Meet the Performers

Gerald Rizzer, Pianist and Artistic Director, teaches piano, theory and ensemble at Sherwood Community Music School. He has recorded three CDs of his piano compositions entitled Songs Without Words.

Michelle Areyzaga, soprano, has had principal opera roles with Chicago Opera Theater and Light Opera Works, and has been featured in the New York Festival of Song.

Ricardo Castañeda, oboe, is principal oboist of Chicago Sinfonietta and Lake Forest Symphony. He teaches at Northern Illinois University and is program director of the Birch Creek summer festival in Door County.

Elizandro Garcia-Montoya, clarinet, performs with the New Hampshire Festival and the Saratoga Opera. He teaches at Elmhurst College and is a member of the Fifth House Ensemble.

Jaime Gorgojo, violin, holds a doctorate from Indiana University. He is on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University. Recently Mr. Gorgojo appeared on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, on the Chicago Symphony Presents Chamber Music series and in Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues concerts.

Michael Lieberman, viola, has been a member of Fifth-House Ensemble and other chamber ensembles. He has also been compose/music director for various theater productions.

Matthew Oliphant, French horn, an exponent of new music and improvisation, is a member of the contemporary music group Dal Niente and plays with several other chamber groups.

Ben Roidl-Ward, bassoonist, is an advocate for composers of his generation, leading him to commission and premiere numerous works. A doctoral student at Northwestern, he performs with Dal Niente and other ensembles.

Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano, has swiftly gained the attention of Chicago audiences for her “warm and plaintive” singing (Chicago Classical Review). She has appeared with several Chicago opera companies and is a founding member of the vocal quartet Fourth Coast Ensemble.

Alan Snow, violin, a graduate of Indiana University, is concertmaster of the Evansville, IN Symphony and plays violin in the resident string quartet. He won the 2016 Latin American Music Center recording competition and has also toured and recorded with the Pan-American Ensemble.

Andrew Snow, cello, long-time member of the Chicago Ensemble, performs with Chicago Sinfonietta and Lake Forest Symphony. He and his wife, a pianist, recently made a recording of music of Mexican composers.

Gabriela Vargas, flute, has performed throughout the Americas. In addition to classical chamber music, she performs Latin American music and appears with contemporary music ensembles.

Benton Wedge, viola, holds degrees from Northwestern. He has been principal violist with the Spoleto Opera Festival, and he was a member of a string quartet in Lisbon, Portugal where he also taught chamber music. He is active as a composer/arranger.

Uncommonly civilized and intelligent programs.
- Lawrence Johnson, Chicago Classical Review.com

Lively, offbeat programming.
- John von Rhein, Chicago Tribune
**The Chicago Ensemble 2019-2020 Season**

Five programs made up of beloved masterpieces and some lesser-known works that deserve to be heard. Programs take place Sundays at 3:00 pm at International House, 1414 E. 59th St. and again Tuesdays at 7:30 pm at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St. Regional voucher at concert to get reduced rate at 900 N. Michigan parking garage (entrance on Delaware). All venues are handicap accessible.

**Program 1**

**Sunday, November 10**  
International House  
Jean Françaix  
Bohuslav Martinů  
Ernest Chausson

**Sunday, January 19**  
International House  
Alexander Timofeev  
Jack Gottlieb  
Michael Schelle

**Sunday, February 23**  
International House  
G. F. Handel  
Gordon Jacob

**Sunday, March 29**  
International House  
Paul Hindemith  
Karel Husa  
Max Bruch

**Sunday, June 7**  
International House  
Beethoven  
Franz Schubert

**W. A. Mozart**  
Quintet in Eb Major, K. 452  
For oboe, clarinet, french horn, bassoon and piano

**Francis Poulenc**  
Sextet (1932)  
For flute, oboe, clarinet, french horn, bassoon and piano

**Program 2**

**Sunday, January 19**  
International House  
Alexander Timofeev  
Samuel Barber  
Michael Schelle  
Jack Gottlieb

Robert Cohen  
Song cycle: Parable

**Sunday, June 7**  
International House  
Beethoven  
Franz Schubert

**Leonard Bernstein**  
Sonata (1942)  
For clarinet and piano

**W. A. Mozart**  
Quintet in Eb Major, K. 452  
For oboe, clarinet, french horn, bassoon and piano

**Program 4**

**Sunday, March 29**  
International House  
Paul Hindemith  
L. van Beethoven  
Karel Husa  
Max Bruch

**Program 5**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**  
**2 pm to 5 pm**

Spending a memorable, intimate afternoon as Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano and Gerald Rizzer, piano perform music of Stephen Foster, French chansons, Gershwin, Cole Porter and Bernstein at Le Piano, 6970 North Glenwood Ave., Chicago (Rogers Park neighborhood). Le Piano is a fine new restaurant and listening room designed around a splendid grand piano—the perfect place to enjoy our performers in a way you never have before.

**Join us and help us get The Chicago Ensemble season off to a great start!**

**Tickets are $85 -**

**RSVP early as the guest attendance is limited to only 70 people**

Go to www.thechicagoensemble.com to place your reservation.