

Concerts @ First
and
The Emory Chamber Music
Society of Atlanta
present

***Bach's Lunch:
Summer Music***

Friday, May 9, 2025
12:00 PM



First Presbyterian Church
OF ATLANTA



The Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta is supported by the Cherry L. Emerson Endowment, the Rebecca Katz-Doft Chamber Music Endowment, the Crescendo Fund, the Ethel Orentlicher Gershon Fund, the Yinzi Kong Viola Chair fund, a generous gift from Dr. John and Linda Cooke, an anonymous gift for the Lawless Family Series, the Richard and Alice Remigailo First Violin Endowment, Emory College, and by annual contributions from *music lovers like you*.



EMORY | Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta

Bach's Lunch: Summer Music

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Summer from *The Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

- I. Allegro non molto
- II. Adagio
- III. Presto

The Vega Quartet

Summer Dreams, Op. 47

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

- I. The Brownies
- II. Robin Redbreast
- III. Twilight
- IV. Katy-dids
- V. Elfin Tarantelle
- VI. Good night

Julie Coucheron

William Ransom

Summertime from *Porgy and Bess*

George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Arr. Jascha Heifetz (1901-1987)

Jessica Shuang Wu, violin

William Ransom, piano

Summer Music, Op. 31

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Christina Smith, flute

Elizabeth Koch-Tiscione, oboe

Jesse McCandless, clarinet

Anthony Georgeson, bassoon

Ryan Little, horn

Summer from *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Emily Daggett Smith, violin

Guang Wang, cello

Julie Coucheron, piano

The Vega String Quartet

Emily Daggett Smith, violin

Jessica Shuang Wu, violin

Joseph Skerik, viola

Guang Wang, cello

The Vega String Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at Emory University, is cultivating a new generation of chamber music lovers through dynamic performances and innovative community engagement. The New York Times raved that "[the Quartet's] playing had a kind of clean intoxication to it, pulling the listener along...the musicians took real risks in their music making" and the L.A. Times praised their "triumphant L.A. debut." They concertize both nationally and internationally, most recently in Berlin, San Miguel Mexico, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Brahmsaal in Vienna's Musikverein. The Quartet's major performing projects at Emory have included performing the complete cycle of Beethoven quartets, as well as pairing Bach's complete works for solo violin, viola and cello with the six Bartók quartets. Recent highlights include debuting at the 2023 Kneisel Hall Chamber Festival and opening the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta's 2023 - 24 season alongside Mark and Maggie O'Connor. The Vega's 2024 - 2025 season features collaborations with pianist John Kimura Parker and violist Ettore Causa, and as regular commissioners of new music, the quartet will be premiering a Viola Quintet by Paul Coletti and Joel Thompson's newest string quartet.

A unique aspect of the Quartet's residency at Emory is bringing performance into the classroom, collaborating with academic professors to create interdisciplinary parallels and conversations. They also enrich the cultural life of their community, having founded the Emory Youth Chamber Music Program, which gives intensive training in small ensemble playing to advanced pre-college students. The Quartet was also appointed to the roster of the Woodruff Arts Center's Young Audience program, engaging thousands of students throughout the greater Atlanta school system. They have held residencies in Augusta, Jacksonville and Juneau which combined traditional concerts with educational outreach, performances in non-traditional venues and masterclasses for area students.

The Vega Quartet has won numerous international awards, including at the Bordeaux String Quartet Competition, as well as top prizes from the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition, the Carmel Chamber Music Competition, and the National Society of Arts and Letters String Quartet Competition. They have toured throughout Asia, Europe and North America and have appeared at Weill Hall and Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Bargemusic, and Duke Hall at the Royal Academy of Music, London. The members of the Vega Quartet collaborate with some of the world's finest musicians including Yo-Yo Ma, David Shifrin, Mark and Maggie O'Connor, Andres Cardenes, Eliot Fisk, William Preucil, Richard Stoltzman, Robert Spano, Charles Wadsworth, Soovin Kim, and the Eroica Trio. They also commission, premier and record works by leading composers. The Quartet is a frequent guest at numerous music festivals, including Amelia Island, Aspen, Brevard, Highlands-Cashiers, Juneau Jazz & Classics, Kingston, Kneisel Hall, Mostly Mozart, Rockport, San Miguel de Allende, and SummerFest La Jolla.

About the Artists

Born in Oslo, Norway, **Julie Coucheron** earned her bachelor's and master's Degrees with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Ms. Coucheron has established an international career, winning awards and prizes in Italy, Germany, UK and in the US. She has worked with musicians such as Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Chee-Yun Kim, Christopher O'Riley, Steve Miller Band, Yo-Yo Ma, and Elton John, and has toured Europe, America, South America and Asia, performing in halls like Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. She has performed with the Norwegian Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic; Jena Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Philharmonic and the Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kiev.

Ms. Coucheron regularly performs at Festivals including the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival, Amelia Island Music Festival, Madison Chamber Music Festival, Highlands-Cashiers, Juneau Jazz and Classics, and at La Jolla Summer Fest. She is Artistic Director of the Fjord Cadenza Festival in Norway, the Kon Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway and Georgian Chamber Players in Atlanta. In addition, Ms. Coucheron also performed during the 2003 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. In addition to her busy concert schedule, she was appointed Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University. She has given masterclasses and taught at schools such as the New England Conservatory, Emory University and Mercer University.

Pianist, Artistic Director, master teacher, editor, and judge for international competitions, **William Ransom** has appeared around the world as soloist with orchestras, recitalist, and chamber musician. He regularly collaborates with leading musicians including Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Stoltzman, David Shifrin, William Preucil, Stephen Isserlis, Cho-Liang Lin, and members of the Emerson, Tokyo, Cleveland, Juilliard, American, St. Petersburg, Borromeo, Parker, Ariel, Lark, Dover, Vega, Dali, and Attacca String Quartets. Ransom is the Mary Emerson Professor of Music at Emory University where he is founder and Artistic Director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. A graduate of The Juilliard School, in the summers, Ransom is Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and for a decade was an artist-faculty member at the Kamisaibara Pianists Camp in Japan. In 2016 he was named Artistic Director of the Juneau Jazz & Classics Festival and also one of Musical America Worldwide's "30 Musical Innovators". In 2022 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, and in 2024 Chamber Music America awarded him the "Community Impact/Presenter of the Year" prize.

Anthony Georgeson joined the Atlanta Symphony as Associate Principal Bassoon in the fall of 2017 and currently holds the position of Acting Principal Bassoon. Prior to that, he was Principal Bassoon of the Florida Orchestra, a member of the New World Symphony and acting Principal Bassoon of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, Sarasota Orchestra, Classical Tahoe, Mainly Mozart Music Festival, Strings Music Festival, and both as guest assistant principal and second bassoonist with The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, Carnegie Hall, Blossom Music Festival, and throughout Europe. Georgeson earned his Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Georgeson made his solo debut at the age of 17. With a strong family background and commitment to education, he also maintains a private teaching studio and is on faculty at Emory University. He is also co-host of the podcast "Two Gomers Run for Their Lives" found on iTunes at twogomers.com.

Ryan Little joined the Atlanta Symphony as Principal Horn during the 2022-2023 season. Prior to his arrival at the ASO, he served as Principal Horn of the Naples Philharmonic for six years. Ryan studied at Northwestern University and the Rice University Shepherd School of Music. Ryan plays Principal Horn at the Eastern Music Festival. He has performed as Guest Principal Horn with the orchestras of Cincinnati, Frankfurt Radio, Minnesota, Orlando, Sarasota, Vancouver, and WDR Cologne, and has also performed with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, New World Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Utah Symphony. As a concert soloist, he has performed with the Naples Philharmonic, Northwestern University Baroque and Symphonic Wind Ensembles, l'Orchestre de la Francophonie, and the Skokie Valley Symphony. During the summers Ryan has performed at the Britt Music & Arts Festival, Grant Park Music Festival, Lakes Area Music Festival, and Sun Valley Music Festival. He also been a fellow in the Castleton Festival, Lucerne Festival Academy, National Orchestral Institute, Spoleto Festival USA, Tanglewood Music Center, Verbier Festival, and YOA Orchestra of the Americas.

Jesse McCandless is Principal Clarinetist of the Atlanta Symphony. An ardent orchestral and chamber musician, Mr. McCandless has appeared in performances with the Jacksonville Symphony, New Haven Symphony, and the Florida Orchestra. During his stint with the New World Symphony, he had the privilege of serving under the batons of such artists as Michael Tilson Thomas, Stéphane Denève, Peter Oundjian, and John Williams. Mr. McCandless has collaborated with the Amerinet String Quartet and Eighth Blackbird, and has attended the Aspen Music Festival, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and the Kent-Blossom Chamber Music Festival. Mr. McCandless received his Bachelor's Degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and his Master's degree from the Yale School of Music.

Christina Smith joined the Atlanta Symphony as Principal Flute in 1991. Ms. Smith's flute solos can be heard on over 40 ASO recordings. She has also appeared with the orchestra numerous times as concerto soloist, in works of Mozart, Vivaldi, Ibert, Rodrigo, Nielsen, Jolivet, and Christopher Rouse. Ms. Smith performed the southeastern U.S. premiere of Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's "L'aile du songe," with Robert Spano conducting. After graduating from Interlochen Arts Academy, Ms. Smith studied at the Curtis Institute of Music. She has appeared as guest principal flutist with the Chicago Symphony, LA Philharmonic, the Vancouver Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. Equally passionate about teaching, Ms. Smith serves on the faculty at Kennesaw State University and Emory University.

Elizabeth Koch Tiscione joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Principal Oboe at the beginning of the 2007-08 season. She currently holds the George M. and Corrie Hoyt Brown Chair. In addition to her responsibilities with the ASO, Mrs. Tiscione plays Principal Oboe at the Grand Teton Music Festival, Festival Mozaic, and is a member of the Atlanta Chamber Players. She has performed as a guest musician with the orchestras of New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Detroit, St. Paul, Baltimore, Rochester, Buffalo, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Solo engagements have included the World Youth Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and Dekalb Symphony Orchestras. She has been featured on NPR's "From the Top," and has performed with many of the top chamber music festivals across the country, including the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Prior to her position with the ASO, Mrs. Tiscione studied at Interlochen Arts Academy and the Curtis Institute of Music and she is currently a faculty member at Kennesaw State University

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Thank you for joining us in the 2024-2025 season. Stay tuned for information on the 2025-2026 season. We look forward to having you back for more exciting music!