Dear Friends of Da Camera,

Da Camera’s 2019–2020 season explores an extraordinary range of music, from great composers of the past to living composers who are breaking new ground today. We launch our celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth with a recital by renowned interpreter Richard Goode; explore Bach with pianist Jeremy Denk at the Menil Collection; and feature a jazz series including such amazing artists as John Scofield, Branford Marsalis and Vijay Iyer. We present a particularly rich focus on women composers and performers, from soprano Abigail Fischer portraying chef Julia Child in Lee Hoiby’s Bon Appetit; to my new project, A Woman’s Life: The Diary of Virginia Woolf; to the four extraordinary young women of the Aizuri Quartet; to Bang on a Can composer Julia Wolfe’s Anthracite Fields, evoking the lives and struggles of coal miners in Pennsylvania; and the return of jazz vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant!

We feature three winners of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Music: Julia Wolfe; the late Dominick Argento, who composed the song cycle From the Diary of Virginia Woolf; and Caroline Shaw, whose latest songs will be performed by the young bass-baritone Davóne Tines in his Da Camera debut; as well as Pat Metheny’s new suite for the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet and Matthew Aucoin’s new work for the Brentano String Quartet, a Da Camera co-commission with Carnegie Hall.

These are just a few of the highlights and themes of this exciting season, which I invite you to explore in the following pages. At Da Camera, we continue to believe that the power of live performance is unmatched; the electricity and emotional exchange between artist and audience is what brings this music to life. I look forward to sharing these concerts with you.

Sarah Rothenberg
Artistic Director

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SEASON AT A GLANCE

2019

OPENING NIGHT
BON APPETIT!
Sat. Sept. 21 | 7:00 pm
Imani Winds; Abigail Fischer, soprano; Ryan McKinney, bass-baritone; Sarah Rothenberg, piano
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

JOHN SCOFIELD QUARTET
Fri. Oct. 4 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

QUARTETTO DI CREMONA
Mon. Oct. 21 | 7:30 pm
Tue. Oct. 22 | 7:30 pm
The Menil Collection

BLUE NOTE RECORDS 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Sat. Nov. 2 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

A WOMAN’S LIFE: THE DIARY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF
Sat. Nov. 9 | 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

MOZART AND AUCOIN: BRENTANO QUARTET
HSIN-YUN HUANG, viola
Fri. Dec. 6 | 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

2020

BRANFORD MARSDALIS
Sat. Jan. 25 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

MUSIC AND ISOLATION: AIZURI QUARTET
Mon. Jan. 27 | 7:30 pm
Tue. Jan. 28 | 7:30 pm
The Menil Collection

AMERICAN MAVERICKS: LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET
Fri. Feb. 21 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

FOLK INSPIRATIONS: AVI AVITAL, mandolin
BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp
Mon. Feb. 24 | 7:30 PM
Tue. Feb. 26 | 7:30 PM
The Menil Collection

VIJAY IYER SEXTET
Sat. Feb. 29 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

DAFNIS PRIETO BIG BAND
Sat. March 21 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

RICHARD GOODE, piano
ALL-BEETHOVEN RECITAL
Tue. March 24 | 7:30 pm
Stude Concert Hall, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT
Fri. April 3 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

DAVÓNÈ TINES, bass-baritone
ADAM NIELSEN, piano
Tue. April 7 | 7:30 PM
The Menil Collection

MIGUEL ZENÓN QUARTET
Fri. April 17 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

JEREMY DENK, piano
BACH: WELL-TEMPERED KLIJEVER, BOOK I
Mon. April 27 | 7:30 PM
Tue. April 28 | 7:30 PM
The Menil Collection

ANTHRACITE FIELDS
BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS;
HOUSTON CHAMBER CHOIR;
JULIA WOLFE, guest composer
Fri. May 8 | 8:00 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

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$250 PERFORMER
- Subscription to Chamber Music or Down Beat magazine
- Plus benefits associated with the $100 level

$100 MEMBER
- 10% discount on all Da Camera merchandise
- Recognition in all season program books for one year

VISIT DACAMERA.COM OR CALL 713-524-5050
BON APPETIT!
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

Ravel  Le Tombeau de Couperin
Poulenc  Le bal masqué, FP 60
Lee Hoiby  Bon Appetit! (A musical monologue for vocalist and ensemble with text by Julia Child)

Abigail Fischer, soprano; Ryan McKinny, bass-baritone
Imani Winds (Brandon Patrick George, flute; Toyin Spellman-Diaz, oboe; Mark Dover, clarinet; Jeff Scott, French horn; Monica Ellis, bassoon; Charlie Geyer, trumpet; Timothy Hester, piano; Sarah Rothenberg, piano; Svet Stoyanov, percussion; Ned Canty, stage director (Bon Appetit!)

Enjoy a spectacular opening night of surrealist and culinary musical delights. Acclaimed bass-baritone Ryan McKinny brings his magnetic presence to Poulenc’s marvelously absurd Le bal masqué. Soprano Abigail Fischer—mesmerizing last season in Vienna 1900: In the Garden of Dreams—portrays Julia Child in Lee Hoiby’s comic operatic take on the unflappable chef’s 1970’s television program. Stellar musicians join the renowned Imani Winds for a quintessential Da Camera evening of surprise and musical adventure.

Look for information about the post-concert Opening Night Celebration!

“Ryan McKinny sang with sensitivity, understanding, and ever-present beauty of tone…true star power.” — Opera Today

“Like [Julia] Child’s whipped egg whites, Bon Appetit! may be light and frothy, but it’s the result of a master’s sure touch.” — Opera News

“Imani’s performance was brilliant—intense, dynamic and wildly colorful.” — Oregon Live
Scofield is one of the most prolific and admired jazz musicians of his generation.”
—NPR
“Scofield’s exercise of unconventional playing embraces the kind of musical exploration that drives jazz forward with optimism.”—All About Jazz

Powerhouse jazz guitarist John Scofield makes his long-awaited first appearance on Da Camera’s stage. Scofield’s stint with Miles Davis from 1982 to 1985 placed him firmly in the forefront of jazz as a player and composer. Since that time, he has prominently led his own groups, recorded over 30 albums as a leader, and collaborated with greats including Pat Metheny, Charlie Haden, Eddie Harris, Bill Frisell, Brad Mehldau, Jack DeJohnette and many more.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!
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John Scofield Quartet
FRI OCT 4
8:00 PM
Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center
ITALIAN THEMES: QUARTETTO DI CREMONA

The Menil Collection

**OCT. 21**
- Boccherini
  - String Quartet in C Major, Op. 2, No. 6
- Verdi
  - Quartet in E Minor
- Puccini
  - Crisantemi
- Respighi
  - Quartet in D major

**OCT. 22**
- Mozart
  - String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, K. 80/73f
- Verdi
  - Quartet in E Minor
- Wolf
  - Italian Serenade
- Respighi
  - Quartet in D Major

Quartetto di Cremona (Cristiano Gualco, violin; Paolo Andreoli, violin; Simone Gramaglia, viola; Giovanni Scaglione, cello)

Revel in the musical riches of Italy! Named for the small city that was home to the great stringed instrument makers Amati and Stradivari, Quartetto di Cremona makes its Houston debut. Hear rarely heard gems by Verdi, Puccini and Respighi, performed by Italy’s leading ensemble on rare instruments made by Guadagnini, Testore, Torazzi and Amati.

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“It’s a rare blend: breadth of sound and capriciousness combined with perfect tuning and ensemble has the players sounding absolutely of one voice. ...Nothing less than life-affirming.” — Gramophone

“Internationally renowned for their extremely mature and lyrical sound.” — The Strad
Celebrate the legendary jazz record label with performances by three outstanding artists. Houston native pianist James Francies released his Blue Note debut *Flight* in 2018, and is enjoying a meteoric rise in the jazz world and beyond. Kandace Springs counts Billie Holiday, Roberta Flack and Norah Jones as her heroes, but as evidenced by her sparkling recordings, mimics none of them. Detroit saxophonist James Carter leads an intergenerational organ trio featuring rising B3 star Gerard Gibbs and the propulsive drum support of Alex White.

“Like Hancock [James Francies] blends a traditional touch on piano with an ear for contemporary rhythms. His influences include Oscar Peterson and Mulgrew Miller, yet the beats are often pure Def Jam. It’s a potent blend.” — *The Times, London*

“[Kandace Springs] offers a vocal intonation rich and sultry on ballads, playful and improvisational at more sprightly tempos. Her singing is impeccable.” — *DownBeat*

“At his earthiest and most accessible with this classic Hammond organ trio lineup...Carter can be sumptuously romantic or exhilaratingly funky.” — *The Guardian*
A WOMAN’S LIFE:  
THE DIARY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Schumann  Frauenliebe und Leben
Dominick Argento  From the Diary of Virginia Woolf

Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano; Sarah Rothenberg, piano, concept and direction

Two exquisite song cycles depict radically different views of a woman’s life, a century apart. Robert Schumann, composing in the creative burst that follows his marriage to the pianist and composer Clara Wieck, creates one of his most beautiful works, telling the story of “a woman’s life and loves.” How does it match up with Clara Wieck Schumann’s real life as artist, wife and mother?

The poetic inner world of one of the twentieth century’s most brilliant writers, Virginia Woolf, comes alive in Dominick Argento’s Pulitzer Prize-winning monodrama, From the Diary of Virginia Woolf. Tracing moments in her fragile yet productive creative life from 1919 to 1941, these musical settings bring us remarkably close to a sensitive and original woman of genius.

Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, known for her intensely expressive performances, joins Artistic Director Sarah Rothenberg in this musical, literary and visual exploration of artist-women’s lives.

“A beautiful, moving and masterly work” —The New Yorker on From the Diary of Virginia Woolf


“Ms. Rothenberg is an excellent pianist with an interesting mind.” —The New York Times
MOZART AND AUCOIN
BRENTANO STRING QUARTET
HSIN-YUN HUANG, VIOLA

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Ravel
String Quartet in F Major
Matthew Aucoin
String Quartet
(Houston premiere/Da Camera co-commission)
Mozart
String Quintet No. 2 in C Minor, K. 406/516

Brentano String Quartet (Mark Steinberg, violin; Serena Canin, violin; Misha Amory, viola; Nina Lee, cello); Hsin-Yun Huang, viola; Matthew Aucoin, guest composer

Internationally recognized as one of the outstanding string quartets of their generation, the Brentano Quartet returns to Da Camera for the premiere of a new work by composer Matthew Aucoin, co-commissioned by Da Camera and Carnegie Hall. Just 29 and already a MacArthur “Genius” grant winner, Aucoin is LA Opera’s first ever Artist-in-Residence and one of the youngest composers ever commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera. Violist Hsin-Yun Huang joins the Brentano for Mozart’s powerful masterpiece.

“The diverse elements merge into a personal voice, deployed with prodigious technical skills.”—The New York Times on Matthew Aucoin

“prodigiously talented”—The Wall Street Journal on Matthew Aucoin

“The overall effect wasn’t that the group was playing music, but releasing it.”—Philadelphia Inquirer on the Brentano Quartet
Da Camera welcomes back NEA Jazz Master, renowned Grammy Award-winning saxophonist and Tony Award nominee Branford Marsalis, one of the most revered instrumentalists of our time. The quartet that Marsalis has led for the past three decades has always been a model of daring, no-apologies artistry, of ever-widening musical horizons and deepening collective identity. With pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Justin Faulkner, the band has long been a model of how to sustain and enlarge a musical outlook that is both historically and stylistically inclusive.

“Marsalis leads one of the most cohesive, intense small jazz ensembles on the scene today.” — Associated Press
MUSIC AND ISOLATION: AIZURI QUARTET

The Menil Collection

Hildegard Von Bingen  Columba aspexit
Gesualdo  Madrigals
Haydn  String Quartet No. 49 in B Minor, Op. 64, No. 2
Nancarrow  String Quartet No. 3
Beethoven  String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 131

Aizuri Quartet (Ariana Kim, violin; Miho Saegusa, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Karen Ouzounian, cello)

In its Houston debut, the Aizuri Quartet explores a stunning range of music composed in times of intense isolation—from the medieval and Renaissance, to Haydn and Beethoven, to the American Conlon Nancarrow, whose third quartet was written when he was an expatriate in Mexico in 1987. Praised by The Washington Post for “captivating” performances that draw from its notable “meld of intellect, technique and emotions,” the Aizuri Quartet was awarded the Grand Prize at the 2018 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition and its first recording was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award.

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“These limber and luminous performances by the Aizuri Quartet... prove that the 250-year-old string quartet formula remains vibrant and vital.”—NPR Music
AMERICAN MAVERICKS:
LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET
NEW WORK BY PAT METHENY; PLUS JIMI HENDRIX, FRANK ZAPPA AND MORE

Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center

One of America’s premier instrumental ensembles, the Grammy Award-winning LAGQ is one of the most multifaceted groups in any genre. Pat Metheny’s Road to the Sun, composed for the LAGQ, is filled with Metheny’s trademark grooves, haunting melodies and rich extended harmonies. The Quartet honors some of this country’s most innovative guitar masters, from rock innovators Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa, to country master Chet Atkins, to bluegrass legends Flatt and Scruggs and the young jazz guitar virtuoso Julian Lage.

Add this concert to your Da Camera Jazz series subscription. Included in the Full Season series and the Chamber Music series.

“The world’s hottest classical ensemble or its tightest pop band? However it helps you to think about the LAGQ, keep the emphasis on superlatives for its unrivaled joy, technical elan and questing spirits.”
—The Los Angeles Times
FOLK INSPIRATIONS

AVI AVITAL, MANDOLIN | BRIDGET KIBBEY, HARP

The Menil Collection

Ravel
Vocalise-Étude en forme de Habanera

J.S. Bach
Flute and Harpsichord Sonata
in E-flat Major, BWV 1031

Tchaikovsky
The Seasons, Op. 37b

Bartók
Hungarian Folk Songs

De Falla
Siete Canciones Populares Españolas

Traditional
Armenian Folk Tunes

The unique combination of mandolin and harp brings to life a program ranging from Bach to folk tunes from Spain, Hungary and Armenia, all in new arrangements. Travel the world with these two virtuosos, teaming up for a scintillating program.

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“Much as Andres Segovia brought the classical guitar into the concert hall, the Israeli virtuoso Avi Avital is doing the same with the mandolin.”—Los Angeles Times

“[Bridget Kibbey] makes it seem as though her instrument had been waiting all its life to explode with the gorgeous colors and energetic figures she was getting from it.”—The New York Times