



FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC, TEXAS
Concert Series, Educational Events & Community Outreach
All events take place in Bryan-College Station, TX

FRIENDS REVIEWS, *ONGOING*

30th Season of Friends of Chamber Music Series
2025-2026

DREAMERS' CIRCUS
October 29, 2025
Ice House on Main

From Concert Surveys

"This trio is wild and fantastic! Just fabulous!"

*"Fantastic!!
More!!!"*

*"Loved
it!!!"*

*"Excellent
concert, and we enjoyed the venue!"*

*"Enchanting
music!"*

Short interviews following the concert

“These guys are amazing.”

“I was transported.”

“Fun and quirky, there also were some classic elements in it, definitely unexpected.”

“I’ve never heard them before, but I’m definitely glad I bought a ticket and showed up today, because it’s a very great experience.”

Cherry Jackson

“These guys were so energetic, and they are such entertainers! The music was beautiful.”

Becky Russell

“What more fun you can do than to listen to this on a Wednesday night! The guys are special! We’ve been to all these places in the world, Norway, Denmark, and oh my gosh, it’s so fun!”

David Woodcock

“Amazing! From Anna Lapwood to Nordic music – what an amazing spread, what an amazing opportunity for all of us in Bryan-College Station to have this opportunity!”

ANNA LAPWOOD, organ
Solo Recital: September 19, 2025
Master Class: September 20, 2025
A&M United Methodist Church

From Concert Surveys

“Thank you for getting such a talented individual to perform here in CS.”

“This is amazing! So impressed to have this offering in College Station!”

“Amazing show. Thank you for bringing such incredible talent to our town.”

“Thank you for organizing this concert.”

“Wonderful concert!”

“Wonderful! Very glad we made the trip to hear Anna play!”

“Magnificent!”

“Fantastic talent; incredible price; ease of parking, seating and lovely staff.”

“Great series.”

“Anna Lapwood is amazing.”

“This concert is very cool.”

“Amazing opportunity again to see world–class talent in BCS.”

“Marvelous, as per usual! Brava!”

“Excellent, but we live too far.”

“Great, amazing concert”

“Loved hearing the organ at full capacity. Anna is a treasure, and thank you to the facilitators for a lovely and smooth evening.”

“Incredibly thankful for the chance to see Anna in person.”

29th Concert Season of Friends of Chamber Music's Concert Series, 2024-2025

MIRÓ QUARTET

April 6, 2025

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Opening: TAMU Horn Ensemble; TAMU Saxophone Trio; Tessellation Wood Quintet of CSHS

From Concert Surveys

“Fantastic performance!”

“Wonderful!”

“Brilliant”

“Thanks for a wonderful concert.”

“It would be delightful to have events like this in Navasota.”

“So happy to have quality music here in BCS. THANKS!”

LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET

March 22, 2025

A&M United Methodist Church

Opening: Guitar Duo of UT at Austin; Guitar Ensemble of UT at San Antonio

Dr. Isaac Bustos, D.M.A., Assistant Professor of Guitar, Guitar Area Coordinator, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Department of Music

"On behalf of the UTSA School of Music and Guitar Studio, I want to send a note of thanks for your gracious and generous invitation for our students to participate in the LAGQ masterclass and concert this past weekend. These experiential learning opportunities are invaluable and add so much to our students' academic experience.

We are immensely grateful to be able to share music with the Bryan-College Station community and ask that you keep us in mind for other events."

Eileen Peters

"It was truly a treat for me to be a part of last night... What an inspiration to have the musicians there to give us that delicious taste of what is to come in the concert...and from only a few feet away from them. Goosebumps!!"

Andrew Rubio, guitar student, UTSA, following Masterclass with LAGQ

"On behalf of my duo partner Jesse Reece, I want to thank Friends of Chamber Music as well as LAGQ for helping us with this music. I was fortunate to meet Bill Kanengeiser earlier this year, and here again, it was nice to see him. They helped us immensely."

Andrew Rubio, guitar student, UTSA, at the LAGQ Concert

"So far, it's just been fantastic. A really diverse program which I wasn't expecting, honestly, and they played it so well!"

Jesse Reece, guitar student, UTSA

"The LAGQ concert has been really amazing. I've wanted to see these guys as long as I've played guitar, so it's super exciting to finally see them in person."

John Stoll

"The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, they are fantastic. Friends of Chamber Music here put on a great show. Great acoustic. Some concerts are free, some are not, but they are all good. Fantastic. I'll do it again in a heartbeat!"

Debbie Murphy

"I loved the concert. It was just amazing, and I'm looking forward to the second half. I specifically loved the section with Brazilian music. I may have an opportunity to travel to Brazil this summer, and I have a friend there who plays guitar in Brazil, so I'm very excited to tell him about this music. It was beautiful, I loved many different parts of it, and I was so excited to come here and to hear that, hoping to meet all of the guitarists and maybe even get some signatures. I was glad to be here tonight."

Joe Leavengood

"I especially liked the Moonlight Sonata. They just totally owned that. Of course, I love Brazilian jazz, and the three Brazilian jazz songs were just wonderfully played. I played enough guitar to see that these guys are in a league of their own. It's a joy to be able to listen to them here. Thank you to Friends of Chamber Music for keeping bringing such wonderful performers to our community."

Alex Roiterstein

"I enjoyed the first part of this concert – wonderful musicians and beautiful music. I'm definitely grateful to the organizers and supporters of this concert, and I want to come back to other concerts."

From Concert Surveys

"Appreciate the master class and performance opportunity for student ensembles. Would have liked to see them even if as a live feed."

"Excellent musicians, superb venues, enthusiastic audiences."

"Great programming!"

"I wish there were more concerts like this one."

"Thank you for the music!"

"Keep bringing excellent classical music to CS and Bryan!"

THE STRING QUEENS

violin, viola, cello

February 1, 2025

Christian Life Center of A&M United Methodist Church, College Station

Opening: Brazos Valley Youth String Chamber Orchestra

Ashley Austin

"I had the absolute pleasure of attending The String Queens concert on Saturday, and wow, they were nothing short of extraordinary! From the moment they took the stage, I was completely captivated by their energy and grace. The music they played was upbeat, fun, and so clear to understand—it was impossible not to get lost in the rhythm and melody. What I loved most was the added flare they brought to each piece, giving the performance a fresh and exciting twist."

"But beyond the music itself, what really stood out to me was their presence. These incredibly humble and talented women radiated such beauty and grace as they played. Their passion was evident in every note, and it was clear that they weren't just performing for the sake of

performing — they were sharing a piece of themselves with each and every person in the audience.”

“The String Queens are doing remarkable work, not only in their own community but as they tour and inspire others around the world. The sense of encouragement they left with us all was palpable, and it was evident that whether you’re a musician or not, their performance touched everyone in the room.”

“I also stayed for the Q&A segment, and one quote has stayed with me ever since: ‘Everyone was created for a special, unique purpose. We weren’t meant to be the same, so tap into that. Just because you learn or do something differently doesn’t mean it’s wrong.’ Those words were so empowering and a perfect reflection of the positivity and inspiration they spread.”

“I can’t wait to see The String Queens again — truly, they blew me away. I left feeling uplifted, inspired, and more connected to my own purpose.”

From Concert Surveys

“This is our first Friends of Chamber Music event! It was amazing. So thankful we found this event!”

“The group was fantastic. The program was well organized. Great venue for such a performance.”

“A gem for this city.”

“Wonderful concert! Great to have audience engagement.”

“Energetic and crowd appealing. I’d like to be an ant in their classrooms. Multi-talented”

“Spirit-lifting, joyful, hopeful”

“Incredible!”

“Excellent talent! I loved that they wrote music they wanted to play.”

“The String Queens were unbelievable. Thank you to all and the concert sponsors for making this presentation possible. The music remains deep in our hearts. Best regards.”

Marianne Henry, violinist, founder and president, The Brazos Valley Youth String Chamber Orchestra, LLC and Unity In Strings

“Thank you for inviting The Brazos Valley Youth String Chamber Orchestra to play the pre-concert at the String Queens’ concert on Saturday. My parent and child units from the BVYSCO just loved working with the String Queens at the masterclass! Thank you for having such a program where special things like this can happen.”

RUCKUS

flute, violin, cello, bass, guitars, bassoon, harpsichord

November 10, 2024

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan

Opening: The Nguyen Studio Ensemble

From Concert Surveys

"Love chamber Music! Keep it coming!"

"Nice!"

"Wish we had more events like this, and maybe, in summer."

"Thank you for making these concerts available."

"World class! Excellent!"

"Always top notch! Keep up the good work."

"Always good."

"Terrific!"

THE MOANIN' FROGS

six saxophones

October 13, 2024

Century Square, College Station

Opening: Brazos Valley Youth Big Band

From Concert Surveys

"Keep doing what you're doing. You are a gem in our community!"

"Amazing group! Our favorite concert yet! Thank you so much!!!"

"Great music. Fun venue!"

"Amazing!!!"

"Amazing Music! Made me cry!"

28th Concert Season of Friends of Chamber Music's Concert Series, 2023-2024

CHANTICLEER Vocal Ensemble

with Century Singers of Texas A&M University

April 11, 2024

Rudder Theatre, College Station

Pre-Concert – College Station High School Choral Ensembles

Becky & Peter McIntyre

"You rang the bell again! FoCM is one of the treasures of BCS!"

Thomas P. Gerber | Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Texas A&M University

"The experience my students had with Chanticleer was second to none and it is not everyday you get to work with a choir of this caliber! The members of Chanticleer were so kind and encouraging during our collaboration. Watching Tim Keeler work his magic was an incredible experience. He challenged my students musically and was able to dig deeper into the musical nuances. Overall, this was a tremendous experience for my students and I'm certain they grew as musicians because of this experience. Thank you!"

Sallye & Buck Henderson

"We enjoyed Chanticleer very much! They were fabulous, and the audience response was amazing! It was a delightful evening, and we enjoyed meeting some of the members the night before. They were so friendly and down to earth."

Bill & Janet Johnson

"Chanticleer gave a wonderful and entertaining concert. Congratulations to you for getting them on the calendar this year."

Joe Armon

"It was great, wonderful, entertaining, and pure perfection of voices."

From Concert Surveys

"Perfection"

"Absolutely amazing"

We lloved the Performance!"

BRANDON PATRICK GEORGE, flute & MAHAN ESFAHANI, harpsichord

Pre-Concert – Brazos Civic Orchestra Wind Quintet

November 14, 2023

A&M United Methodist Church, College Station

Chris Hoffman, music educator

"The duo of Brandon Patrick George and Mahan Esfahani was truly enjoyable. Mr. George's sound was absolutely exquisite, and Mr. Esfahani's technique was incredible. Programming was also well thought-out. Having moments where each would play individually allowed one to focus on what each artist was capable of. When the two collaborated, you felt a sense of teamwork, a true sense of conversation."

"A special thanks also needs to be extended to Gerald Self for bringing one of his magnificent harpsichords to College Station. The instrument he chose allowed one to see just how versatile the harpsichord's palette of colors can be."

"Bravi tutti and thank you to all involved for bringing this concert to Bryan/College Station."

Bonnie Harris-Reynolds, music educator

"The most interesting was the interaction between flute and harpsichord, and the harpsichordist's fluent, wonderful, expressive playing."

James R. Ball III

"One thing that fascinated me the most was the emotional relationship that performers had to their instruments. They're both very expressive. And of course, thinking about the presence of this very historical music in the year of 2023, and about what it means."

Joan Serber

"I loved the 'before-performance' performance. I loved watching them, and it was nice to have them as an introduction [to the main concert]."

Luis Davidovich

"Tonight's performance is beautiful and interesting. I like Bach. To me, Bach is the first composer. Having this music in a place like this, in this environment – it's a great concert and a great place to have a concert and to listen to Bach's music."

From Concert Surveys

"This concert was wonderful!! What a gift to the BCS community your organization is."

"Most famous harpsichordist in the world?! Sure!"

"I really appreciate the free concert which will allow in the future more exposure and invitation to those who are not likely to attend. I very much appreciate the Bach program this evening. Thank you!"

"This was so delightful, having a harpsichord and flute concert."

"Wonderful!"

"Awesome Performance!"

"I just moved here to CS three weeks ago and this is the first event I have attended outside of mass. This evening's performance was very warm and wonderful. I'm very glad I came."

"Thank you for providing high caliber musical performances that would otherwise be unaffordable."

"I wish that the flute had been a baroque, wooden one. But both are fabulous musicians!"

"Excellent programming, and great to offer it free to the public!"

"Great, awesome!"

October 13, 2023

JAZZ: CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT, voice & SULLIVAN FORTNER, piano

Pre-Concert – Brazos Valley Big Band

Rudder Theatre, College Station

Joe Daigle, music educator

"I woke up still thinking about this awesome concert. I was moved emotionally, challenged mentally, and awed musically. He [Sullivan] was the best pianist I've ever seen, and her [Cécile's] abilities rival the greatest jazz singers in history. What an amazing performance. What an incredible experience!"

Gloria Polk & Barbara Dunn

"It was fantastic. The concert was awesome. We enjoyed every minute of it!"

Sylvester Smith

"I enjoyed the concert. The two are very talented performers. It was a great vocalist, and the pianist, he played the piano the way I've never seen it before. It was an awesome, awesome performance tonight."

Liv Johnson

"The show was amazing. I've never seen anything like that. We're so happy that we've been here!"

From Concert Surveys

"I really enjoyed the "Big Band" performance before the concert!"

“Great job!”

“Amazing!”

“Tonight was a delight!”

“Had a wonderful time! I was very passionate about the arts when I was younger but fell out of touch. Incredibly thankful for the experience. What a show!”

“I hope to attend more jazz music events – there are too few opportunities around here.”

“More jazz!”

“Bravo to FCM!”

Silver & Bronze Winners of the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition

ANNA GENIUSHENE, piano

DMYTRO CHONI, piano

Piano Solo & Duo

Pre-Concert – A&M Consolidated High School Philharmonic Orchestra

September 10, 2023

Rudder Theatre, College Station

Jane McCormick, former director of Orchestras at A&M Consolidated High School

“I was very glad that my students had the opportunity to perform in the pre-concert opening in Rudder and then attend the concert of the Cliburn piano medalists. It was an outstanding opportunity for them, and nostalgic for me. When I was in the Ft Worth Symphony we accompanied the Cliburn Finals. That was also an amazing experience!”

Bill Kerr

“It was [...] inspiring to witness a Russian and Ukrainian pianist sharing a piano bench and crossing hands as they played together; I chose to see it as symbolic.”

Joe Leavengood

“Sometimes pianists convey their technical virtuosity as musicians, and sometimes they convey the technical virtuosity of the composers. Sometimes they convey the beauty in the music, find the beauty in the moment, and without saying a word, share hope for beauty and goodness in the future, in this troubled world and beyond.”

“The Friends of Chamber Music members and leaders should rejoice that your vision and efforts brought all of this together in our community yesterday. Without fully understanding what is at work, your neighbors will carry this with them for the rest of their lives. A *Melodiya* [“Melody”] or two amongst friends can be a powerful force for good!”

Jesse Novak, pianist, Music Activities, TAMU

“It was a thrill, inspiration, and joy to watch such fabulous, gifted pianists.”

Chester Dunning

“Two 2022 Van Cliburn medalists from Moscow and Kyiv. What an ambitious program! Cliburn Silver medalist Anna Geniushene was born in Moscow, and Bronze medalist Dmytro Choni is from Kyiv.”

“Dmytro Choni is a young, smiling, and confident pianist who is technically brilliant, and he chose difficult but interesting pieces. His rendition of a Debussy piece from Preludes was strikingly modern and totally awesome. (I could imagine a young George Gershwin in the audience.) Then Choni played a work by a Ukrainian composer, Valentin Silvestrov, and another modern piece by American composer Lowell Liebermann. All were compelling and technically intricate with opportunities for loud flourishes that saw him strike the keyboard hard with both hands, rising slightly from the bench. He ended with a snazzy interpretation of Johann Strauss' oeuvre composed by Alfred Grünfeld. Wow! The Steinway in Rudder Theater performed magnificently, and the hall was nearly filled. Good quality sound in that hall, and this time there was not much fidgeting or coughing. We were mesmerized.”

“Next came Anna Geniushene, an awesome young professional. She owned the stage and us. Watching her fingers work the keyboard was a real pleasure. She chose ambitious and interesting pieces, including an early sonata by Muzio Clementi and one of Chopin's first works, Rondo in C minor, that he wrote at age 15. Then she mesmerized us with a beautiful, pyrotechnic composition by Tchaikovsky.”

“At the end of the program, the two pianists performed an interesting duet by a modern Ukrainian composer, Myroslav Skoryk, who passed away just three years ago. The nod to Ukraine in the program was very sweet.”

“We had a great time. I doubt if we could have done better in New York City Sunday afternoon.”

Jill Giroir

“The concert last night was another magical night! Dmytro and Anna are not only abundantly talented, but they are truly nice people as well! Congratulations on a spectacular evening.”

Damon Slaydon

“[...] We have these world-renowned artists here, on campus at Texas A&M University, and they perform for us and other people around the world. It’s precious and beneficial, and all the things that are great about this university are seen through the eyes of two great pianists. Their artistry is just magic, and to have it here [...] is like nothing else.”

Andrea Edwards-Imhoff, music educator

“There were many things that were interesting about tonight’s performance, but on the top of my head I’d say the variety of literature, particularly the Ukrainian literature, featured on the program by both performers was particularly delightful.”

Callie Guest

“The most interesting thing I found about this performance was being able to see the international medalists and pianists here and how emotionally captivating they are and how fascinating they are in their music. It’s been a very engaging and entertaining performance.”

From Concert Surveys

“Marvelous concert!”

“Another amazing concert!”

“A delightful idea to have the silver and bronze medalists together.”

“I liked that the art was combined with the music.”

“Thanks for bringing such great musicians to town!”

“The visual aspect of art on stage is delightful.”

“Thank you, Friends of Chamber Music, for bringing us world class performances!”

27th Concert Season of Friends of Chamber Music Series; 2022-2023

VIANO STRING QUARTET

November 17, 2022

A&M United Methodist Church, College Station

Jane Flaherty

"A mother with two young kids was sitting next to me. Both kids squirmed during the concert but were very well behaved. At the end, the little girl said, 'Mommy, that was so nice!'"

"What a wonderful gift you are giving to the community... What a well-crafted and beautifully executed program. The quartet answered audience questions with humor, warmth, and humility. Bryan/College Station residents are so fortunate to have this type of cultural experience. Thank you, FCM."

Robin Glover

"The concert last night was truly amazing!!!! Thank you!!!"

Anonymous Patron

"What a beautiful concert. I was unable to come in person but watched it by streaming. Thank you and kudos to everyone who made this possible, especially the tech people who gave us the streaming. What a wonderful quartet of young people. "

Robert & Kate Thomas

"Congratulations on a wonderful concert! It was a great program. The four musicians are truly gifted. It was very evident that the quartet had great energy and it was apparent the audience loved them.

Jo Monroe

"What a delightful concert! I would have enjoyed being a part of the live audience but enjoyed it no less in front of my television. I had the advantage of close-up views of the musicians' faces as they expressed their love for their instruments and their art. Bravo!!!!"

Chris Hoffman, music educator

"Tonight, I enjoyed my first concert since the pandemic (as an audience member, not a performer). The concert was an absolute TRIUMPH! Friends of Chamber Music brought the Viano String Quartet into town, and their performance was stunning! Such great artistry: each performer had their own personalities, yet they came together as one cohesive unit. Their Haydn was joyful, charismatic, and humorous - everything Haydn should be. And the Tchaikovsky was wonderful; the second movement was sublime. Bravi - I truly hope to hear them perform again."

Andy Chen

"I thoroughly enjoyed the concert last night. The performance was outstanding. Thanks for putting such a beautiful program together."

SAMARA JOY

Pre-Concert – College Station High School Jazz Band

September 29, 2022

Rudder Theatre, College Station

Peter Witt

"Excellent concert, powerful vocals with excellent trio...each artist a consummate professional... glad they made it through CS on their tour which is hitting both the U.S. and Europe. Joy is clearly a rising star and a musical giant of the future."

Genita Wallace

"Samara Joy was phenomenal. I would go a couple nights a week if she did the jazz bar/club circuit."

Jim & Sue James

"It's wonderful that FCM is bringing this kind of talent. Ms. Joy is such a talented and entertaining person! It's wonderful to have this kind of international talent in College Station. To have an opportunity to have world-class entertainment here, without having to get on the plane and fly to enjoy it, is truly a blessing."

Rodney & Shauna Cox

"We are very excited for this concert. We are from Houston and when we heard that this phenomenal artist is coming to town, once we saw and heard her voice, we thought we were trapped in a time machine, because it's not a voice that you hear in modern music. So, we knew we had to make the ride up. Brought the kids up to a great night of entertainment!"

Jenny Adams

"The event was a HUGE success! And OMG, Samara Joy cannot be anything, but Ella reincarnated. How can she have that voice and that maturity at 22??? All three of the instrumental musicians were masterful but ESPECIALLY Ben Paterson on piano. I've already watched him on YouTube and will make a Ben Paterson Pandora station. He MUST have extra fingers!"

Janell B. McAnally

"I appreciate very much the opportunity to enjoy the fine concerts presented each year by the Friends of Chamber Music and all the work it represents."

Todd J. Quinlan, Department of Performing Arts, Blinn College

"I am so appreciative of Scholarship programs like the Friends of Chamber Music Scholarship. It is wonderful that students from the College Station High School Band have been able to receive financial support for college by doing what they are passionate about."

Jon Seale, Head Band Director, College Station High School

"The educational outreach program that the Axiom Brass Quintet did for our students was outstanding. Not only did they perform at a high level, but their coaching was perfectly delivered to meet the needs of our students in a very positive manner."

Susan Irza

"Friends of Chamber Music is magic. Its gift to us is to celebrate classical music and bring new dynamic artists with fresh views and ideas of that music, and also different kinds and styles of music. FCM enriches the culture and musical quality of life in our community."

26th Concert Season of Friends of Chamber Music Series; 2021-2022

RACHEL CHEUNG, piano

April 29, 2022

Annenberg Presidential Conference Center, College Station

Joyce Louis

"Dear leadership of the Friends of Chamber Music,
You had an outstanding program selection this year. I only missed the French violinists. However, Rachel Cheung was particularly stunning to hear, and to watch. I almost did not go, too tired, too etc."

"I have played piano rather badly most of my life, but I enjoy hearing it done well. She was fantastic in strength, smoothness, emotional interpretation, and her choices of what to play. I never blinked. My mind never wandered, as it is prone to do."

"I am so glad I went, and so glad you do what you do so well. Ms. Cheung is marvelous, and so are all of you. Thank you."

AROD STRING QUARTET

Pre-Concert – College Station High School Cello & Bass Student String Ensemble

April 1, 2022

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan

Cathy Loving

“What precision, power, musical personality, and total immersion in the music—and those gorgeous instruments added to the sheer beauty and sound in the performance.

Last night I said that we saw the Beatles of Classical Music! Thanks for all you do, FCM.”

March 23, 2022

Vita Pariente

“I have decided to support FCM for another year even though I am now living in Phoenix. Sometimes we don’t appreciate what we have until it’s no longer available to us. When I went to the FCM concerts over the years, I never realized how much volunteer work and, yes, money, went into the events. I heard of “outreach” but didn’t know what that meant, or who it reached. When I got involved with FCM, I learned a lot. Having music of such high quality in the Brazos Valley without having to buy a ticket is an amazing gift to the community. It’s not free, of course. It takes contributions, large or small, to keep the music coming. I encourage everyone out there to support Friends of Chamber Music, go to the concerts, drop a check in the box, and put your company’s name in the program. Help the good people who put the programs together.”

“I’m making a donation even though I live in Phoenix and can’t attend a Friends of Chamber Music concert in person. I have signed up for the Arod Quartet streaming concert. It’s not as good as being there, but it’s better than not having the music at all.”

BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp & ALEXI KENNEY, violin

February 14, 2022

A&M United Methodist Church, College Station

Dena Imlay

“What a charming and surprising pairing of these two string instruments. Their concert celebrated Valentine’s Day in a very special way to the audience’s delight.”

Cathleen and Jerry Loving

“The Kibbey/Kenney concert on Saturday, which we watched from home, was breathtaking. As a (former) pianist I was particularly fascinated by what Bridget could do with the harp!!! Things I never noticed before — and, together with Alexi's magical playing, the concert was wonderful. Much thanks for all you do for FCM. We are so lucky to have this in our community!!”

Marion and Achim Stössel

“We want to express our appreciation for yesterday's choice of musicians. We enjoyed the concert very much, the music itself, the performance of the artists and the instruments they

played. I do not recall having ever experienced a duo concert with harp and violin. Really fabulous.”

From Concert Surveys

“Please keep up these concert series, we need them for our mental health.”

“Beautiful music – thanks!”

“Thank you for bringing such professional chamber music here to College Station!”

“Love FCM! College student here; I’ve attended one event before and will continue doing so.”

“Amazing treat.”

“It was wonderful.”

NEW YORK POLYPHONY

December 3, 2021

A&M United Methodist Church, College Station

Judi Chester

“Thank you, Andreas Kronenberg and the rest of the team, for your dedication to keep music alive in our community. Happy Holidays!” [Andreas Kronenberg is President of the Board of FCM].

Paige McKinzie

“Thank you for the delightful enrichment to the community!”

Leslie Lamkin, Social Director, Arbor Oaks/Crestview

“The concert was so much fun and a success with the residents! All in all, Susan Irza and I counted 42 residents in attendance...much more than I expected! Thank you and for the Friends of Chamber Music offering a livestream option.”

Jane Stowell

“I cannot say enough happy praise for FCM's holistic approach to good music. You focus on students with the new Scholarships for college freshmen and student opportunities to volunteer at the actual performances. FCM pioneered Online Concerts to bring good music to the community during COVID-19 lockdowns. And the Newsletter continues FCM's artistic creativity! Today's holiday Newsletter is so beautiful! The design is lovely, and the video of The Swingle

Singers is fantastic! I remember them from their early do-op style records and am so glad others have stepped in to carry on their tradition. How about signing them for a future jazz concert? I am so proud to have Friends of Chamber Music's presence in our community."

Kathryn Lindsay

"I have followed this particular group since they sang at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, years ago. The harmonics and incredible sounds they produce are matchless. Thanks for another memorable evening."

John Ivy

"My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed last night's New York Polyphony concert, which we watched on your streaming platform. Thank you for bringing this outstanding vocal group to the Brazos Valley."

Wayne Smith

"Lovely music this evening. Thank you and the 'Friends' for bringing such outstanding talent to BCS! Some of the music they performed was reminiscent of music I have performed at Interlochen Arts Academy. Very nice."

Hiroko Sumikura

"Last night was fantastic."

RAQUEL CEPEDA JAZZ SEPTET

September 17, 2021

Century Square, College Station

Susan Irza

"I was glad to learn that FCM is considering adding a jazz presentation in future music series. It's a smart idea because it brings in audience members who might not otherwise attend. The Axiom group was also interesting. So far this year, FCM is producing one great concert after another!"

Travis Barney, Band Director, College Station ISD

"The Bryan/College Station community is very fortunate to have the Friends of Chamber Music and all of the wonderful Art Music that this organization brings to B/CS! Last night's Jazz Prelude performance by the Raquel Cepeda Latin Jazz Septet from Houston was a unique and much needed experience for B/CS, which I hope happens more frequently."

"Cepeda's septet was not only comprised of world-class virtuoso improvisers who were well-versed in the vocabulary of America's classical music known as Jazz, but the group was also a somewhat rare sighting in the live Jazz scene: they were a well-rehearsed, cohesive ENSEMBLE that was successfully (and more importantly, effortlessly) executing very clever, complex and interesting/original arrangements! As someone who has seen and heard a lot of live Jazz in many different cities over the decades, I'd like to point out that this is not always the case. This was definitely more than just a "pick up band" of good players thrown together at the last minute for a gig. I was also pleasantly surprised to hear how well they specialized in the less frequently performed Brazilian forms of Jazz styles, as opposed to just playing the more commonly performed (but still wonderful) Cuban "Salsa" styles of Jazz."

"I've been to other bands' performances at Century Square and was also very impressed at how large of a turnout there was at last night's event, compared to the other crowds that I've seen there. I also noticed a lot of the dining crowd and people passing by who also stopped and seemed to be pleasantly surprised last night, which makes me think that there are a lot of people in B/CS who became introduced to the FCM last night and will hopefully seek out supporting more of this wonderful organization's events. Thank you so much, Friends of Chamber Music!"