The 36th season of the Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society has been very exciting thanks to the generous support of the community, foundations, sponsors, local businesses, music lovers and volunteers.

Six famous national and international Chamber Music Ensembles were featured during our Classical Series. In October, the Orion String Quartet, sponsored by the City of Corpus Christi Arts and Cultural Commission, opened the season with a technically superb and musically inspiring performance. The Vienna Piano Trio completed the 2017 year with familiar music by Schubert, Ravel and Brahms.

2018 included four performances in the spring. Jeremy Denk & Stefan Jackiw, assisted by local vocal quartet Hymns & Hers, provided an informative and stimulating concert featuring the music of Charles Ives. This was followed by the American Brass Quintet, sponsored by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, performing a wide variety of music composed between 1557 and 2005. The Tesla Quartet, formed at The Juilliard School in 2008, gave historical and musical insights prior to each of their selections, and the Emerson Quartet wrapped up the season as always…magnificently. The Emerson Quartet was sponsored by the Morris L. Lichtenstein Jr. Medical Research Foundation.

Our Champagne Classics concert series continued to add a bit of spice to the concert season, with three special concerts featuring classic and new music in small, casual settings in downtown Corpus Christi. The House of Rock and Havana Club drew large, diverse audiences. Brookdale Senior Living made it possible for Board member, Susan de Ghizé, to give an informative and interesting presentation about the Brahms Piano Trio which was performed the next evening by the Vienna Piano Trio.

Our Youth Chamber Music Program continues to expand and nurture the next generation of young chamber musicians. The two CCCMS Youth String Ensembles, the Diamond Quartet and the Catgut Quartet, gave pre-concert performances to enthusiastic audiences of all ages before the Emerson String Quartet’s concert on April 28. They also received coaching in a master class with the Tesla Quartet in March.

The Chamber Music Society’s outreach season has been exciting and extremely rewarding, bringing music to local orchestra and band students.

The Orion Quartet kicked off the season with a performance for the Ray High School orchestra on October 6.

The Vienna Piano Trio followed with a performance in the Berlanga Elementary School auditorium, to a standing-room only audience of elementary students. These two performances were generously sponsored by HEB.

On March 2, the American Brass Quintet performed in Richardson Auditorium for an audience of CCISD band students who were bussed to Del Mar College for the event.

The season wrapped up on March 23rd at Veteran’s Memorial High School, with a masterclass presented by the Tesla Quartet.
The CCCMS Youth String Ensembles are made up of pre-college students recommended by their school instructors and selected to be part of the CCCMS ensembles based on their musical skills and commitment. The ensembles are coached by Susan Sturman, CCCMS Program Director and Professor of Cello & Bass at Del Mar College, and Todd Ehle, CCCMS Board member and Professor of Violin & Viola and Director of the Corpus Christi Chamber Orchestra at Del Mar College. The students receive 10-11 coaching sessions free of charge each semester.

The City of Corpus Christi is a generous sponsor of the CCCMS annual concert series, providing support in part by Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds through the Arts & Cultural Commission.

The 2018-2019 Concert Season

Benjamin Beilman & Orion Weiss, October 20, 2018. The "brilliant artistry" of violinist Benjamin Beilman (San Francisco Classical Review) and “inspired virtuosity” of pianist Orion Weiss (Cleveland Plain Dealer) are a combination you won’t want to miss.

Voces8, November 17, 2018. “Eight beautifully integrated solo voices…persuasive and committed singing.” (BBC Music Magazine)

Dover Quartet & Pacifica Quartet, February 2, 2019. Two of America’s most prominent quartets join forces to present Mendelssohn’s youthful masterpiece, the Octet in E-Flat Major.

Hermitage Piano Trio, February 23, 2019. “…three of Russia’s most spectacular young soloists…turned in a performance of such power and sweeping passion that it left you nearly out of breath.” (The Washington Post)

Akropolis Reed Quintet, March 23, 2019. “This group of super talented musicians takes listeners on an amazing interactive musical adventure. The Reed Quintet is innovative, youthful, and full of enthusiasm.” (Maryland Theatre Guide)

Zorá String Quartet, April 13, 2019. Named “the future of chamber music” in a concert review in Oregon Arts Watch, this young quartet gained national attention in 2015 when they won three of the most coveted chamber music awards: the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, the Grand Prize and Gold Medal of the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition and the Coleman Chamber Music Competition.