



Internationally Acclaimed Concert Series at The Frick Collection Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

1998-1999 Season Brings Expanded Collaboration with WNYC Radio and a New Nationally Broadcast Series

Classical chamber music was meant to be experienced in the elegant, intimate surroundings of a private home. Indeed, pursuant to the wishes of industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849 – 1919), small audiences have long enjoyed close-up the performances of major figures, as well as international debuts, in the salon-like Music Room of his former residence, one of the few remaining grand mansions in Manhattan. Inaugurated in 1938, the **Chamber Music Series** celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year, with a remarkable season, which is — as always — offered **free** to the public.

Also marking its sixtieth anniversary is a partnership between WNYC FM (93.9) Radio and The Frick Collection, which is expanding its broadcasts of the concerts with a new hour-long format this year in order to bring the series into more homes nationwide. Hosted by **John Schaefer**, the programs will now be presented as part of a yearlong series offered on Public Radio International, **Chamber Music New York**, in conjunction with the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** and **Bargemusic**.

Music Offered in a House Setting

A notable collector who filled his home with an extraordinary gathering of paintings and decorative arts, Mr. Frick was passionate about music as well, offering concerts to friends at regular dinner parties. And, just as music had been an important part of the private life of the house, it has continued to be central to the public life of the mansion and museum. Within three years of the opening of the museum now known as The Frick Collection, the concert series was launched in the softly lit Music Room. Holding 175 seats, the circular room, with its glass dome and damask-covered walls, is decorated with three exquisite panels of hollyhocks by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732 – 1806). Additional seating for the popular series is available in the adjacent sky-lit Garden Court, where the concert may be heard through the house sound system.

A Distinguished History Continues and New Trends Develop

Over the years, a fiercely loyal audience has enjoyed piano recitals, quartets,

soloists, and early-music ensembles. The concert program has been host to major soloists and ensembles such as the instrumentalists Gregor Piatigorsky, Artur Schnabel, Josef Szigeti, and Wanda Landowska, the vocalists Kiri Te Kanawa, Peter Pears, Kathleen Battle, and Elisabeth Söderström, and the Budapest, Amadeus, Tokyo, and Guarneri quartets, with many artists returning numerous times over the years. In recent years, with the direction and creative vision of **Joyce Bodig**, Concert Coordinator at the Frick, two new trends have developed: European musicians and ensembles have made their New York debuts, and the Collection has become an important venue for music played on period instruments. Recent New York recital debuts of European vocalists have featured Sergei Leiferkus, Wolfgang Holzmair, Hans Peter Blochwitz, Michael Chance, Jard van Nes, Frances Lucey, Ian Bostridge, and Matthias Görne.

WNYC FM (93.9) Brings Concert Series to Homes Nationwide in a New Series of Radio Programs

Since the inception of the performance series, these concerts at the Frick have been recorded for a broadcast series on **WNYC-FM New York (93.9)**, allowing millions of listeners to experience the programs at home – locally since 1938 and nationally since 1980. Now marking its sixtieth year, the collaboration is taking an exciting turn. WNYC's **John Schaefer** will host a series of thirteen hour-long programs called **Concerts at The Frick Collection**, which include interviews with the artists. **Concerts at The Frick Collection** will inaugurate a new fifty-two-week series, **Chamber Music New York**, which WNYC and Public Radio International will begin broadcasting nationally in January 1999. Beginning in April, the programs from the Frick will be followed by a twenty-six week series of concerts by the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**. The remaining broadcasts feature concerts by **Bargemusic** and other shows of highlights culled from the entire season but not previously heard. It is anticipated that this newly formatted series will be carried by approximately one hundred radio stations across the country.

Best known nationally for his critically acclaimed show *New Sounds*, John Schaefer has written extensively about music, including the book *New Sounds: A Listener's Guide to New Music*, and has been a contributing editor for *Spin* and *Ear* magazines. He has hosted live panels for Lincoln Center and lectured at Bucknell University, New York University, Musikfest Bremen, and elsewhere.

1998-1999 Season Highlights

Two debuts of particular interest this season are that of the German group **Die Singphoniker**, with six male singers, and **Quatuor Mosaïques**, the premier period-instrument ensemble from Europe, playing works of Mozart, Haydn, and Schubert.

Die Singphoniker's program, in addition to works of Schubert, Schumann, and Mendelssohn, includes Kurt Weill's *Da Berliner Requiem* and selections from the works of the **Comedian Harmonists**, the outstanding male vocal group in Munich in the 1930s noted for their satirical parodies, who were disbanded by the Nazis.

Upcoming Concert and Event Schedule Available Now

Listed below is the complete schedule for the 1998-1999 season. To receive a complimentary copy of the calendar, please call **(212) 288-0700** or write **“Concert Schedule,” The Frick Collection; 1 East 70th Street; New York, NY 10021.** The calendar includes information on public programs as well as the fall exhibition **Victorian Fairy Painting** (October 14, 1998 through January 17, 1999).

Those who join the Membership program of The Frick Collection automatically receive a copy of each calendar, one of many benefits. For information on how to join this program, please call (212) 288-0700 or write “Membership,” The Frick Collection; 1 East 70th Street; New York, NY 10021.

Full Schedule of 1998-1999 Season

SUNDAYS AT 5:00

October 4

American Chamber Players, *violin, viola, cello, flute, piano*: Mozart; Lekeu; Duruflé; Dvorák, Quartet in E-Flat Major for piano and strings, Opus 87

October 18

Fitzwilliam Quartet: Purcell; Boccherini; Haydn; Glazunov; Schnittke; Shostakovich, Quartet No. 3

November 8

Fretwork, consort of four *viols*, with Michael Chance, *countertenor*: Byrd, Jenkins, Locke, Purcell, Gibbons, J.S. Bach

November 22

Andrew Wilde, *piano* : Haydn, Schubert, Chopin

December 13

L'Ensemble Arion, *flute, violin, viola da gamba, harpsichord*, French-Canadian group in New York debut: Leclair, Boismortier, Rameau, Frescobaldi, J.S. Bach, Telemann

January 24

Peabody Trio, *violin, cello, piano*, with Charles Neidich, *clarinet*: Ravel; Messiaen, Quartet for the End of Time

February 7

Die Singphoniker, *6 voices, piano*; German group making its New York debut: Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Weill, Homage to Comedian Harmonists

February 21

Frederic Chiu, *piano*: Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Liszt

March 7

Mark Kosower, *cello*: Locatelli, Poulenc, Pampeano, Rosa, Beethoven

March 21

Amati Quartet, New York debut: Mozart, Janacek, Schumann

April 11

Guillemette Laurens, *mezzo-soprano*, and **Luca Pianca**, *lute*: Lully, Caccini, Rossi, Clèrambault, Monteverdi, Weiss

April 25

Quatuor Mosaïques, New York debut: Mozart Quartet in G Major, K 156, Haydn Quartet in B Major, Opus 76, No. 4 “Sunrise”, Schubert Quartet in A Minor, “Rosamunde”

How to Acquire Tickets:

Because of limited seating in the intimate Music Room, tickets, limited to two per applicant, are issued in response to written requests received *on* the third Monday before the concert. Please direct requests to the Concert Department, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Each request should be for only one concert. No hand-delivered or telephone applications can be accepted. Children under ten are not admitted.

Ticket-holders must be seated at least five minutes before the concert, at which time unoccupied chairs are made available to persons on the waiting line. The program can also be heard by sound transmission in the Garden Court, where no tickets are required.

The concerts are open to the public without charge one half-hour before the event. If those planning to attend arrive earlier, they are expected to pay the regular gallery admission fee.

Concerts are made available through the generosity of the Fellows of The Frick Collection and other donors. Gifts to support the Collection’s programs are essential and are received with great appreciation.

About The Frick Collection

The Frick Collection is an anthology of the some of the most distinguished works of Western art from the early Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, including masterpieces by Bellini, El Greco, Rembrandt, Titian, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and many others housed in one of the great mansions remaining from the Gilded Age. These paintings are complemented by one of the world’s finest collections of Renaissance bronzes and by great French sculpture of the eighteenth century. These treasures are surrounded by outstanding furniture and decorative art works from the ateliers of Riesener, Lacroix, Boulle, Carlin, Gouthière, and Sèvres. Each year more than 250,000 visitors from New York, across America, and around the world come to the Collection at 1 East 70th Street, once the residence of Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). Designed by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings and constructed in 1913-1914, the building was changed after Mrs. Frick’s death in 1931, with alterations and additions made by the architect John Russell Pope. In 1935 the Collection opened to the public. A new Reception Hall built in 1977 was designed by John Barrington Bayley, Harry van Dyke, and G. Frederick Poehler, in addition to two additional temporary exhibition galleries.

The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library at 10 East 71st Street, both a research library and a photoarchive. The Library is one of the world's great repositories for the documentation and study of Western art and has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

Basic Information

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: The Collection is located at 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: 10am to 6pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 1pm to 6pm Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1:00 to 6:00pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Museum Admission: \$7, general public; \$5, students and senior citizens. Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Subway: #6 local (on Lexington Avenue) to 68th Street station

Bus: M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

Museum Shop: the shop closes at 5:45pm, and is open otherwise the same days and hours as the Museum

Group Visits: Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

Public Programs: A calendar of events, including concerts, is published regularly and is available upon request.

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For press information about The Frick Collection, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Communications Officer.

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For a list of radio stations that will carry the series, please call the office of Eileen Delahunty at WNYC at (212) 669 8473.



