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Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Weekend Concert Series September Performances

September 13-14: ACRONYM in Bach's Complete Brandenburg Concertos September 21: Junction Trio in John Zorn World Premieres September 28: Catalyst String Quartet



Clockwise from top left: Junction Trio, Catalyst Quartet, ACRONYM. Press photos available here.

Information & Tickets: gardnermuseum.org/about/music

For press tickets, please contact Christina Jensen at christina@jensenartists.com

BOSTON, MA – The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** will launch its **Fall 2025 Weekend Concert Series** with four performances in September. This eleven-concert autumn season curated by *Abrams Curator of Music* **George Steel** runs from **September 13 through November 23, 2025**, and features world-class artists in the Museum's extraordinary Calderwood Hall—a 300-seat "sonic cube" with three levels of balconies designed so that 80% of seats are front row, creating a uniquely intense and intentional listening experience.

The Fall 2025 season opens with two concerts featuring Baroque-band and period-instrument superstars **ACRONYM**, praised for their "consummate style, grace, and unity of spirit" (*The New York Times*), performing **J.S. Bach**'s complete **Brandenburg Concertos** on **Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14 at 1:30 pm**. In anticipation of overwhelming demand, the ensemble will perform the complete cycle twice, featuring Bach's masterworks on authentic period instruments including flutes, recorders, trumpets, hunting horns, gambas, and violins of every size—a motley "kitchen" of continuo instruments, and more.

The season continues on **Sunday, September 21 at 1:30 pm** with the **Junction Trio** presenting an afternoon of virtuosic chamber music by **John Zorn**. The acclaimed trio—Stefan Jackiw (violin), Jay Campbell (cello), and Conrad Tao (piano), joined by special guests Jorge Roeder (bass) and Ches Smith (drums)—will perform Zorn's vivid and theatrical music, which has become an audience favorite at the Gardner. Their program includes two world premieres—Zorn's *Notes on the Assumption of Mystical Solidarity Approaching Nine Neological Approximations Illuminating the Eternal Return of the Same* and *But Doth Suffer a Sea-Change*, as well as his *Philosophical Investigations I and II* and *I Am Your Labyrinth...*, all composed in the last three years.

The Catalyst String Quartet returns on Sunday, September 28 at 1:30 pm after their astonishing Gardner debut last season. The quartet's program features Concertante Quartets No. 2 in G minor (1777) by the legendary violinist-composer Joseph Bologne (Chevalier de Saint-Georges), a superb swordsman who led an all-Black regiment in the French Revolution, alongside Dora Pejačević's splendid String Quartet in C major from 1922—re-introducing Gardner audiences to the work of this late-Romantic Croatian composer—and Beethoven's monumental String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132.

George Steel's programming for the Fall 2025 Weekend Concert Series continues founder and legendary arts patron Isabella Stewart Gardner's vision of bringing together musicians and audiences for inspiring gatherings. Dating to 1927, the Gardner's Weekend Concert Series is the longest running museum music program in the country. Much like Isabella Stewart Gardner did in her time, Steel champions unknown repertoire and embraces new works, creates connections and builds community among musicians, and supports them by presenting them in new endeavors and collaborations. His programming also frequently draws on the history of the Gardner Museum, featuring instruments from the Museum's collection and music by composers who were associated with its founder. In honoring Isabella Stewart Gardner's musical legacy, Music at the Gardner remains strongly committed to broadening the repertoire of music presented to include previously overlooked and marginalized composers as well as performers of all backgrounds.

Fall 2025 At-a-Glance Concert Schedule

September 13-14: ACRONYM - The Complete Brandenburg Concertos by J.S. Bach

September 21: Junction Trio Plays John Zorn

September 28: Catalyst String Quartet

October 5: Sphinx Virtuosi with Sterling Elliott, cello

October 19: Miranda Cuckson, violin, and Blair McMillen, piano

October 26: Rachel Barton Pine, violin and viola d'amore

November 2: Claire Chase, flutes, with Aisslinn Nosky, violin, Katinka Kleijn, cello, and Alex Peh, piano and harpsichord *This performance is made possible by the Anne Hawley Fund for Programs*.

November 9: Clayton Stephenson, piano

This program is performed in memory of Willona Sinclair.

November 16: Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano with Myra Huang, piano

This concert is made possible by the generous support of David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder.

November 23: Michelle Cann, piano

All concerts take place on Sundays at 1:30 pm (except ACRONYM, which performs on both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 pm) in Calderwood Hall at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (25 Evans Way, Boston, MA).

Ticketing Information

Tickets (\$20-\$85) are available at <u>gardnermuseum.org/about/music</u> or by calling the Box Office at 617 278 5156. All concert tickets include Museum admission.

About the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum invites you to escape the ordinary in a magical setting where art and community come together to inspire new ways of envisioning our world. Embodying the fearless legacy of its founder, the Museum offers a singular invitation to explore the past through a contemporary lens, creating meaningful encounters with art and joyful connections for all. Modeled after a Venetian palazzo, unforgettable galleries surround a luminous Courtyard and are home to masters such as Rembrandt, Raphael, Titian, Michelangelo, Whistler, and Sargent. The Renzo Piano wing provides a platform for contemporary artists, musicians, and scholars and serves as an innovative venue where creativity is celebrated in all of its forms.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum • 25 Evans Way, Boston, MA 02115 • Hours: Open Weekends from 10 am to 5 pm, Weekdays from 11am to 5 pm and Thursdays until 9 pm Closed Tuesdays. • Admission: Adults \$22; Seniors \$20; Students \$15; Free for members, children under 18, everyone on their birthday, and all named "Isabella" • \$2 off admission with a same-day Museum of Fine Arts, Boston ticket • For information 617 566 1401 • Box Office 617 278 5156 • www.gardnermuseum.org

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.