

ISABELLA  
STEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM

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Press contact: Christina Jensen, Jensen Artists  
646.536.7864 x1 | [christina@jensenartists.com](mailto:christina@jensenartists.com)

**The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Presents ACRONYM in  
*Esther in the Age of Rembrandt* on October 18, 2026**

**A Concert Coinciding with the Museum's Current Exhibition  
*The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt***



ACRONYM, photo by Jeff Weeks. Press photos available [here](#).

**Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 1:30pm**  
**Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum | Calderwood Hall | 25 Evans Way | Boston, MA**  
**Tickets: [www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/acronym-20261018](http://www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/acronym-20261018)**

***For press tickets, please contact Christina Jensen at [christina@jensenartists.com](mailto:christina@jensenartists.com)***

BOSTON, MA – The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum continues its **Fall 2026 Weekend Concert Series**, presenting ACRONYM in *Esther in the Age of Rembrandt* on **Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 1:30pm**. This ten-concert autumn season curated by *Abrams Curator of Music George Steel* runs from September 13 through November 22, 2026 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.

Baroque band ACRONYM's performance is presented in conjunction with the Museum's exhibition *The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt*, running from August 6, 2026 through January 18, 2027 in the Hostetter Gallery. The exhibition illuminates how the ancient story of a Jewish heroine became

a source of inspiration for people across faiths in the 17th-century Netherlands. ACRONYM's program offers rare performances of three Esther cantatas from Rembrandt's time. It includes two works by women composers of the time – *Esther* from 1708 by the remarkable French composer **Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre** and *Sinfonia à5, No. 5* from circa 1625–1650 by Flemish composer **Leonora Duarte**, who came from a Portuguese-Jewish *converso* family. The concert will also include *Sinfonia grave à5* and *Gagliarda Massara* (c. 1607) by Jewish Mantuan composer **Salamone Rossi**, plus *Regina Hester* (c. 1640-50) by **Giacomo Carissimi**, *Balletto, genandt das Narrenspitall* (c. 1667) by **Johann Heinrich Schmelzer**, and *Historia Esther* from 1677 by **Marc-Antoine Charpentier**. ACRONYM will perform with a roster of leading vocal soloists as special guests: **Amanda Forsythe** and **Teresa Wakim**, sopranos; **Kim Leeds**, alto; **Aaron Sheehan**, tenor; and **Jesse Blumberg**, baritone.

Founded in 2012, ACRONYM is dedicated to giving modern premieres of the music of the 17th-century. The group has recorded ten critically acclaimed albums, many of which are the first modern recordings of composers whose works were nearly lost to time. The ensemble has been praised by *The New York Times* for playing with “consummate style, grace, and unity of spirit” and by the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* for its “unadulterated joy and funk” and “spirit of spontaneous adventure.”

George Steel's music programming for the Museum 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 2026 At-a-Glance Concert Schedule

**September 13:** Rachel Barton Pine, violin

**September 20:** Twelfth Night Ensemble

**September 27:** Chamber Music Celebration

*This annual concert celebrates the life and legacy of Scott Nickrenz, first Abrams Curator of Music at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.*

**October 4:** Ivalas Quartet

**October 18:** ACRONYM: *Esther in the Age of Rembrandt*

**October 25:** Celebrating Chrysanthemums

*This performance is made possible by the Anne Hawley Fund for Programs.*

**October 29:** Georg Friedrich Haas's *in vain* performed by Alarm Will Sound, conducted by Alan Pierson – Thursday Night Music

**November 1:** Eleanor Alberga with Green Room Ensemble

**November 8:** Poiesis Quartet

**November 15:** Lysander Piano Trio

**November 22:** Jean Rondeau, harpsichord

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

*All concerts take place on Sundays at 1:30 pm in Calderwood Hall at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (25 Evans Way, Boston, MA), except for the October 29 Thursday Night Music concert which starts at 7 pm.*

## **Ticketing Information**

Tickets (\$25-\$99) are available at [gardnermuseum.org/about/music](http://gardnermuseum.org/about/music) 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 11 am to 5 pm, and Thursdays until 9 pm. Closed Tuesdays. • General admission: Adults \$25; Seniors \$22; Students \$15; Free Thursdays from 5 – 9 pm and for members, children 17 and under, and everyone named Isabella • Information: 617 566 1401 • Box Office: 617 278 5156 • [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)

Music at the Gardner is supported by the Nora McNeely Hurley Foundation. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Scott Nickrenz 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, Joseph Mari, Sallie and Jim McGregor, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.

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