Camerata Chicago

Drostan Hall
Saxon Music Director

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

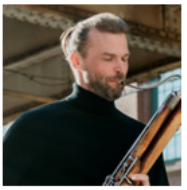
TONY PAYNE

FANTASY ON ENGLISH FOLK TUNES

Elizandro Garcia Montoya

Grace Hong

Lee Shirer



Vincent Karamanov

Fourth Presbyterian Church - Chicago | Friday October 16th - 7:30 pm

Armerding Concert Hall, Wheaton College | Saturday October 17th - 3pm

Union Church of Hinsdale | Sunday October 18th - 3 pm

Camerata Chicago Orchestra

2026 / 2027 Concert Season

OCT	16 - 18	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
NOV	20 - 22	HANDEL'S MESSIAH
MAR	5 - 7	APOLLO'S FIRE SOLOISTS BACH & VIVALDI VIOLIN CONCERTI
APR	9 - 11	FAURÉ REQUIEM POULENC ORGAN CONCERTO DOUGLAS CLEVELAND, ORGAN

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Spencer Garrett

Board President

Greetings and welcome to Camerata Chicago's 2026| 27 Season

It has been my pleasure to serve as Board President these last seven years.

Our Music Director Drostan Hall had a vision in 2003 of creating a top professional music ensemble based in the Chicago area. Maestro Hall's vision continues to unfold as this year, Camerata Chicago and it's world class musicians continue to make music with artists of global distinction.

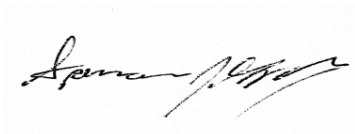
We are thrilled to present the **World Premiere** of *Fantasy on English Folk Tunes* by Dr. Tony Payne, our Composer-In-Residence and for the 26/27 season we welcome violinist Eric Gratz in his debut with Camerata Chicago as Guest Concert Master. Additionally we are very pleased to feature, for the first time as soloists, four of our wind principal musicians; Grace Hong, Elizandro Garcia Montoya, Lee Shirer and Vincent Karamanov performing the Sinfonia Concertante of Mozart. All promises to delight!

We look forward with great anticipation to our Twenty Fifth Anniversary season of 27/28 in which Camerata Chicago undertakes a major European Tour. For more details please see towards the back of this program book. We will continue to update you as plans crystallize.

With an ensemble such as Camerata Chicago the benefits to our community are rich indeed. Thank you for attending and supporting our musical endeavors!

Enjoy one of the greatest gifts from Heaven: Live music!

Warm Greetings



Remarks

Ariane Hall, President of the Ladies Guild

Fantasy on English Folk Tunes……..**Tony Payne**

World Premiere

Sinfonia Concertante in E flat Major ……....**W.A. Mozart**

Grace Hong, oboe | Elizandro Garcia Montoya, clarinet

Lee Shirer, horn | Vincent Karamanov

Allegro

Adagio

Andantino con Variazioni

—-*INTERMISSION*—-

Overture & Incidental Music to Shakespeare's play

A Midsummer Night's Dream……**F.B. Mendelssohn**

Overture

Scherzo

L'istesso tempo

Intermezzo

Nocturne

Dan of the Clowns

Wedding March

TONY PAYNE
COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

Tony Payne's musical education began with taking piano lessons and playing in local church services. He became interested in the organ and seized every opportunity to play it. Band directors, piano, composition, and theory teachers all further fueled his obsession to write and perform music. As an undergraduate at Wheaton College, he learned to play hymns in every key and improvise in multiple styles. Under the tutelage of his beloved teacher, Prof. Howard Whitaker, he was deeply influenced by the music of Bartok and Stravinsky.

In addition, he broadened his education through the exploration of popular, folk, contemporary and rock music. His compositions have been influenced by community, global engagement, collaboration and a love for lifelong learning. Over his celebrated career as an educational entrepreneur, arts leader, church musician and composer, he has written over a hundred hymns, songs, spiritual songs, two chamber musicals, and dozens of vocal and instrumental works. Additionally, he served as General Manager of the Wheaton College Artist Series for 41 years, providing virtually limitless opportunities for concert audiences in the Chicago area to hear great music. The road has been full of welcome surprises. In 2024 he composed a setting of ***The First Hymn*** for choir, piano and strings for the documentary by the same name. Most recently he was invited to become composer-in-residence for Camerata Chicago resulting in the creation of ***Fantasy on English Folk Tunes,*** dedicated to conductor Drostan Hall. Currently, he's working on songs for Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams and a project for a Chicago area string orchestra. Tony Payne holds degrees in music composition from Wheaton College, Bowling Green State University, and a Doctorate of Music in composition from Northwestern University School of Music.

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Camerata Chicago Orchestra & Choir

Founded in 2003 by conductor Drostan Hall, **Camerata Chicago** is a chamber orchestra equally at home in intimate settings as well as in larger chamber music venues, performing the rich tapestry of diverse chamber orchestral repertoire that includes newly commissioned works. Camerata Chicago is now firmly established as one of the finest chamber orchestras on the world stage and has performed frequently on WFMT radio station and for well-known concert venues such as the Art Institute of Chicago, The Harris Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, Northeastern Illinois University, St. James Cathedral, North Park University, College Church, and Within a year of it's debut the ensemble won its first record contract with Centaur Records to record music by Stamitz.

The orchestra has enjoyed collaborating with distinguished artists such as Wendy Warner, Yi-Jia Susanne Hou, Peter van de Graaff, the International Beethoven Project Trio Michelle Arezaga, Caroline Goulding, Julian Schwarz and Joshua Roman. Camerata Chicago has had a particularly close relationship with the internationally acclaimed Vermeer String Quartet, collaborating with the quartet's leader Shmuel Ashkenasi who performed and recorded the 5th violin concerto of Mozart with Camerata Chicago. Mr. Ashkenasi subsequently became Artistic Advisor to the orchestra in 2006. In 2008 Mathias Tacke, second violinist of the Vermeer Quartet was appointed concertmaster and since then has performed and recorded well known Bach concerti with Camerata Chicago. Vermeer cellist Marc Johnson performed Haydn's D major Cello Concerto in 2008. Camerata Chicago makes regular guest appearances on the Artist Series at Wheaton College and most recently enjoyed a collaboration with Joffrey Ballet Academy.

Camerata Chicago has recorded cello concerti by Haydn and Myslivecek with Wendy Warner for the globally distinguished Chicago label Cedille Records and this much anticipated recording has received rave reviews and was nominated for The International Classical Music Award. In 2013 Camerata Chicago, under the leadership of Maestro Drostan Hall undertook a major European tour. Internationally acclaimed cellist Wendy Warner, a native Chicagoan, accompanied Camerata Chicago as soloist. Camerata Chicago commissioned Chicago composer Mischa Zupko, to write the work *Pilatus* especially for the tour which received its world premier in Chicago shortly before the orchestra left for Europe. In 2017 the **Camerata Chicago Chamber Choir** was founded by Music Director Drostan Hall. The virtuoso choir comprises some of the top choristers in Chicago. The choir made it's debut with the Magnificat of Bach, Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Zadok the Priest

Artist Profiles

Grace Hong is an active soloist, chamber musician and orchestra player in the Chicago area. A native of Seoul, she played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on their 2008 Europe tour with Bernard Haitink. She is Principal Oboe of both Camerata Chicago and Chicago Opera Theater, and plays regularly with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Grace is a dedicated educator on the faculty at at DePaul University in their School of Music and Community Music Division, as a lecturer at Northwestern University, and in her own private studio. She holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory, Roosevelt University and DePaul University under the tutelage of John De Lancie, Louis Rosenblatt, James Caldwell, Robert Walters, Jelena Dirks and Eugene Izotov. Grace lives in Chicago with her husband and daughters.

Elizandro Garcia Montoya is an active clarinetist and teacher in Chicago. A versatile musician, Elizandro is principal clarinetist of the Camerata Chicago, Elmhurst Symphony and a member of the Chicago Philharmonic. He is the former principal clarinet of the Sarasota Opera, the State of Mexico Orchestra and Mineria Symphony Orchestra in Mexico City. Elizandro has been a substitute with the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Houston Grand Opera and held a bass clarinet position with the Jacksonville Symphony.A silver prize winner in the 1999 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, Elizandro continues to pursue his chamber music career. He has played chamber concerts with Fifth House Ensemble, Fulcrum Point New Music Project, Chicago Ensemble, Pilgrim Chamber Players and the Chicago Chamber Musicians. Elizandro has participated in numerous music festivals including Tanglewood, National Repertory Orchestra, Kent/Blossom Music, International Festival at Round Top, Spoleto/USA and Yale University's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. He has been principal clarinet of the New Hampshire Music Festival since 2006.

Elizandro completed his Master's degree at Rice University, holds a Bachelor's degree from Baylor University, a Professional Studies diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music and additional post-graduate studies at DePaul University. His major teachers include Larry Combs, Richard Shanley, Michael Webster and Franklin Cohen. Elizandro lives in Chicago and teaches clarinet at Loyola University-Chicago, DePaul University Community Music Program and has been recently appointed to teach at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Lee Shirer is Principal Horn of Camerata Chicago. Lee has played with nearly every professional orchestra in the area including the Chicago Symphony. Lee is also Principal Horn of the Illinois Philharmonic and last season was featured as soloist in Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 4. He played with Broadway productions in Chicago including Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables.

Residing in Edgewater, Chicago, **Vincent Karamanov** is a bassoonist and contrabassoonist who was recently appointed Principal Bassoonist in Camerata Chicago by Music Director Drostan Hall. Vincent is regularly called to perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the batons of Maestros Klaus Mäkelä, Ricardo Muti, and many of the world's finest conductors. Vincent is in high demand as a freelance musician, frequently performing with the Lyric Opera and Joffrey Ballet Orchestras, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his time in Chicago, Vincent served as bassoonist and contrabassoonist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, having been hired by music director David Robertson in 2016. Before his tenure in St. Louis, Vincent served as acting principal bassoon, assistant principal/second bassoon, and utility bassoon/contrabassoon with the Grand Rapids Symphony . During this time he was also principal bassoonist of the West Michigan Symphony, where he appeared as a soloist in Mozart's Bassoon Concerto and *Sinfonia concertante* (for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn). He has also performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Washington, D.C., Vincent's notable teachers include John Clouser (principal bassoon with The Cleveland Orchestra) and Jonathan Sherwin (contrabassoon with The Cleveland Orchestra). While in high school, Vincent studied with Kenneth Pasmanick who was principal bassoon with the National Symphony Orchestra. Vincent performs on Pasmanick's instrument which was originally commissioned from world renowned bassoon manufacturer Heckel in 1952 by the principal bassoonist of the Teatro alla Scalla Orchestra(Italy), Enzo Mucetti.

If you're lucky, you can catch Vincent playing the bassoon after hours around the city of Chicago. In 2025, he was the first bassoonist ever to perform at Buddy Guy's Legends in the Loop and Untitled Supper Club in River North with singer and blues guitarist Will Tillson and his band.

In his free time, Vincent enjoys surfing and stand up paddle-boarding in Lake Michigan, distance long-boarding, and listening to vinyl records.

Camerata Chicago Orchestra

Violin
Eric Gratz, Guest Concert Master

Rika Seko, Associate Concert Master
Steve Robinson Associate Concert Master Chair

Sam Battista
Heather Hempel
Ellen Maloney
Dmitriy Melkumov
Joanna Nerius
Amelia Piscitelli
Danielle Ray (librarian)
Ann Montzka Smelser*
Kenichi Kiyama
Pascal Innocenti
Chantel Charis

Viola
Istvan Loga*
Willie McLellan
Susan Price
Rachel Smith

Cello
Chris Ferrer*
Tim Archbold
Patti Garvey
Jake Muzzy

Bass
Kit Polen*
Brett Lewis
Hannah Novak**

* Principal
** Acting Principal

Flute
Claudia Cryer*
Scott Metlicker**
Joyce Anne Wilder

Oboe
Grace Hong
The Jamie & Deby Fellowes Principal oboe chair
Anna Bradford
Nicholas Swan

Clarinet
Elizandro Garcia Montoya*
Michael Wilder

Bassoon
Vincent Karamanov*
Jon Schuler

Horn
Lee Shirer*
Parker Nelson
Elizabeth Deitemyer

Trumpet
Travis Heath*
Ed Campos
Ryan Hobbs

Trombone
Stephanie Lebens*
Ryan Saladin

Tuba
Castin York

Timpani
Collin Boltz

Purcussion
John Plate

Eric Gratz

Guest Concertmaster Debut

Since his concerto debuts at the age of 14 in the United States, Spain, and Portugal, violinist **Eric Gratz** has enjoyed a multifaceted career as soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician, curator, and educator. He is Artistic Director of the American Chamber Music Society in Chicago, and frequently performs on the series. Gratz previously served for nine seasons as concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony, where he took part in numerous world premieres and regularly play-conducted the orchestra. As both soloist and concertmaster, he has appeared with more than two dozen orchestras, including those of Cleveland, Louisiana, Phoenix, San Antonio, Tucson, Santa Fe Opera, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. Equally at home performing complete Bach Brandenburg cycles with Jeannette Sorrell as he is championing modern concerti by Kurt Weill, Béla Bartók, and Alvin Etler, he possesses an unusually large repertoire, reflecting an ever-expanding range of interests. Gratz made his Kennedy Center recital debut at age 17, and has since appeared regularly on major series, including Austin Chamber Music, Mainly Mozart Festival, Maui Classical Music Festival, Cactus Pear Festival, Castleton Festival, Frankly Music, Chatter PDX, and Memphis Chamber Music Society, performing with artists such as Vadim Gluzman, Julian Schwarz, Orion Weiss, Anton Nel, and members of the Pacifica, Vertavo, Mendelssohn, Formosa, Rosamunde, and Fine Arts Quartets. Formerly Artistic Director of the Olmos Ensemble, he has served as a core member of the San Antonio-based group for over a decade. Gratz is a prolific recording artist, with two albums scheduled for release in 2026 on Centaur and Divine Art labels. Gratz has given masterclasses at various institutions in the U.S., as well as in Ecuador, Italy, and China. He teaches privately in Chicago, and is on faculty at Music Institute of Chicago, North Central College, and the summer faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp as a Valade Concertmaster. A familiar face on digital platforms, he has recorded several Tonebase Violin courses on music by Beethoven, Kreisler, and Ysaÿe.

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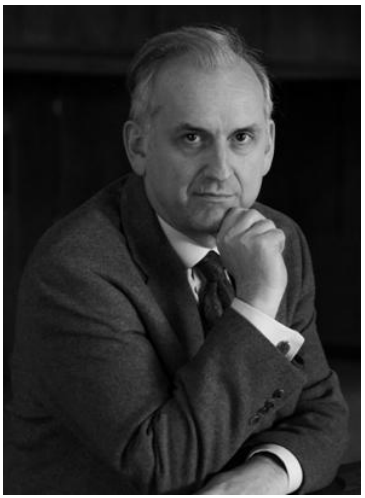

Drostan Hall, Conductor, Music Director and Founder of Camerata Chicago, is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England and of Northern Illinois University. He studied violin with Yossi Zivoni and members of the Vermeer String Quartet including Shmuel Ashkenasi, Piere Menard and Mathias Tacke.

Drostan grew up in England in a musical family. Both his parents are professional musicians. At the age of thirteen he was a competitor in the Inaugural Yehudi Menuhin International Violin competition and as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain he played under conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle and Norman Del Mar. Drostan toured Germany and England with concerto appearances and solo recitals. He released several recordings including the acclaimed *Ferdinand and Friends*. Drostan commissioned composer Jonathan Blumhofer, a graduate of Wheaton College to orchestrate the music for the *Story of Ferdinand* originally by Alan Ridout and he commissioned Joffrey Ballet to create the choreography. In 2019 Drostan conducted the world premiere of that work with Camerata Chicago and Joffrey Ballet at the Wheaton College Artist Series. In 2017 Drostan founded the Camerata Chicago Choir. He maintains a studio of talented violin students many of whom go on to study music at prestigious colleges such as Julliard School of Music, Jacobs School of Music and Wheaton College. Drostan's mission is to educate and inspire the next generation of musicians and concert goers.

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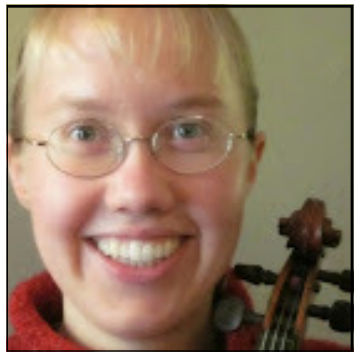

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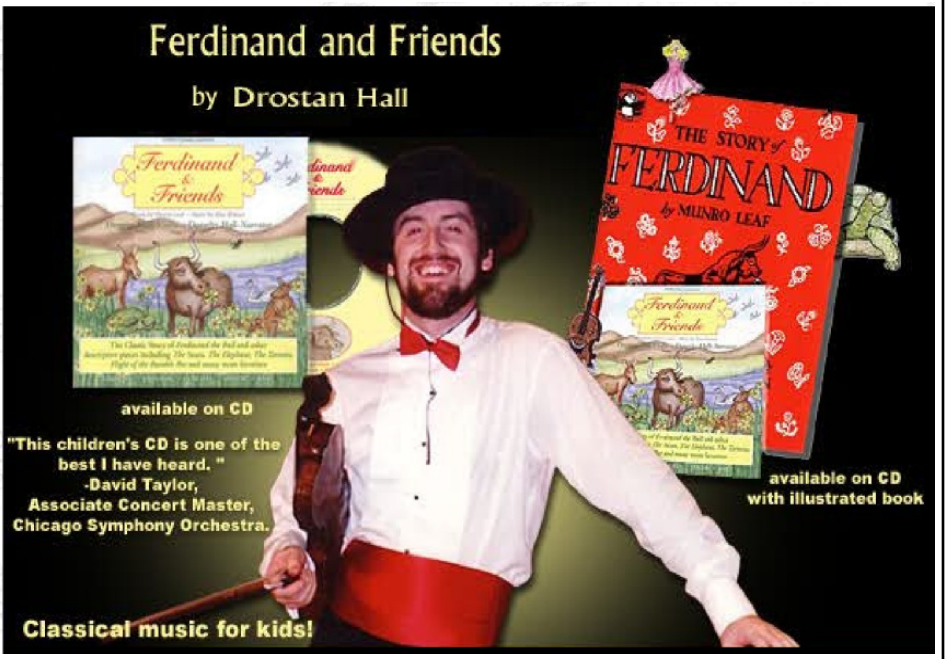

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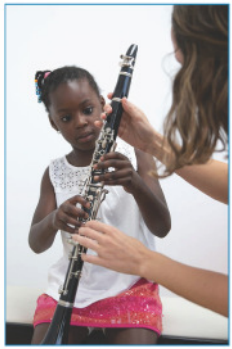

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Rachel & Nicloe Jordan
Kathy & Tim Boyd
Rich & Pam Cary
Jim & RuthAnne Snodgrass
Fran & Craig Elson
Chris & Gail Margarites
Kurt & Meg Amen
Karen & Kimball Anderson
John & Pamela Bauer
Fred & Leona Conforti
John & Helen Demsher
Scott & Catherine Evangelist
Mary & Diego Ferrer
Franklin & Joan Forman
James & Sandra Goetz
Tim & Amy Hohulin
Beth & Rob Hubek
Jim & Susan Hurst
Kent Dymark
Tony & Jennifer Kang
Laurie & Marty Koehler
Pete & Molly LaSueur
Ruth & Scott Nelson
Reed & Karen Nuttal
Dan & Karen O'Brian
Alyce & Dan Penry
Kathy & Brian Potts
Jack & Mary Kay Riordan
Stephen & Caryn Robin
Gregory & Linda Rosc
Rod & Sandra Sagehorn
Jim & Amy Schwartz
Donald & Patt Schwartz
Megan & Steve Shebik
Phil & Ann Storm
Jeff & Teresa Tarizzo
Emil Troianello
Jim & Sandy Tucker
Fred & Paula Wayland
Jeff & Ann Whitcomb
Sharon Levy
Dan Shoman
Julio Camino
Scot & Wesley Polen
Leonard Marchese
Brett & Sharon Trockmann
Steve & Mitzi Weiss
Cameron Michaelson
Mel & Carol Rapp
Thomas & Jill Beverly
David & Lori Bein
Daniel & Kimberly Schulz
Steven & Meyering Shebik
Brenda Dorsey
Moderato
$50 - $99
James N. Bay and Laurie L. Bay
Joseph Di-Iorio and Ann Marie Di-Iorio
Michael B. Elliot and Kathleen H. Elliot
Patricia M. Johnson
Stephen F.and Elizabeth M. Kendall
PTW - Accountants
Robert Rettig
Dana B. Teichart

Daniel Bonilla - Escobar
John Ruth
Maureen Russell
Sunil Sanghvi and Shabnum Sanghvi
Bob Schultheis and Karen Schultheis
Dan Hardt
Matthew & Allison Ross
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Dr. David Mehl and Kathryn L Mehl
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Nerdwerx
Ivan & Judith Shils
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Rosemary G. Lee
Jemin Lee & Sheeyae Lee
Robert L. Mattson & Caroline M. Pittman
Armando Susmano & Lidia B. Susmano
Annette & Jeff Adams
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Phil & Ann Storm
Albert & Marie France Waszok
Matthew Janice Kates
Gina & Ted Harris
M.E. Battin
Rita Hermann
Sarah Schlecht
Cynthia Krukowski
Susan M. Boggie

Adagio

$25 - $49

Jeanne Bishop
Alice Terrell
Beverly and Michael Ross
Clint Gross and Valerie P. Gross
John Sparagana and Kathryn Kahn
Rachel Barton Pine
Susan Acuna Woman's Touch Healthcare
Jim & Carol Bellandi
Margaret Larson
Margaret & Sean Moriaty
Martin & Julie Mudge
Barbara & George Pappas
Chris Stade
Claudia Villamizar
Jerrold & Carol Zar
Susan Philip
Joseph Heininger
Ruth Acton
Sabrina Bailey

Twenty Fifth Anniversary Celebration
European Tour 2028

Our Twenty Fifth Anniversary is approaching in 2028.

We have begun plans to celebrate in style with a European Concert Tour. Cites in which we will concertize include Prague, Berlin, Vienna, London and Rome.

Sponsorship Recognition

Vivace $1 - $5000 Martha Seifert

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Support our 25th Anniversary

European Tour by making a donation here.

Your annual gift of $2000 for five years

will send one musician to Europe.

An annual gift $1000 will send half a musician!

Any amount is gratefully received THANK YOU!

Camerata Chicago

Drostan Hall, *Executive Director, Music Director*

Bartholomew Hall, *Operations Director*

Cole Seaton, *Chorus Manager*

Board of Directors

Spencer Garrett, *President*
Jonathan Brazier, Treasurer
Michael Gresk
Ariane Hall, *Vice President*
Drostan Hall
Nathan Hancock
Alisa Maloney
Mary Mehaffey
Holly & John Moses
David Seng

Mission Statement

Camerata Chicago is a world-class chamber orchestra serving Chicago and its surrounding communities with performances of great music featuring musicians of global distinction. Camerata Chicago is committed to providing an incomparable concert experience which enriches the community and inspires the next generation of musicians and concert-goers.

Marketing Partners:

American Chamber Music Society
Clapham School
Community School of the Arts—Wheaton College
Fellowes
Green House
Hinsdale Music Club
Mattix Studio
Ossia Musical Forum
Real Concerts
Saint John Lutheran School
Sapp Violins
String Academy of Chicago
Suzuki Talent Education of DuPage
Union Church of Hinsdale
Ellman's Music Store
Ferrari Plumbing

THE LADIES GUILD

founded 2018

Ariane Hall, President

Alisa Maloney, Tammy Van Cleave, Rhoda Reid, Esme Shirer, Rebecca Piscitelli, Holly Moses, Anna Brazier, Ariane Hall

The Camerata Chicago Ladies Guild is dedicated to connecting the community with Camerata Chicago's world class concerts. We believe that all people should be able to experience the excitement of live classical music.

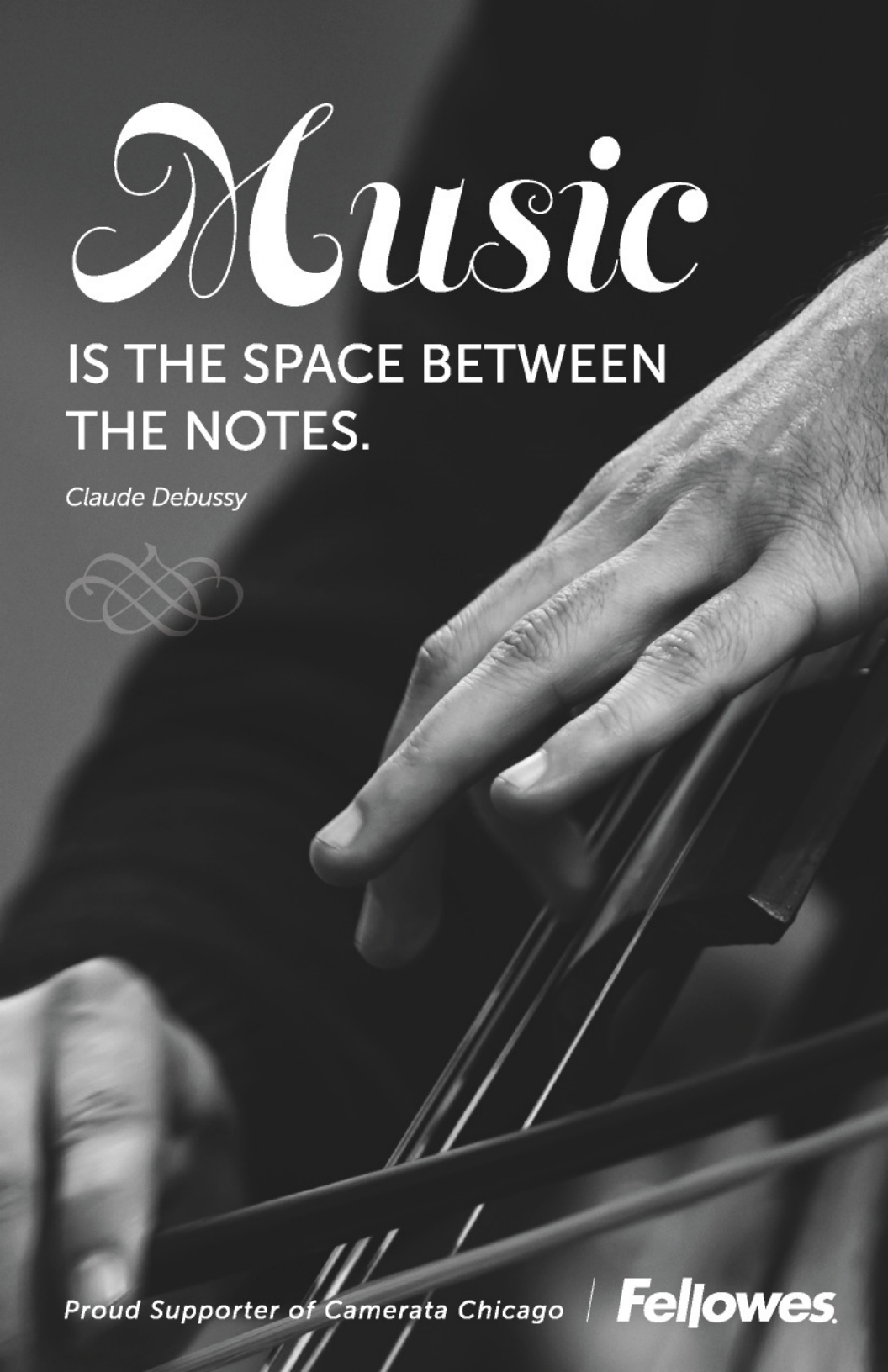
We establish and support relationships with Life Enrichment Managers, Outreach Specialists and Missionaries, with Educators and Private Event Managers to facilitate a truly enjoyable and customized Camerata Chicago Concert outing for all individuals and groups.

Lectures	Private Events
Open Rehearsals	Outreach
Field Trips	Group Sales

For further information about our programs or joining/supporting the CCLG

Contact us at: 312-799-0916

andiamo@cameratachicago.org


Music
IS THE SPACE BETWEEN
THE NOTES.
Claude Debussy
Proud Supporter of Camerata Chicago
Fellowes