

ChamberFest Cleveland 2019: *Under the Influence*

by Mike Telin



Since bursting onto the scene in 2012 with its *Big Bang*, ChamberFest Cleveland has established itself as an organization of the highest musical integrity with a seemingly endless number of themed programs. Looking through the archives of this publication, it's fascinating to see the imaginative and clever way the Festival has reinvented itself each year.

But a closer look reveals that ChamberFest's mission, "to nurture a deep family-like connection between musicians and audiences of all ages," has never waned. In summing up the 2016 season, *ClevelandClassical.com* critic Neil McCalmont noted,

"Technical prowess, fierce dedication, and the cultivation of friendships all contribute to ChamberFest's captivating concerts, which keep audiences coming back season after season."

Season 8, titled [*Under the Influence*](#), considers the factors that inspire and influence composers. Cutting-edge pieces by John Adams, John Cage, and Steve Reich will anchor works by other classical composers. Pre-concert talks will be held prior to most concerts and are open to the public. Tickets and subscriptions are on sale now and range in price from \$15 to \$40. For concert details and additional information, call (216) 471-8887 or visit www.chamberfestcleveland.com.

The festivities kick off on Thursday, June 13 at 7:30 pm in Mixon Hall at the Cleveland Institute of Music. [*Under the Influence*](#) features Beethoven's *Clarinet Trio in B-flat*,

Penderecki's *String Trio*, Heinz Holliger's *Two Pieces for Solo Piano*, and Schumann's *Piano Quartet in E-flat*.

On Friday, June 14, the music will move downtown for a 7:30 pm performance in Drinko Hall at Cleveland State University. [In Full Swing](#) includes Bernstein's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*, John Adams' *Shaker Loops*, and Dvořák's *Piano Quartet in D*. A special Rising Stars performance begins at 7:00 pm with Athena (16) and Corina (12) Deng, students in the CIM Preparatory Department, performing Ravel's *Tzigane* and Saint-Saëns' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*.

Saturday, June 15 will find the music back at CIM for a 7:30 pm concert in Mixon Hall. [Turning/Tipping Points](#) will be highlighted by Louise Farrenc's rarely heard *Clarinet Trio in E-flat*. The program also includes Hindemith's *Viola Sonata* and Brahms' *String Quintet No. 2 in G*. At 6:45 pm Adam Golka and Roman Rabinovich will present Golka's new arrangement of Debussy's *La Mer* for two pianos.



At 9:00 pm on Tuesday, June 18, ChamberFest moves to The Wine Spot in Cleveland Heights for a solo performance by violinist Alexi Kenney. [Bach to the Future](#) will explore J.S. Bach's "Adagio" and "Allemande" (*Sonata No. 1 in g*), "Largo" (*Sonata No. 3 in C*), and "Chaconne" (*Partita No. 2 in D*). The programming jumps to the 20th and 21st centuries for Kurtág's "Ruhelos" (*Kafka Fragments*), Berio's *Improvisations over Luciano Berio's Thema Omaggio a Joyce*, Patrick Castillo's *Cirque*, Steve Reich's *Violin Phase*, Salonen's *Lachen verlernt*, and Thurídur Jónsdóttir's *Inni — Musica da Camera*.

Back at Mixon Hall on Thursday, June 20 at 7:30 pm, [Mozart the Giant](#) will include Beethoven's *Quintet for Piano and Winds*, Poulenc's *Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano*, and Mozart's *String Quintet No. 5 in D*, K. 593.

You are alone on Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 pm in Mixon Hall for [Sei Solo \(You Are Alone\)](#). The program features J.S. Bach's "Adagio" (*Solo Violin Sonata No. 1 in g*, "Sei Solo"), John Cage's *The Perilous Night* (solo prepared piano), Mendelssohn's *String Quartet No. 6 in f*, and Brahms' *Horn Trio*.

Enjoy an afternoon of folkloric chamber music on Sunday, June 23 at 2:30 pm in Harkness Chapel at Case Western Reserve University. Paul Wiancko's *American Haiku*, Bartók's *Rhapsody No. 1* (violin and piano), Bruch's Nos. 2, 3, 6, and 7 from *Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano*, and Dvořák's *Wind Serenade* make up the program titled [Folklorica](#). At 1:45 pm, violinist Nathan Meltzer and pianist Evren Ozel will perform Ponce's *Estrellita*.

The final week of ChamberFest will begin on Tuesday, June 25 with [Hungary for Music](#) at 7:30 pm in Mixon Hall. The music includes Liszt's *Orpheus* arranged for piano trio by Saint-Saëns, Péter Eötvös' *Thunder* (solo timpani), selections from Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*, and Ernő Dohnányi's *Piano Sextet*.

The music moves across the street to Gartner Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Art on Friday, June 28 at 7:30 pm. [Precocious Virtuosity](#) features Mozart's *Piano Quartet No. 1 in g*, Moritz Moszkowski's *Suite for Two Violins and Piano*, and Mendelssohn's *Octet*.

The 2019 edition of ChamberFest Cleveland concludes on Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 pm in Mixon Hall with the [French Connection](#). Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*, Stravinsky's *Three Pieces for String Quartet*, Gérard Pesson's *Nebenstück* for clarinet and string quartet, Jean Françaix' *String Trio*, and Fauré's *Piano Quartet No. 2* are the featured works.

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