



FRIENDS OF
CHAMBER
MUSIC

2026

2027

SEASON



2026-27 SEASON

Cover: Betsy Johnson Welty

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET

JEREMY DENK, *PIANO*

SUN, SEP 27, 2026 | 4:00 PM

GABRIELA MONTERO, *PIANO*

SUN, OCT 11, 2026 | 7:30 PM

ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

ISATA KANNEH-MASON, *PIANO*

SUN, NOV 15, 2026 | 4:00 PM

NIKOLAI LUGANSKY, *PIANO*

SUN, JAN 24, 2027 | 4:00 PM

DANISH STRING QUARTET

THU, FEB 18, 2027 | 7:30 PM

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

SUN, MAR 14, 2027 | 4:00 PM

ANTHONY MCGILL, *CLARINET*

CONRAD TAO, *PIANO*

MON, APR 5, 2027 | 7:30 PM

IMANI WINDS

WED, MAY 12, 2027 | 7:30 PM

“ I relish the sense of community, seeing friends, sharing a great musical performance. But most of all, I love the quality of the music. ”

- FCM Patron

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Friends of Chamber Music is thrilled to unveil its **2026–27 season**, including world-class musicians, exciting debuts, and inspiring collaborations.

We open the season with a powerful program featuring pianist **Jeremy Denk** and the **Isidore String Quartet** performing beloved quintets of Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann. An exciting debut on our series follows, with pianist **Gabriela Montero** performing a program inspired by the music of Spain.

We're delighted to announce the return of the **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**, last heard on our series in 2013, featuring pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, with a world premiere of a work by Katie Jenkins, co-commissioned by Friends of Chamber Music's Commissioning Initiative. Later in the season comes another long-anticipated return to our stage by pianist **Nikolai Lugansky**, followed by audience favorite the **Danish String Quartet**. Wrapping up the season is the acclaimed **Pavel Haas Quartet**, the brilliant clarinetist **Anthony McGill** along with pianist and composer **Conrad Tao**, and the GRAMMY-winning **Imani Winds**.

This promises to be a season of extraordinary music! As always, we offer flexible and accessible options for enjoying the season. A

full-season, **8-concert subscription** provides the best value and includes easy ticket exchanges, complimentary livestream access (subject to artist approval), and discounts for friends and family. Or create your own subscription with convenient **Flex Vouchers**.

With your support, Friends of Chamber Music will continue to thrive, bringing our community together through unforgettable live performances. We look forward to welcoming you back to the hall for another remarkable season.

Warmly,



Eli Wald

President,
Friends of Chamber Music





SEP
27

SUNDAY
2026
4:00 PM

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET
JEREMY DENK, PIANO

One of today's most exciting young ensembles, the Isidore String Quartet joins forces with pianist Jeremy Denk for a powerful season-opening concert. Winners of the 2022 Banff Competition, the Isidore String Quartet brings fearless energy and fresh insight to Schumann's radiant Piano Quintet in E-flat Major and Brahms's passionate F Minor Quintet, with MacArthur Fellow Denk adding his signature imagination and wit. Also on the program is Webern's *Langsamer Satz*.

The group "exude[s] everything that can make a string quartet a joyful experience...."

—Seen and Heard International

"The real inspiration was Jeremy Denk, who is an incredible musician, a virtuoso and a wonderful collaborator."

—NPR

OCT
11

SUNDAY
2026
7:30 PM

GABRIELA MONTERO, PIANO

Gabriela Montero's visionary interpretations and unique compositional gifts have garnered her critical acclaim and a devoted following around the world. In her FCM debut, Montero presents a program inspired by the music of Spain—rich in color, rhythm, and expressive freedom. The concert will include works by Albéniz, Granados, Larrocha, and Scarlatti, with Liszt's *Spanish Rhapsody* closing the program.

Presented in partnership with the Colorado State Music Teachers Association

"Montero's playing had everything: crackling rhythmic brio, subtle shadings, steely power...soulful lyricism...unsentimental expressivity."

—The New York Times



NOV
15
SUNDAY
2026
4:00 PM

ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ISATA KANNEH-MASON, PIANO

The acclaimed Orpheus Chamber Orchestra returns to our series in a much-anticipated concert, performing works by Handel, Haydn, and Mozart, as well as a new work, co-commissioned by FCM. Joined by award-winning British pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason in her FCM debut, this electrifying program showcases the magic that happens when world-class artists come together in true musical partnership.

"Playing with perfect unanimity, Orpheus performances have polish and spirit, and display an infectious love for making music."
- The New York Times



JAN
24
SUNDAY
2027
4:00 PM

NIKOLAI LUGANSKY, PIANO

Described by *Gramophone* as "the most trailblazing and meteoric performer of all," Nikolai Lugansky is making his long-awaited solo debut on our series. Lugansky will lend his extraordinary depth and versatility to two Beethoven Piano Sonatas, Op. 31 and Op. 109, as well as Schumann's *Fantasie in C Major*.

"Lugansky's passion radiates and his piano sings and thunders like an orchestra..."
- Bachtrack



**FEB
18**

THURSDAY
2027
7:30 PM

DANISH STRING QUARTET

A favorite of FCM audiences, the Danish String Quartet is one of the world's most renowned string quartets, performing to sold-out concert halls around the world. *Musical America's* 2020 Ensemble of the Year, the quartet will perform works by Beethoven and Shostakovich, as well as Gabriella Smith's *Carrot Revolution*.

"Do not lose track of this group: Even by today's high standards, it offers something very special."

— The Boston Globe



**MAR
14**

SUNDAY
2027
4:00 PM

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

Based in Prague, the Pavel Haas Quartet is celebrated worldwide for its rich sound, infectious passion, and intuitive rapport. A five-time *Gramophone* Award winner and named one of *BBC Music Magazine's* 10 greatest string quartets of all time, the quartet brings Czech soul and classical mastery to Beethoven's Op. 135, Janáček's *Kreutzer Sonata*, and Dvořák's String Quartet No. 14.

"It's their lightness of touch that commands; the subtle nuances of color, line and texture performed with almost spectral intensity."

— BBC Music Magazine



APR
5
MONDAY
2027
7:30 PM

ANTHONY MCGILL, CLARINET
CONRAD TAO, PIANO

Hailed by *The New York Times* for his “trademark brilliance, penetrating sound and rich character,” clarinet virtuoso Anthony McGill joins pianist-composer Conrad Tao for an exhilarating evening of chamber music. The program will feature Brahms’s beloved Clarinet Sonata alongside Berg’s 4 Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, as well as a new work by Conrad Tao. This powerful collaboration brings together two visionary artists shaping the future of classical music.

Conrad Tao was “...adventurous, agile and often electrifying as he navigated works both contemporary and classical.”

– The New York Times



MAY
12
WEDNESDAY
2027
7:30 PM

IMANI WINDS

For nearly three decades, the GRAMMY-winning Imani Winds has revolutionized and reimagined the wind quintet. Closing our season with *Take Flight*, the ensemble explores freedom, migration, and the beauty of nature through soaring melodies. Program highlights include Stravinsky’s *Firebird Suite*, August Read Thomas’s *Avian Escapades*, and a new arrangement of Charlie Parker’s *Yardbird Suite*.

“[The] ensemble is strikingly virtuosic.”

– The Boston Musical Intelligencer

SEASON TICKETS ARE YOUR BEST VALUE!

Purchase by June 18 for Early Bird Pricing

FULL SERIES

Enjoy all 8 concerts—your best value!

\$400 for all 8 concerts (**Early Bird \$375**)

FLEX VOUCHERS

Create your own series with this flexible ticket option.

\$240 for a package of 4 vouchers (**Early Bird \$220**)

UNDER 30 SERIES

All 8 concerts at an unbeatable price for ages 30 and under.

\$160 for the 8-concert series (**Early Bird \$140**)

NEW THIS YEAR

Early Bird 8-concert subscribers (including Under 30) receive **two bonus tickets**—the perfect way to introduce friends to Friends of Chamber Music. Tickets will be sent electronically after June 19.

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

- **Save 30%** over single ticket prices (with Early Bird pricing).
- **20% discount** on additional tickets.
- Livestream included, pending artist approval.
- Free ticket exchanges and reprints.

SINGLE TICKETS

- Single tickets \$65-\$80 (inclusive of all fees), available beginning June 19 (fcm.newmantix.com)
- 30 and under tickets just \$20!
- Students (with I.D.) just \$10!
- Livestream tickets sold separately. Watch our website for details.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Purchase tickets online | fcm.newmantix.com

By phone | 303-871-7720

In person | at the Newman Center

Box Office: Open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

ALL SERIES CONCERTS WILL BE HELD IN
Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the
Performing Arts | 2344 E. Iliff Ave, Denver 80208



**Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts**

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 guests!
- Give your time as a volunteer. Share your expertise, participate in committee work, or help with various special events. Email 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.

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.



LEGACY GIVING

Turn your love of chamber music into a lasting legacy. A planned or deferred gift to Friends of Chamber Music helps ensure our artistic excellence and financial stability for generations to come—while offering potential tax benefits for you and your family.

You can include FCM in your will, name us as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan, or contribute to our Endowment Fund in honor or memory of someone special.

To learn more about legacy giving, please contact us at info@friendsofchambermusic.com.



Jay Mead & Carol Svendsen,
Legacy Donors

MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES

In partnership with the Clyfford Still Museum, FCM presents Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts at the museum. Identical concerts at noon & 1 PM. Save the date for these intimate concerts, offered free with museum admission:

- SEPT 13, 2026 - Nicolò Spera, *classical guitar*
- NOV 8, 2026 - ReSound
- FEB 14, 2027 - Cantare Montibus
- APR 11, 2027 - The Femme Quartet

Clyfford Still Museum
1250 Bannock Street, Denver



FREE FAMILY CONCERT

Watch our website for details on this fun and free concert, perfect for patrons of all ages!



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 nearly 4,000 students, all free of charge.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCES

We schedule fun, interactive performances by local musicians. These performances are often the first experience many students have to hear live classical music.

SCHOOL-BASED RESIDENCIES

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

MASTER CLASSES

When available, FCM's touring artists coach master classes for aspiring musicians.

FCM'S RESIDENT QUARTET

With FCM's own resident quartet, we are able to provide even more customized music experiences!

The **Timberline Quartet** is teaching students about the connection between music and storytelling with their lively, age-appropriate program, **Stories in Sound**. Through carefully chosen works, the quartet explores how music tells stories, carries history, and reflects identity. This engaging mix of music and storytelling invites students to listen actively, make real-world connections, and discover how music can give voice to their imaginations.

Know a school that might be interested? Have them reach out to info@friendsofchambermusic.com for more information.



We are grateful to the citizens of the SCFD, Colorado Creative Industries, and Creative West for their generous support of FCM and our educational efforts.



WWW.FRIENDSOFCHAMBERMUSIC.COM

A man with a beard, wearing a dark, patterned sweater, is shown in profile, clapping his hands. He is surrounded by a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a large gathering or event. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the man's face and hands, and deep shadows in the background.

A Season of Discovery.
Get your tickets today!

Photo: Amanda Tipton