takács Quartet celebrating its 50th anniversary, soprano Karen Slack with a groundbreaking program titled *African Queens*, the esteemed Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, and the beloved Dover Quartet.

Four outstanding artists make their FCM debut this coming season: pianist Awadagin Pratt, an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient; pianist Tony Siqui Yun, a prodigious talent on the keyboard; violinist Benjamin Beilman, one of the youngest artists to be appointed to the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music who will be joined on our stage by renowned pianist Steven Osborne; and celebrated Italian ensemble Quartetto di Cremona, teaming up with local favorite and Principal Violist of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Basil Vendryes. The season concludes with FCM favorite Miró Quartet joining forces with saxophonist and composer Steven Banks, a recent Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient.

These ten concerts are grouped, as in years past, in two series—this year with a new twist. In addition to a

seven-concert chamber series, FCM is excited to introduce a long-requested series of three Sunday afternoon concerts.

Presented at 4 PM, this Sunday Series includes the season opener with the Takács Quartet, the Dover Quartet, and Tony Siqui Yun's piano recital.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the thrilling experience of live chamber music at Gates Concert Hall. Take advantage of our new Early Bird pricing and secure your season subscription today.

Warmly,



Eli Wald

President, Friends of Chamber Music



## SUNDAY SERIES



**SEP**  
**8**  
SUNDAY  
**2024**  
4:00 PM

### TAKÁCS QUARTET

The Grammy Award-winning Takács Quartet, celebrating their 50th anniversary, will open the 2024-25 season. Artists in Residence at the University of Colorado Boulder, the Takács was the first string quartet to receive the prestigious Wigmore Hall Medal (2014) and be inducted into Gramophone's Hall of Fame (2012). Program includes works by Beethoven, Britten and Mozart.

*"Chamber music royalty..."*  
– Bachtrack

## CHAMBER SERIES



*Karen Slack is "not only one of the nation's most celebrated sopranos, but a leading voice in changing and making spaces in classical music"*  
– Trilloquy.

**OCT**  
**2**  
WEDNESDAY  
**2024**  
7:30 PM

### KAREN SLACK, SOPRANO KEVIN MILLER, PIANO

Karen Slack returns to FCM's Chamber Series with the Colorado premiere of *African Queens*. This brilliantly curated program features music by both African and American composers, celebrating the history and legacy of seven African queens. The performance includes new art songs by acclaimed composers Jasmine Barnes, Damien Geter, Jessie Montgomery, Shawn Okpebholo, Dave Ragland, Carlos Simon, and Joel Thompson.

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

*African Queens* was commissioned by Friends of Chamber Music along with the Aspen Music Festival, Boston Symphony Orchestra for the Tanglewood Learning Institute, Ravinia Festival, Washington Performing Arts, and New York's 92nd Street Y.



## CHAMBER SERIES



**OCT  
18**  
FRIDAY  
**2024**  
7:30 PM

### ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

St. Martin in the Fields is a world-class chamber orchestra, renowned for its exceptional interpretations of great orchestral music. The Chamber Ensemble comprises the orchestra's principal musicians, led by violinist Tomo Keller. Their versatility is on display with virtuosic performances ranging from string quintets to works featuring wind players, including Mendelssohn's great Octet for Strings in E-flat Major and works by Shostakovich and Schulhoff.

*"An ensemble of first-rate musicians,  
technically superb, generously expressive,  
and obviously enjoying themselves."*

- Dallas Morning News

## SUNDAY SERIES



**NOV  
17**  
SUNDAY  
**2024**  
4:00 PM

### DOVER QUARTET

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine*, the Dover Quartet returns to the Chamber Series. The Quartet's honors include the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award. The program includes Dvořák's "American" quartet as well as a new work by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, commissioned by Friends of Chamber Music.

*"The young string quartet of the moment"*

- The New Yorker

## CHAMBER SERIES



DEC  
4

WEDNESDAY  
2024  
7:30 PM

AWADAGIN PRATT, *PIANO*

Making his FCM debut, Awadagin Pratt gained international recognition after winning the renowned Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1992 and being awarded the Avery Fisher Career Grant. He is hailed as “one of the great and distinctive American pianists and conductors of our time” (WGBH). Pratt’s wide-ranging program includes Fred Hersch’s *Nocturne for Left Hand Alone* and Peteris Vasks’s *Castillo Interior*, as well as works from Couperin, Rachmaninoff, and Chopin.

*“...forceful, imaginative, and precisely tinted” performances*  
– Washington Post

## SUNDAY SERIES



JAN  
5

SUNDAY  
2025  
4:00 PM

TONY SIQI YUN, *PIANO*

Canadian pianist Tony Siqui Yun, a much sought-after soloist and recitalist, was the Gold Medalist at the 2019 First China International Music Competition. He was awarded the Rheingau Music Festival’s 2023 Lotto-Förderpreis. Yun’s FCM debut performance includes Beethoven’s “Appassionata” Sonata as well as works by Brahms, Busoni, and Schumann.

*“Tony is a true poet of the keyboard. Expressive, and with his own distinct voice, yet elegant and poised.”*  
– Pianist Magazine

## CHAMBER SERIES



FEB

6

THURSDAY  
2025  
7:30 PM

### DANISH STRING QUARTET

One of the world's most renowned string quartets, the Danish returns to Denver for the third time on our Chamber Series. Musical America's 2020 Ensemble of the Year, the quartet will perform works by Mozart and Shostakovich, as well as folk music from around the world.

*"This is one of the best quartets before the public today."*  
- The Washington Post

## CHAMBER SERIES



MAR

6

THURSDAY  
2025  
7:30 PM

### BENJAMIN BEILMAN, VIOLIN STEVEN OSBORNE, PIANO

Scottish pianist Steven Osborne, winner of two Gramophone Awards, makes a long-awaited return to FCM's series. Osborne will be performing with violinist Benjamin Beilman, one of the youngest artists to be appointed to the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. Works by Clara Schumann and Lili Boulanger will be performed alongside sonatas by Brahms and Frank.

*"Mr. Beilman's handsome technique, burnished sound and quiet confidence...showed why he has come so far so fast."*  
- The New York Times

*"Osborne is a poet of the piano. He is an introspective, thoughtful musician."*  
- South Florida Classical Review



CHAMBER SERIES



**APR**  
**9**

WEDNESDAY  
**2025**  
7:30 PM

**QUARTETTO DI CREMONA**  
**BASIL VENDRYES, VIOLA**

This talented ensemble from Italy makes their FCM debut with local favorite, Colorado Symphony violist Basil Vendryes. Since its formation in 2000, the quartet has been invited to perform at major music festivals and halls around the world. In addition to quartets by Debussy and Golijov, Vendryes will join the quartet for Brahms's late work, his String Quintet No. 2.

*"Internationally renowned for their extremely mature and lyrical sound."*

- The Strad

CHAMBER SERIES



**MAY**  
**14**

WEDNESDAY  
**2025**  
7:30 PM

**MIRÓ QUARTET**  
**STEVEN BANKS, SAXOPHONE**

Formed in 1995, the Miró Quartet was awarded first prize at the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Naumburg Chamber Music Competition. In 2005, the Quartet became the first ensemble ever to be awarded the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant. Saxophonist Steven Banks, also awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2022, is a performer and composer. In addition to Haydn's Quartet in D Major, Banks's arrangements of works by Shaw and Golijov will be included on this program, along with the premiere of his new string quartet with saxophone, commissioned by Friends of Chamber Music.

*"...the performance had the audience spellbound."*

- Washington Post



## MUSIC IN THE CITY

Discover intimate chamber music experiences in these downtown venues.



SEP 24, 2024

### IVALAS QUARTET

Now based at Juilliard, this FCM favorite returns for a CO tour.

Dazzle Denver  
1080 14th Street, Denver



FEB 5, 2025

### DANISH STRING QUARTET

Dinner with the Danish, performing an evening of Nordic folk music.

Nocturne Jazz  
1330 27th Street, Denver



### MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES

In partnership with the Clyfford Still Museum, FCM presents Sunday afternoon chamber concerts in the gallery.

Clyfford Still Museum  
1250 Bannock Street, Denver  
OCT 13, 2024 | DEC 8, 2024 | MAR 9, 2025 | MAY 11, 2025

## MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Friends of Chamber Music believes that no education is complete without music, with its ability to amaze and inspire. Each year we bring professional musicians into local schools, serving over 4,000 Denver Public School students, all free of charge.



### SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCES

We schedule fun, interactive performances by local musicians, often a first, live classical music experience for many students.

### MASTER CLASSES

We occasionally arrange master classes with our performing artists.

### SCHOOL-BASED RESIDENCIES

Our music residency programs are designed to provide targeted, interactive instruction based on the specific needs of a classroom teacher.

We are grateful to the citizens of the SCFD, the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and the Western States Arts Federation for their generous support of FCM and our educational efforts.

Visit our website for more information.

[FRIENDSOFCHAMBERMUSIC.COM](https://www.friendschambermusic.com)

## PURCHASE SEASON TICKETS FOR YOUR BEST VALUE!

### COMBINED SERIES

- \$425 for all 10 concerts
- Early Bird \$375 (before June 21)

### CHAMBER SERIES

- \$325 for 7-concert series
- Early Bird \$270 (before June 21)

### NEW! SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERIES

- \$125 for 3-concert series
- Early Bird \$110 (before June 21)

### SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS:

- Save nearly 30% over single ticket prices with Early Bird purchase.
- Purchase additional tickets for friends and family at a 20% discount.
- One fee (just \$12) to process your entire subscription order.
- Can't make a concert? Watch via livestream, free ticket exchange for another performance, or transfer to a friend.
- Lose or forget your tickets? Get them reprinted for free.

### SINGLE TICKETS

- Single tickets will be available through the Newman Center Box Office beginning June 21.
- Tickets range from \$50-\$65.
- Single tickets for patrons 30-years-old or younger are always \$15!
- Students (with I.D.) just \$5!

### FLEX SERIES

- \$200 for a package of 4 vouchers
- Early Bird \$180 (by June 21)

Vouchers are redeemable online or in person at the box office.

### LIVESTREAM OPTION

We will continue to make livestream links available to current season ticket holders (pending artist approval). Individual streaming tickets will be available for purchase 30 days prior to each performance.

### TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Purchase tickets online: [fcm.newmantix.com](http://fcm.newmantix.com)  
by phone: 303-871-7720  
or in person: at the Newman Center Box Office:

Open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm  
Sat, 12pm-4pm (Sep-May)  
2344 E. Iliff Ave., Denver, CO 80208



### ALL SERIES CONCERTS WILL BE HELD IN

GATES CONCERT HALL, NEWMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
2344 E. Iliff Ave, Denver 80208



# HELP US KEEP THE MUSIC ALIVE

## THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FCM:

- Help us expand our circle of friends! Tell others about our concerts. Better yet, bring them as your guest!
- Give your time as a volunteer. Share your expertise, participate in committee work, or help with various special events. Email [info@friendsofchambermusic.com](mailto:info@friendsofchambermusic.com) for more information.
- Leave a lasting legacy by remembering FCM in your will.
- Donate today with a one-time or recurring gift.

## NEW! FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC COMMISSIONING INITIATIVE

Join FCM as it works to advocate for and sponsor new chamber music for audiences in Colorado as well as across the country. FCM will be commissioning or co-commissioning up to three new works each season. To be a part of this effort, scan the QR code below and choose "Fund for New Music" using the drop down box under "designation."



To make a tax-deductible donation, or to find out more about ways you can help, visit [friendsofchambermusic.com/support](https://friendsofchambermusic.com/support).



Photo: Amanda Tipton



[FRIENDSOFCHAMBERMUSIC.COM/SUPPORT](https://FRIENDSOFCHAMBERMUSIC.COM/SUPPORT)

A photograph of a theater interior. The foreground is dominated by a close-up of a red upholstered seat. In the background, rows of similar red seats extend into the distance. Above the seating area, there are several wooden balconies or boxes, each with a warm, glowing light fixture. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting, with soft lighting and a focus on the texture of the red fabric.

**We've saved you a seat.  
Get your tickets today!**