

NEWS RELEASE

Contacts:
Michael Hogue
215.545.5451 x26
mhogue@chamberorchestra.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 14, 2016

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) announces the appointment of Stephen Tavani as Concertmaster and Matthew Cohen as Section Violist.

COP will feature the music of Rossini, Gounod, and new works by **NJ native Raphael Fusco** and **star French-Lebanese pianist and composer Rami Khalifé.**

intersect series opens with a polystylistic exploration of **exoticism** in music - a collaboration between COP Music Director Dirk Brossé, Singer/Songwriter Andrew Lipke, and Rami Khalifé.

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP)** will perform music by Rossini and Gounod, premiere a new arrangement by New Jersey composer, Raphael Fusco and present the U.S. premiere of *Stories* for piano and orchestra by French-Lebanese pianist and rising-star composer Rami Khalifé.

Raphael Fusco is no stranger to COP, having premiered *Alternate Routes* with saxophonist Branford Marsalis and the Chamber Orchestra on Marsalis' "Well-Tempered" tour during COP's 2014/2015 season. "All the instruments share the original solo saxophone line," Fusco explains about the newly arranged work, "resulting in a concerto for chamber orchestra."

Star Lebanese pianist, Rami Khalifé, described as "positively brand new" and "musician of extreme caliber" by the Daily Star (Lebanon), is making his Chamber Orchestra debut with the American Premiere of his work *Stories* for piano and orchestra. Khalifé describes *Stories* as "a series of soundscapes that stand alone just as resolutely as they bind together. They carry my vision for music: free from any constraints, borders or restrictions." Peace is a focal point for Khalifé whose father, Marcel Khalifé is a UNESCO Artist for Peace. Khalifé is a member of the Euro Mediterranean Music Academy, an organization using music diplomacy and education for the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions, and has been honored by the Lebanese Social Ministry for his work in promoting de-mining initiatives in his native Lebanon.

Inspired by the December Kimmel Center series program, COP presents *intersect: a different drum*: an exploration of how the exotic becomes familiar and the familiar exotic. From the mezzaluna originating from the Ottoman Empire and featured in the music of Rossini, to the Bodhran of traditional Celtic music, to the steel pans of Trinidad, to the Dumbek of Egypt and the Middle East; Brossé and Lipke examine through indigenous percussion instruments what makes music "exotic" how these attributes evolve to become familiar and even commonplace. Cross-genre collaborative performances and new arrangements will highlight how, when heard in a new context, the familiar can take a strikingly strange and unusual quality, repeating the dichotomous cyclical dance of familiar and exotic. *intersect* COP musicians Martha Hitchins and Harvey Price will be joined by very special guests Rami Khalifé on keyboard and his father, acclaimed Lebanese oud player and vocalist Marcel Khalifé. The evening will culminate with an on stage discussion and Q&A.

The Chamber Orchestra announces the appointment of Stephen Tavani, who will make his debut as Concertmaster in the December program. A recent graduate of Curtis Institute of Music, Tavani is originally from Northern Virginia. He studied at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles and is currently finishing advanced studies at the Curtis Institute of Music. Also joining the Chamber Orchestra is section violist Matthew Cohen. A frequent substitute of the New York Philharmonic, Cohen won the chair in the Spring and performed his first program with the orchestra on the November Series concerts.

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Rossini, Gounod, and *Stories for Piano and Orchestra*

Sunday, December 4, 2016 | 2:30 PM

Monday, December 5, 2016 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Rami Khalifé, Piano

Perelman Theater

Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

chamberorchestra.org / 215.893.1709

Tickets \$24 - \$81

PROGRAM

Rossini - Overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri*

Gounod - Symphony No. 1

Fusco - *Alternate Routes**

Khalife - *Stories for Piano and Orchestra* **

**World Premiere **United States Premiere*

RELATED EVENT

intersect: a different drum

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

7:00PM Meet & Greet

8:00PM Concert

World Café Live in University City

Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Andrew Lipke, Singer-Songwriter

Rami Khalifé, special guest and performer

Rami Khalifé, Piano

Rami Khalifé was born September 25, 1981, to musicians, UNESCO Artist for Peace (Paris, 2005) Marcel Khalifé and vocalist Yolla Khalifé, amid the civil war in Beirut, Lebanon. While best known for his re-envisioning of the classics, Rami Khalifé, who graduated from The Juilliard School, has been featured as a soloist alongside some of the world's most prized international orchestras including Globalis Orchestra, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Liverpool Philharmonic.

Khalifé has toured extensively in the U.S, South America, Asia, Canada, Europe, Australia, in such venues as the Kennedy Center (Washington, USA), the Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia), Opera House (Doha, Qatar), Place Des Arts (Montreal, Canada), Dar el Opera (Damascus, Syria), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), Salle Pleyel (Paris, France) and UNESCO Palace (Beirut, Lebanon).

Rami Khalifé's body of work is as eclectic as it is bold, ranging from improvised concerts, a recent recording of a Prokofiev concerto, performances with Marcel Khalifé and the Al Mayadine Ensemble, new works for orchestra, soundtracks for films and documentaries, collaborations with poet and author Mahmoud Darwish, and concerts with classic electro group Aufgang. Heralded as a "musician of extreme caliber and pure expression...a welcome experimental

detour from the norm of today and in the relatively conformist world of classical composition...he is positively brand new” by the Daily Star (Lebanon), Rami Khalifé has emerged as one of the most exciting young composers of the 21st Century.

His compositions include two piano concertos, a requiem, a cello concerto and several orchestral pieces, including “Tunnel to the Moon”, all of which, were premiered by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

Stephen Tavani, Concertmaster

Originally from Northern Virginia, violinist Stephen Tavani currently lives in Philadelphia, where he was recently appointed Concertmaster of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He has appeared as a chamber musician around the world, and as soloist with Carlos Miguel Prieto and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, the National Repertory Orchestra under Andrew Litton, the American Youth Symphony, the Brentwood Westwood Symphony, and others. Tavani served as guest concertmaster for the Louisiana Philharmonic, and many other orchestras, including the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, the Colburn Orchestra, the Youth Orchestra of Americas for a 2015 tour of Canada, the National Repertory Orchestra, the American Youth Symphony and the MasterWorks Festival Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Tavani has collaborated with many great musicians, including Edgar Meyer, members of Quatour Ebene, Roberto Díaz, Peter Wiley, Paul Katz, Shai Wosner, Meng-Chieh Liu, Jon Kimura Parker, Ronald Leonard, Clive Greensmith, José Franch Ballester, and Daniel Hope. In summer of 2016, he participated in his first season at the prestigious Marlboro Music Festival. He has performed at the Dresden Music Festival, Music From Angel Fire, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Colburn Chamber Music Society, Curtis Recital Series, and with Curtis On Tour and the Curtis 20/21 Ensemble. In the spring of 2016, Tavani toured extensively with a chamber ensemble from Curtis On Tour throughout Spain and Germany, giving concerts in Berlin (at the Konzerthaus), Bremen, Dresden, Munich, and Valencia collaborating with Curtis students and alumni, including clarinetist José Franch Ballester.

Stephen Tavani performed at the 11th Sibelius International Violin Competition in Helsinki, where he advanced to the semi-final round. He also participated in the 2012 Queen Elisabeth Competition, and was a semi-finalist at the 2013 Michael Hill Violin Competition in New Zealand. He is currently finishing studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Ida Kavafian and Arnold Steinhardt, where he holds the Dorothy J. del Bueno Fellowship. He has a Bachelor of Music from the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, where he studied with Robert Lipsett and Arnold Steinhardt. Previous teachers include Aaron Rosand, Shirley Givens, and Ronda Cole. He plays on a W.E. Hill & Sons bow generously loaned by Tom Frisina. Stephen comes from a musical family; he is one of six brothers, including two cellists, another violinist, and a pianist. His mother is a voice teacher and lyric soprano, his father a family physician and pianist.

Matthew Cohen, Viola

American violist Matthew Cohen was born in Santa Monica, California and grew up in Portland, Oregon. He began playing the viola at the age of eight, following two years of violin study. Matthew has performed solo recitals on both coasts of the United States and has performed publicly throughout North America and Europe. He made his Carnegie Hall debut at 15 as a soloist in the New York premiere of Tomas Svoboda’s Sonata No. 2 for Orchestra and Solo String Quartet, a work performed and commissioned by the Portland Youth Philharmonic. He returned to Carnegie Hall in January to perform York Bowen’s Phantasy for viola and piano in Weill Recital Hall. Matthew has attended The Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Colburn Conservatory of Music and attained the distinctions of Bachelor of Music and Artist Diploma. He has been featured as a soloist numerous times with ensembles such as the Colburn Orchestra, Oregon Sinfonietta, and Oregon Symphony/Oregon Ballet Theatre. He has performed chamber music alongside many distinguished artists including Arnold Steinhardt, Daniel Hope, James Buswell, Alexander Treger, Grigory Kalinovsky, Paul Coletti, Ronald Leonard, Clive Greensmith, Martin Beaver, Amit Peled, Sandra Rivers, Norman Krieger, Joaquin Valdepeñas, Kevin FitzGerald, Robert Davidovici and Michele Zukovsky.

Matthew has distinguished himself in numerous local, national and international competitions, most recently winning first prize at the 2015 Vivo International Music Competition and as a special prizewinner at the 2014 Primrose International Viola Competition. He has held the position of principal viola with the American Youth Symphony, the Young Musician’s Foundation Debut Orchestra, the Colburn Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra, has performed with the Oregon Symphony and concertizes regularly with the New York Philharmonic. His recording of York Bowen’s Phantasy for viola and piano with acclaimed pianist Vivian Fan is available on the Soundset label. His former teachers have include Paul Coletti, Misha Amory, and Jeffrey Irvine. He plays on a viola by Helmuth Keller and a bow by Paul

Martin Siefried generously on loan from The Maestro Foundation. Matthew is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School in the Master of Music program where he studied with Heidi Castleman and Cynthia Phelps.

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is a 33-member professional ensemble led by Music Director Dirk Brossé. The Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1964 by Marc Mostovoy, has a well-established reputation for distinguished performances of repertoire from the Baroque period through the twenty-first century.

The Chamber Orchestra's development was motivated, in part, by the desire to provide performance opportunities to young professional musicians emerging from the Curtis Institute of Music and other regional training programs, but also by a desire to make a substantial contribution to the city and the region's cultural life. In addition to presenting its own productions, the Chamber Orchestra started to develop an entrepreneurial business model by seeking other performance opportunities among the region's presenter/producer community, thereby providing supplementary employment for its members. The ensemble also championed new music, focusing on local composers. In total, the organization has commissioned and premiered over seventy new works.

In 1994, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, a concert pianist and conducting graduate from the Curtis Institute of Music, joined the Chamber Orchestra as Assistant Conductor. In 1998, he was named Principal Conductor and, ultimately, Music Director in 2004. Maestro Solzhenitsyn, in assuming the position of Conductor Laureate in 2010, remains closely associated with the Orchestra. A conductor and composer of international acclaim, Maestro Dirk Brossé now enters his seventh season as Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In the 2016-2017 subscription season, the Orchestra will perform six concert programs from October through May in the Kimmel Center's intimate, 600-seat Perelman Theater.

Over the course of the ensemble's rich and diverse history, the Chamber Orchestra has performed with such internationally acclaimed guest artists as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mstislav Rostropovich, Issac Stern, Rudolph Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, The Romeros Guitar Quartet, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Ben Folds, Branford Marsalis, Elvis Costello, Sylvia McNair, Steven Isserlis, Joseph Silverstein, Ransom Wilson, Gerard Schwarz, Jahja Ling, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, among others. The ensemble travels regularly, having toured the United States, Europe, and Israel.

Dirk Brossé, Music Director

Sir Dirk Brossé, born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1960, is a multi-faceted composer and a respected conductor on the international music scene. He is currently Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Music Director of the Film festival Ghent and Music Director and principal conductor of the *Star Wars: In Concert* World Tour.

Brossé began his music studies at the Music Conservatories of Ghent. He subsequently specialized in conducting, which he studied in Maastricht, Vienna and Cologne. He is currently Professor of Composition and Conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Ghent. Dirk Brossé has conducted all the leading Belgian orchestras, among them, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Flemish Opera and the National Orchestra of Belgium. Outside his native Belgium, he has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Shanghai, the Vancouver Opera, the KBS Symphony Orchestra of South Korea, l'Orchestra de l'Opéra de Lyon, the World Symphony Orchestra (Japan), the Ulster Symphony Orchestra of Northern Ireland, the Camerata St. Petersburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestras of Venezuela and Ecuador. Dirk Brossé is a versatile and prolific composer. He has written some 400 works, including concerti, oratorios, lieder, chamber music and symphonic works, that have been performed all over the world and have been recorded in more than 40 countries. His most important works are *La Soledad de América Latina*, written in collaboration with the Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Artesia*, a universal symphony for orchestra and ethnic instruments, the ethno-classical symphony *The Birth of Music*, the oratorio *Juanelo*, the lieder cycles *Landuyt Cycle* and *La vida es un Sueño*, the *War Concerto* for clarinet and orchestra, and the violin concertos *Black, White & Between*, *Sophia* and *Echoes of Silent Voices*.

He has also composed extensively for cinema, television and stage. His film soundtracks include *Boerenpsalm*, *Daens* (Academy Award Nominee, 1993), *Singularity*, *Koko Flanel*, *Licht*, Stijn Coninx's *de Kavijaks*, Marian Handwerker's *Marie*, Martin Koolhoven's *Knetter*, Jaques Feyder's 1925 silent film *Visages d'Enfants*, and *Knielen op een*

bed violen (Golden Calf Nominee, 2016). In 2012, Dirk scored the music for the Emmy Award Nominated BBC/HBO series *Parade's End*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. He wrote the scores for the musicals *Sacco & Vanzetti*, *The Prince of Africa*, *Tintin — The Temple of the Sun* (based on Hergé's world-famous cartoon character Tintin), *Rembrandt The Musical*, and *Musical Daens*, each time in close collaboration with Frank Van Laecke.

In 2010, at the request of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, he wrote *The Hallow-e'en Dances*. This Halloween-inspired work is especially written for age-old, traditional Chinese instruments. He recently composed *Haiku Cycle 1*, written for Jessye Norman and based on Haiku by Herman Van Rompuy. In 2007, Dirk Brossé made his debut in the Royal Albert Hall, conducting the London Symphony Orchestra in *A Night of Music from the Movies*, featuring the music of Patrick Doyle, with guest appearances by such renowned actors as Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh.

Dirk Brossé has made more than 80 CD recordings and has conducted in numerous world-famous concert halls, such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre and the Royal Albert Hall in London, la Monnaie in Brussels, the Victoria Hall in Geneva, the Seoul Arts Center, the Tokyo Forum and the Concert Hall Shanghai. He has collaborated with world-class artists such as José Van Dam, Philip Webb, Barbara Hendricks, Claron McFadden, Julia Migenes, Derek Lee Ragin, Sabine Meyer, Julian Lloyd Webber, Daniel Barenboim, Salvatore Accardo and, on a broader musical platform, with John Williams, Toots Thielemans, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Randy Crawford, Lisa Gerrard, Mel Brooks, Maurane, Sinéad O' Connor, Viktor Lazlo, Maurice Jarre and Youssou N'Dour.

Dirk Brossé has been awarded the title *Cultural Ambassador of Flanders*, the Flemish Parliament's *Gold Medal for Merit*, the *Achille Van Acker Prize*, the *Joseph Plateau Honorary Award* and the *Global Thinkers Forum Award for Excellence in Cultural Creativity*. In 2010, Dirk Brossé was made an honorary citizen of Destelbergen. In 2013 he was elevated to Belgium's hereditary nobility, with the personal title of Sir. In late 2010 EMI Classics released the 6 CD Box *Dirk Brossé, A Portrait in Music* by Jacques Servaes to international acclaim. dirkbrosse.be

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2016-2017 – 52nd Season

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA

Dirk Brossé, Music Director

Perelman Theater at Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 South Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

www.chamberorchestra.org

215.893.1709

Haydn, Mozart, and the Red Cliff

Sunday, October 9, 2016 | 2:30 PM

Monday, October 10, 2016 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Ching-Yun Hu, Piano

Geoffrey McDonald, guest conductor for Arriaga

Ibert - Hommage à Mozart

Mozart - Piano Concerto No. 23

Chung - *Red Cliff*, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*

Arriaga - Overture to *Los esclavos felices*

Haydn - Symphony No. 99

*World Premiere

Mozart, Gluck, and Dances of the Blessed Spirits

Sunday, November 6, 2016 | 2:30 PM

Monday, November 7, 2016 | 7:30 PM

Kynan Johns, Conductor
Ricardo Morales, Clarinet (principal clarinet for The Philadelphia Orchestra)

Gluck - *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* from *Orfeo ed Euridice*

Mozart - Clarinet Concerto

Respighi - Ancient Airs and Dances

Arnold - Symphony for Strings

Rossini, Gounod, and Stories for Piano and Orchestra

Sunday, December 4, 2016 | 2:30 PM

Monday, December 5, 2016 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Rami Khalifé, Piano

Rossini - Overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri*

Gounod - Symphony No. 1

Fusco - *Alternate Routes* *

Khalife - *Stories* for piano and orchestra **

**World Premiere **United States Premiere*

Brossé conducts *The Sounds of America*

Sunday, February 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM

Monday, February 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Michael Ludwig, Violin

Corigliano - Voyage for String Orchestra

Wintory - *Apotheosis* from *Journey**

Hagen - Songbook: Concerto for Violin, String Orchestra, Harp and Percussion

Whitacre - October

Fuchs - American Rhapsody

Pistons - Sinfonietta

**Philadelphia Premiere*

The Italian Baroque

Sunday, March 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM

Monday, March 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Salvatore Di Vittorio, Conducting

Gwyn Roberts, Recorder

Corelli - Concerto Grosso No. 4

Vivaldi - Sinfonia, *al Santo Sepulcro*

Vivaldi - Flautino Concerto

Di Vittorio - *Ode Corelliana**

Vivaldi - Piccolo Concerto, *Il Gardellino*

Respighi - Suite for Strings (ed. Di Vittorio) **

**World Premiere **Philadelphia Premiere*

Beethoven and Brossé's *Pictures at an Exhibition*

In collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Sunday, May 14, 2017 | 2:30 PM

Monday, May 15, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Rousseau - Overture to *Le devin du village*

Beethoven - Symphony No. 1

Chabrier - *Habanera*

Brossé - *Pictures at an Exhibition**

**World Premiere*

SPECIAL EVENTS

intersect

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

7:00PM Meet and Greet

8:00PM Concert

World Café Live in University City

Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Andrew Lipke, Singer-Songwriter

intersect is a bold venture celebrating the common DNA shared by music in all its forms and showcasing the musicians of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Led by Philadelphia singer/songwriter, composer, and producer Andrew Lipke, in collaboration with Music Director Dirk Brossé, every *intersect* concert is an innovative, multi-genre exploration of music's numerous crossroads. Audiences at *intersect* are encouraged to challenge their conceptions of where one genre of music ends and another begins, while enjoying an unprecedented collaborative performance in the relaxed, informal atmosphere of the World Café Live. In juxtaposing seemingly polar styles, *intersect* illuminates the intrinsic universality of musical expression.

Brunch with Brossé

Sunday, December 4, 2016 | Noon

Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

Sunday, February 26, 2017 | Noon

Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Discover how Music Director Brossé brings music from the page to the stage in a roundtable discussion. Examine the musical selections featured in upcoming programs with the maestro before Sunday performances in a conversation over brunch.

This intimate endeavor takes place in the Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts prior to select Sunday performances conducted by Maestro Brossé. Cost is \$40 per person, which includes brunch and your very own copy of the score. Space is limited.

Admission: \$40

215.545.5451

chamberorchestra.org

Classical Conversations

Post-Matinée Q&A

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

Immediately following every Sunday series concert

COP Music Director Dirk Brossé, and guest artists host an informal and informative conversation and question and answer session in the Perelman Theater following all Sunday Matinée performances.

Admission:

Included in Sunday's ticket

Concerts & Cocktails

Post-Concert Cocktail Hour

The PECO Bar at the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza

Immediately following every Monday series concert

This post-concert celebration offers patrons the opportunity to meet and greet with COP soloists, guest conductors, and musicians featuring cocktails crafted by Garces Group.

Admission:

Included with the purchase of concert ticket

Bar:

Cash Bar