



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PILGRIM CHAMBER PLAYERS CLOSES 28TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH ALL-BRAHMS CELEBRATION**

World-class Musicians Gather In Highland Park For An Afternoon Devoted To Brahms

HIGHLAND PARK, IL — **Pilgrim Chamber Players** brings its 28th anniversary season to a close with *Brahms' Celebration*, an afternoon of chamber music honoring Johannes Brahms, one of the defining composers of the Romantic era, on **Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** at the Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road.

The program opens with Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73 — a fitting tribute to the composer whose friendship and early advocacy helped introduce Brahms to the musical world. The program then turns to Brahms, with the *Cello Sonata No. 2 in F major*, Op. 99, followed after intermission by the *String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat major*, Op. 18, a work for two violins, two violas, and two cellos that has remained a cornerstone of the chamber music repertoire since its premiere in 1860.

Artistic Director **Steven Honigberg**, who studied with legendary cellist **Leonard Rose** -- famous for his recordings of Brahms' chamber music -- leads an exceptional ensemble of guest artists: **John and Karyn Macfarlane**, violins; **Toby Appel** and **Anthony Devroye**, violas; **Steven Honigberg** and **Haddon Kay**, cellos; and **Marta Aznavoorian**, piano.

"This program brings together some of the country's finest chamber musicians to honor a composer whose music has always been central to Pilgrim's mission," said Artistic Director Steven Honigberg. "Brahms wrote music of extraordinary depth and beauty. The B flat sextet was the work that instantly received accolades from musicians and critics alike, putting Brahms at the forefront of his generation. Brahms was only 27 and we cannot think of a more fitting way to close our 28th season."

Tickets are **\$20 for adults** and **\$10 for students** and include the post-concert reception. Visit pilgrimplayers.org or contact us at info@pilgrimplayers.org.

ABOUT PILGRIM CHAMBER PLAYERS

For 28 years, Pilgrim Chamber Players has brought world-class chamber music to Chicago's North Shore, presenting exceptional musicians in intimate concert settings. The organization is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the community through carefully curated programs and outstanding performances.

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