

been surpassed for great music for the clarinet.” In this edition of the **Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival** radio series, David Shifrin joins forces with the Escher String Quartet. Escher cellist Brook Speltz tells us, “I have no problem being hyperbolic about the Mozart Clarinet Quintet and I would extend that to David Shifrin, too. I don’t think there’s an artist out there who could touch that piece the way he does, and for us, it was one of the honors of a lifetime to play that piece with that man.” The hour begins as violinist Cho-Liang Lin and pianist Jon Kimura Parker play the Sonata in A Major, a good natured, mature work created by Johannes Brahms, in 1886, at the zenith of his creative powers.

Johannes Brahms Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano, Op. 100
Cho-Liang Lin, violin; Jon Kimura Parker, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581
Mozart *David Shifrin, clarinet; Escher String Quartet (Adam Barnett-Hart, Brendan Speltz, violin; Pierre Lapointe, viola; Brook Speltz, cello)*

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-04**
RELEASE: **April 22, 2025**

Verdi & Bartók String Quartets

Week four of the *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival’s* 2025-26 broadcast season features two extraordinary string quartets. The Verona Quartet makes its Festival debut performing Giuseppe Verdi’s sole chamber work, the String Quartet in E Minor. Verdi wrote it in Naples, in 1873, during a production delay of his opera *Aida*. The Verona’s violist, Abigail Rojansky, appreciates the opportunity to inhabit Verdi’s music. “If you think about his operatic contributions, we get that,” she remarked about the piece. “We get extreme pain, sadness and tenderness, and somehow he also finds these moments of just pure celebration.” After the Verdi, the Escher String Quartet delivers one of the iconic chamber works of the 20th century: the String Quartet No. 5, which Bartók composed in 1934. The Escher String Quartet met as students at the Manhattan School of Music in 2005, and the ensemble really came into their own through the process of mastering this incredibly difficult work of great power and depth.

Giuseppe Verdi String Quartet in E Minor
Verona Quartet (Jonathan Ong, Dorothy Ro, violin; Abigail Rojansky, viola; Jonathan Dormand, cello)

Béla Bartók String Quartet No. 5, Sz. 102
Escher String Quartet (Adam Barnett-Hart, Brendan Speltz, violin; Pierre Lapointe, viola; Brook Speltz, cello)

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-05**
RELEASE: **April 29, 2025**

Handel & Hermann

This week, the *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival* presents a pair of English-infused works composed 250 years apart. Harry Bicket, music director at the Santa Fe Opera and director of the English Consort in

London, makes his Festival debut. He plays harpsichord and leads a chamber orchestra of Santa Fe Opera Orchestra musicians in his presentation of the D Major and G Major Suites from *Water Music*, the iconic and delightful soundscape Handel composed for a royal river party hosted by King George I. For Harry Bicket, one of the enduring joys of this piece is that the music “is instantly recognizable yet still takes one by surprise.” The hour also holds music by the American anglophile Bernard Herrmann, who created many mid-20th century Hollywood film scores. Herrmann penned his final concert piece, *Souvenirs de Voyage*, a cinematic journey through England, Ireland, and Italy, while living in England in 1967. Todd Levy, principal clarinet for the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and the Milwaukee Symphony, brings this evocative and pastoral work to life in collaboration with violinists Ida Kavafian and L.P. How, violist Steven Tenenbom, and cellist Eric Kim.

George Frideric Handel Water Music Suite in D Major and G Major, HWV 349–350
Harry Bicket, conductor & harpsichord; with an ensemble made up primarily of members of the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra (Daniel Jordan, Jennifer Best Takeda, Ashley Vandiver, Kathleen Brauer, Christopher Takeda, L.P. How, Debra Fong, Carla Ecker, Lisa Ferguson, violin; Margaret Dyer Harris, Theresa Rudolph, Melissa Trier Kirk, viola; Alastair Eng, Mark Brandfonbrener, Christopher Schnell, cello; Anne Peterson, double bass; Bart Feller, flute; Robert Ingliss, Julia DeRosa, oboe; Julia Harguindey, bassoon; Julia Pilant, David Byrd-Marrow, horn)

Bernard Herrmann Souvenirs de Voyage for Clarinet Quintet
Todd Levy, clarinet; Ida Kavafian, L.P. How, violin; Steven Tenenbom, viola; Eric Kim, cello

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-06**
RELEASE: **May 6, 2025**

Rameau & Brahms

From French Baroque to masterly Romantic, week six of the 2025-26 *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival* radio series brings together works by Jean Philippe Rameau and Johannes Brahms. Brahms began to write what would eventually become his Piano Quintet in F Minor when he was in his late 20s and still living in his native Hamburg. Thanks in part to advice from Clara Schumann, he revised the combination of instruments various times until he achieved the perfect balance of power and lyricism. Artistic director Marc Neikrug assembled a Festival super group to perform the Quintet. We have Kirill Gerstein on piano. William Hagen and LP How play violins. The superb Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt is the violist, and Paul Watkins of the Emerson Quartet plays cello. The hour begins with the first of Rameau’s *Pièces de clavecin en concerts* in a performance by violinist Yura Lee, cellist Peter Stumpf, and harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon.

Jean-Philippe Rameau Concert No. 1 in C Minor from *Pièces de clavecin en concerts* for Violin, Cello, and Harpsichord
Yura Lee, violin; Peter Stumpf, cello; Paolo Bordignon, harpsichord

Johannes Brahms Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34
Kirill Gerstein, piano; William Hagen, L.P. How, violin; Milena Pajaro Van de Stadt, viola; Paul Watkins, cello

Violinist Yura Lee and pianist George Li join forces to perform the Violin Sonata No. 1 that Béla Bartók composed, in 1921, as he, and the world around him, began to recover from the First World War. Juxtaposing the Bartók, the broadcast opens with international guitar sensation Łukasz Kuropaczewski and violinist Danbi Um. They play the genial Grand duo concertante in A Major that the Italian composer Mauro Giuliani crafted in 1817.

Mauro Giuliani Grand duo concertante in A Major for Violin and Guitar, Op. 85
Danbi Um, violin; Łukasz Kuropaczewski, guitar

Béla Bartók Sonata No. 1 in C-sharp Minor for Violin and Piano, Sz. 75
Yura Lee, violin; George Li, piano

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-10**
RELEASE: **June 3, 2025**

Prokofiev & Tchaikovsky

Join us for two Russian masterworks performed at the *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival*. Prokofiev's Flute Sonata, from 1943, features a virtuoso interpretation by flutist Tara Helen O'Connor in collaboration with pianist Ran Dank. To close out the program, the Dover Quartet plays a landmark composition by Tchaikovsky, the Quartet in D Major, Op. 11, whose famous second movement was said to move the great Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy to tears.

Sergei Prokofiev Sonata in D Major for Flute and Piano, Op. 94
Tara Helen O'Connor, flute; Ran Dank, piano

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky String Quartet in D Major, Op. 11
Dover Quartet (Joel Link, Bryan Lee, violin; Julianne Lee, viola; Camden Shaw, cello)

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-11**
RELEASE: **June 10, 2025**

Bach & Golijov

Pianist Gilles Vonsattel opens this *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival* program with J. S. Bach's Keyboard Concerto in E Major, a sextet for keyboard and strings that's both lighthearted and full of challenging complexity. The concerto, which dates from approximately 1738, premiered at a Leipzig coffeehouse as part of a music series the composer ran there for more than a decade. We then come to 1994 and Osvaldo Golijov's celebrated quintet for clarinet and strings, *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*. Clarinetist Todd Palmer has worked with Golijov many times. Here, he joins the Verona Quartet in this epic musical journey that invokes both the divinity of prayer and the freewheeling world of klezmer. Sharing her discoveries at playing the piece for the first time, the Verona Quartet's violist Abigail Rojansky observes, "The way that Golijov writes is so masterful, so interwoven, and so deeply, deeply characterful. Every little detail is so interesting and fun to play."

Johann Sebastian Bach Keyboard Concerto in E Major, BWV 1053
Gilles Vonsattel, piano; with L.P. How, Alejandro Valdepeñas, violin; Margaret Dyer Harris, viola; Alastair Eng, cello; Mark Tatum, double bass

Oswaldo Golijov *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*
Todd Palmer, clarinet; Verona Quartet (Jonathan Ong, Dorothy Ro, violin; Abigail Rojansky, viola; Jonathan Dormand, cello)

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-12**
RELEASE: **June 17, 2025**

Zelenka & Dvořák

The harmonic inventiveness of two pivotal Czech composers fills this hour from the *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival*. In describing the baroque composer Zelenka, a critic once remarked that it's as if Bach had a touch of Ives in him. Celebrated musicians performing Zelenka's Trio Sonata for Oboe, Bassoon, Violin and Continuo include principal oboe of the Minnesota Orchestra, Nathan Hughes; Principal Bassoon of the National Symphony Orchestra, Sue Heineman; violinist William Hagen, cellist Alastair Eng, and longtime Santa Fe harpsichordist, Kathleen McIntosh. To close out the program, the Calidore String Quartet joins forces with violist Toby Appel and cellist Peter Stumpf. They'll perform Dvořák's one and only String Sextet. Written in 1878, the sextet marked a turning point in the up-and-coming composer's career, as he successfully brought the lively melodies and dances of his Bohemian homeland into the concert hall, blending the spirit of Czech folk tradition with art music.

Jan Dismas Zelenka Trio Sonata No. 3 in B-flat Major for Oboe, Bassoon, Violin, and Continuo, ZWV 181/3
Nathan Hughes, oboe, Sue Heineman, bassoon; William Hagen, violin; Alastair Eng, cello; Kathleen McIntosh, harpsichord

Antonín Dvořák String Sextet in A Major, Op. 48
Calidore String Quartet (Jeffrey Myers, Ryan Meehan, violin; Jeremy Berry, viola; Estelle Choi, cello) with Toby Appel, viola; Peter Stumpf, cello

PROGRAM #: **SFE 25-13**
RELEASE: **June 24, 2025**

Mendelssohn, Janáček & Wolf

The culminating episode of the 2024 *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival* radio series holds music by Wolf, Janáček and Mendelssohn. To begin, baritone Benjamin Appl sings of a yearning for a distant loved one when he and pianist Simon Lepper perform the song "Silent Love" from Wolf's *Eichendorff Lieder*. After

that, violinist John Storgårds and pianist Kirill Gerstein play Janáček's World War I era Sonata for Violin and Piano, a work noted for both its urgency and lyricism. When we asked John about the modal harmonies and improvisational feel of Janáček's music, he observed that "it's full of fantasy and very Janacek-typical colors, and a certain folkish world that is so special for him." Lastly, pianist Jon Kimura Parker, violinist Yura Lee, and cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan, bring the full season of performances from Santa Fe to its triumphant conclusion with their delivery of Mendelssohn's superlative D Minor Piano Trio, which Schumann called "the master trio of our time."

Hugo Wolf	"Verschwiegene Liebe" ("Silent Love") from <i>Eichendorff Lieder</i> <i>Benjamin Appl, baritone; Simon Lepper, piano</i>
Leoš Janáček	Sonata for Violin and Piano <i>John Storgårds, violin; Kirill Gerstein, piano</i>
Felix Mendelssohn	Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 49 <i>Jon Kimura Parker, piano; Yura Lee, violin; Narek Hakhnazaryan, cello</i>