The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) announces its 2017/2018 Season, Improvisionaries. All concerts to feature elements of improvisation from the Baroque era to the present.

2017/2018 Season to include 6 series programs at the Perelman Theater, part of the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts and 3 intersect series events in venues throughout the city.

COP announces partnerships with the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, the Primavera Fund, the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz, and Astral Artists.

COP to start its first-ever joint composer-residency in partnership with American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter made possible through a generous matching grant by the Steven R. Gerber Trust.

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) announces its 2017-2018 Season. From September 2017 through May 2018, the Chamber Orchestra will perform six programs as part of its subscription series. All six concert pairs will be performed in the Kimmel Center’s intimate Perelman Theater. Building upon our 52-year history of world-class artistry, vibrant programming and innovative engagement, the 2017/18 season will represent an exciting, watershed moment for The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, featuring both an expansion of current programs and an introduction of new long-term initiatives.

17/18 marks an important year for Jazz in Philadelphia, it represents a multitude of significant anniversaries of Jazz legends with deep connections to the City, including Butch Ballard (100th), Dizzy Gillespie (100th), Gerry Mulligan (90th), Percy Heath (90th), Archie Shepp (80th), Bootie Barnes (80th); and John Coltrane, who lived in Philadelphia from 1952-58. In partnership with the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz, COP will celebrate this landmark season with Improvisionaries: a variety of programs exploring the art of improvisation spanning the 17th through the 21st centuries, and culminating in the premiere of a new work - illuminating the immensely varied and colorful musical trajectory which furnished an essential backdrop to the birth of Jazz and fertile source of inspiration for the work of these Philadelphia-based Jazz visionaries. COP’s series at the Kimmel Center will highlight the prismatic underlying tapestries of Baroque figured-bass, reprise the excitement of improvised cadenzas in Classical/Romantic concertos, explore the cross-fertilization of Jazz and Modernist composers in the 20th century, and journey into aleatoric and other contemporary improvisational models. Executive Director, Bill Rhoads adds, “inspired by the anniversaries of these Jazz icons, we have a unique opportunity to experience the diverse and fascinating panoply of music that arose from the incredibly rich and fruitful dialog between Jazz and classical composers.”

Kicking off the Improvisionaries season on October 1st, 2017 will be an exploration of the trumpet with Norwegian rising star, Tine Thing Helseth. Hailed in 2011 by BBC as the “superstar of tomorrow”, Helseth’s international acclaim at a young age has taken her all over the world. This concert, entitled Haydn & Goldenthal will feature Helseth performing Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto in Eb with new cadenzas written specifically for this performance. Helseth will present the world premiere of Academy Award-winner Elliot Goldenthal’s Trumpet Concerto. Written with Helseth in mind, Goldenthal – who is perhaps best known for his soundtracks to blockbuster films Alien 3, Batman & Robin, and Titus - will explore the relationship between a performer’s artistic liberties and that of the orchestra though the partly-improvisatory musical structure of this new work.

Audience participation in the 2017-2018 season is encouraged in our second series concert featuring the music of Beethoven on November 5th and 6th, 2017 with pianist Charlie Albright. Hailed by the Washington Post as “among the most gifted musicians of his generation,” Albright will perform an All-Beethoven program with improvisations on the
beloved Für Elise, and in the cadenzas for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3. As part of our Classical Conversations post-concert discussion on November 5th, Albright will take note requests from the audience and improvise on a theme built on the requested pitches. This concert will be conducted by Australian born Sarah Ioannides, whose work has taken her all over the world performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Nationale de Lyon, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and the Flemish Radio Orchestra. Having studied conducting at The Curtis Institute of Music, this Chamber Orchestra debut marks a Philadelphia homecoming for Ioannides.

Our third series program, Mozart, Piazzolla, and John Cage will feature COP Music Director Dirk Brossé conducting in concert with flutist Mimi Stillman. Philadelphia native and the youngest wind player ever admitted to Curtis Institute of Music, Stillman will dazzle audiences with improvised Mozart and Piazzolla cadenzas, and as soloist for the U.S. premiere of Dirk Brossé’s DNA in Music. COP will perform two realizations of Mozart’s aleatoric work, Würfelspiel (Dice Game). Using the composer’s chance algorithm, one of the two realizations will be determined by COP patrons, and the other by Chamber Orchestra musicians. Both realizations will be constructed and orchestrated by COP’s Composer-In-Residence, Adam Vidiksis. The aleatoric scores of Mozart’s Würfelspiel and John Cage’s Atlas Eclipticalis will be projected above the orchestra during the performance to illuminate the improvisatory aspects and unique performance challenges of these scores.

Perhaps no other composer in the history of classical music has had as profound an effect on western European musical tradition as J.S. Bach. Historical accounts of Bach’s style of improvisation on hymns and mass themes have generated schools of thought and interpretation that are perhaps more various and heavily debated than any other composer of his time. For our All-Baroque concert COP will present one of the world’s leading improvisers on the keyboard, Philadelphia’s Jeffery Brillhart, as he conducts and plays music of J.S. and C.P.E Bach, Rameau, and his own improvisations on themes heard in the program.

COP’s fifth series program at Kimmel, Mozart, Mooke, and Fauré, will feature Mozart’s brilliant Symphony No. 38 “Prague.” This iconic work received its first performance in Prague during one of Mozart’s most successful tours to the city. The “Prague” symphony will share the program with a new commission by the trailblazing electric violist and composer Martha Mooke. Noted for her collaborations with musicians ranging from Philip Glass to David Bowie, Mooke will compose an improvisatory work in two parts – one a mirror reflection of the other. Mooke observes, “the idea of improvisation can be terrifying, especially to “classically” trained musicians who are not used to playing without all the notes printed on a page. My motto is “Illuminating the Creative Spirit” - this applies equally to player and listener. No two performances will be performed or perceived in the same exact way. Each one will be a uniquely shared, yet personal, experience.” This series program also begins COP’s annual partnership with Astral Artists, one of America’s premiere incubators for rising-star classical musicians. Violist Born Lau, praised for his “immaculately refined” playing (The Philadelphia Inquirer) will perform Hummel’s Fantasie improvising the cadenza for this beautiful and charming work as the COP’s inaugural Astral Spotlight Artist.

Philadelphia’s love affair with Jazz spans over a century and the Clef Club of Jazz is very much at the center of the city’s rich musical history. Our season finale concert, Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues showcases acclaimed soloist and composer Mark O’Connor and the great musicians of the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz in what promises be a revelatory genre-defying experience. The program will celebrate the 100th anniversary of American visionary Leonard Bernstein, and will feature the music of Jazz-great Dave Brubeck and the world premiere of new work culminating the season-long partnership with Clef Club of Jazz composed by Philadelphia’s Adam Vidiksis, COP’s Steven R. Gerber Composer-In-Residence. Special guest trumpeter and composer, Jeff Beal, will be on hand to perform his famed suite House of Cards from Netflix’s hit drama, House of Cards.

In 2017/2018 the Chamber Orchestra will present the third season of its newest mini-series intersect. Featuring artists and performers from our Perelman Series, intersect is a bold venture celebrating the common DNA shared by music in all its forms and showcasing COP’s phenomenal musicians in collaboration with artists of diverse backgrounds and styles. In addition to World Café Live in University City, this season we will present intersect at the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz and the Annenberg Center’s Prince Theater at the University of Pennsylvania. Each intersect will blend workshop performances and artist talks focusing on the many-facets and practices of improvisation.

This season will mark the beginning of a new season long partnership with the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Beginning in the 2017/2018 season, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia will be orchestra-in-residence at the Annenberg Center. Christopher A. Gruits, Executive & Artistic Director of the Annenberg Center, describes the venture as “a partnership of two great Philadelphia institutions.” Gruits continued, “The Annenberg Center
is one of the nation's foremost urban performing arts centers and The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is one of the nation’s leading chamber orchestras. Both presenters are looking for new and interesting performances to bring to their audiences. We’re excited to make this annual partnership a long lasting and harmonious one.” The residency is envisioned to include a series of performances, workshops and events throughout the season. Details surrounding the partnership will be released in the Spring.

**Astral Artists and COP** are pleased to announce a new partnership between their esteemed Philadelphia institutions. Starting in the 2017/2018 season, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia will present an annual “Astral Artist Showcase” featuring an Astral Spotlight Artist as soloist in a regular series program at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. With Astral’s mission as an early career incubator for rising-star classical musicians and the COP’s long history of, and ongoing interest in, presenting young, up and coming soloists as a key component to its regular season, this partnership represents a natural and strategic alignment of goals for both institutions. The partnership also marks a concerted effort to expand Philadelphia’s musical footprint and exposure of its wealth of musical talent in the local, national, and international musical community. Astral’s Executive Director, Julia Rubio, says, “We are thrilled to collaborate with such a respected chamber orchestra and music director Dirk Brossé. This is a wonderful opportunity for our outstanding artists that also establish an important long-term and creative partnership between our organizations. We both share a common interest in providing leadership and vision for Philadelphia’s classical music community.”

Propelled by a generous matching grant by the Steven R. Gerber Trust and the American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter, COP will launch our first-ever joint composer-residency. Resident composer, Adam Vidiksis, will work with COP on the world premiere of several new works and arrangements, will host a series of community discussions and Q&A’s, and will lead composition workshops with students in area public schools and universities, including a new musical project with Joybells of Melmark musicians.

Inspired by the dictum that musical talent and potential for success should never be lost due to financial circumstances, COP will partner with Philadelphia’s Primavera Fund to coach young musicians and then present a public side-by-side concert. Admission to the event will be in the form of pay-as-you-wish donations, the proceeds of which will go toward future coaching of Primavera students by COP musicians.

COP is excited to embark on a season-long partnership with the esteemed Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz (PCC). Since its inception as an extension Philadelphia’s black musicians’ union, the PCC has served as a hub for the city’s Jazz community and provided space for socializing and musical experimentation. As a core season partner - through a series of concerts, talks, and workshops - Clef Club will explore with the Chamber Orchestra the many-faceted art of improvisation in diverse genres and the rich dialogue between Jazz and Classical artists that continues through to the present day.

###

**2017-2018 Season**

**intersect 7**
September 27, 2017

**Haydn & Goldenthal**

Sunday, October 1, 2017 | 2:30 PM  
Monday, October 2, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor  
Tine Thing Helseth, Trumpet

Haydn – Trumpet Concerto in Eb  
Mozart – Symphony No 31 “Paris”  
Elliott Goldenthal – Trumpet Concerto World Premiere
Bridge – Lament for string orchestra
Arnold – Serenade for small orchestra

All Beethoven

Sunday, November 5, 2017 | 2:30 PM
Monday, November 6, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Sarah Ioannides, Conductor
Charlie Albright, Piano

Beethoven – Overture to Creatures of Prometheus
Beethoven – Piano Concerto No. 3
Beethoven – Contradances
Beethoven – Rondo for piano and orchestra
Beethoven/Albright – Improvisation on Für Elise (piano solo)
Beethoven (arr. Cooper) – Symphony No. 10

Mozart, Piazzolla, and John Cage

Sunday, December 3, 2017 | 2:30 PM
Monday, December 4, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor
Mimi Stillman, Flute

Mozart – Würfelspiel (Dice Game) – version one
Salieri – Sinfonia Veneziana in D
Mozart – Flute Concerto No. 2 in D
Dirk Brossé – DNA in Music US Premiere
John Cage – Atlas Eclipticalis
Astor Piazzolla – Libertango
Mozart – Würfelspiel (Dice Game) – version two

Aleatoric scores by Mozart and Cage to be projected above the stage during the performance

Brillhart: All Baroque

Sunday, February 25, 2018 | 2:30 PM
Monday, February 26, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Jeffery Brillhart, Conductor and Soloist

Rameau – Overture from Zaïs
C.P.E. Bach – Harpsichord Concerto in D minor
J.S. Bach – Brandenburg Concerto in G
Rameau – Chaconne from Les Indes galante
Brillhart – Improvisation on themes in the program  
J.S. Bach – Brandenburg Concerto in F  
J.S. Bach – Suite in D Major  

*intersect 8*  
March 28, 2018  

**Mozart, Mooke, and Fauré**  

Sunday, April 1, 2018 | 2:30 PM  
Monday, April 2, 2018 | 7:30 PM  

Dirk Brossé, Conductor  
Martha Mooke, Electric Viola/Composer  
Born Lau, Viola *Astral Spotlight Artist*  

Mozart – Symphony No. 38, ”Prague”  
Hummel – Fantasie for Viola and Orchestra  
Fauré – *Pelleas et Melisande* Suite  
Martha Mooke – New work for electric viola and chamber orchestra *World Premiere*  

*Astral*  
advancing classical music's emerging talent  

*intersect 9*  
May 16, 2018  

**Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues**  

Sunday, May 20, 2018 | 2:30 PM  
Monday, May 21, 2018 | 7:30 PM  

Dirk Brossé, Conductor  
Mark O’Connor, Violin  
Jeff Beal, Trumpet  
*and featuring Musicians from The Clef Club of Jazz*  

Bernstein – TBA  
Rodrigo – Dos danzas españolas  
Jeff Beal – *House of Cards* Suite  
Mark O’Connor – Old Brass  
R. Vaughan Williams – Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis  
Dave Brubeck – Blue Rondo à la Turk  
Adam Vidiksis (Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence) – Concerto Grosso* World Premiere*  
*featuring musicians from The Clef Club of Jazz*  

**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, with a focus 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. A conductor and composer of international acclaim, Maestro Dirk Brossé now enters his eighth season as Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In the 2017-2018 season, the Orchestra will perform six 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, COP has performed with such internationally acclaimed guest artists as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mstislav Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, Rudolph Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Romero 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 an internationally acclaimed conductor. 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 every leading Belgian orchestra, among them, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, 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’Orchestre de l’Opéra de Lyon, the World Symphony Orchestra (Japan), the Ulster Symphony Orchestra of Northern Ireland, the Liverpool Philharmonic, the RTE Orchestra Dublin, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Porto Philharmonic, the Queensland Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Camerata St. Petersburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Noord Nederlands Orkest, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestras of Venezuela and Ecuador.

Dirk Brossé is a versatile and prolific composer. He has written over 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. Among his most performed 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*.

Adam Vidiksis, Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence

Adam Vidiksis is a composer, conductor, percussionist, improviser, and technologist based in Philadelphia whose interests span from historically informed performance to the cutting edge of digital audio processing. Often drawing from both acoustic and electronic sounds, his music has been heard in concert halls and venues around the world. Critics have called his music “mesmerizing”, “dramatic”, “striking” (Philadelphia Weekly), “notable”, “catchy” (WQHS), “interesting”, and “special” (Percussive Notes), and have noted that Vidiksis provides “an electronically produced frame giving each sound such a deep-colored radiance you could miss the piece’s shape for being caught up in each moment” (Philadelphia Inquirer). His unique approach to composition has been praised for its “outstanding control” (Philadelphia Weekly) and for being “restrained” and “magical” (Local Arts Live).

His music has been played by many ensembles including the Black Sea Symphony in Constanta, Romania, Omaha Symphony, Momenta Quartet, Zephyrus Duo, and SPLICE. His commissions include Network for New Music, ICIA, Luna and Renegade Theater Companies, Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology, Ensemble Mise-En, Federal Winds, and the ElectroAcoustic Piano project. His compositions have been heard at numerous festivals and conferences including SEAMUS, ICMC, the College Music Society, the National Student Electronic Music Event, the Society of Composers, Incorporated conferences, the Huntsville New Music Festival, Soundcrawl Festival, the Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Raven Stadium, the Guthman Musical Instrument Competition at Georgia Tech, the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, the Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, Athens Slingshot, the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, the International Csound Conference, and the Licino Refice Conservatorio di Musica in Frosinone, Italy. Vidiksis’s music has been recognized with awards from SCI, ASCAP, Phindie, and Blow-Up Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival. His works are available through HoneyRock Publishing and PARMA Recordings.

A devoted advocate of new music and improvisation, Vidiksis has served for six years as the conductor of the Temple Composers Orchestra, and two as a founding member on the executive board of the Impermanent Society of Philadelphia, a Philadelphia based organization that is focused on promoting freely improvised live performance that
focuses on experimental sound and movement. He has performed in the North America, Europe, and China as an improviser in both percussion and electronics. His deep interest in bringing new works to life has led him to conduct numerous premieres, working with international groups such as Ensemble NJ_P and the Black Sea Symphony.

Vidiksis previously held positions as director of the wind ensemble at Drew University in Madison, NJ, and also as assistant conductor of the Delaware County Symphony in Aston, PA. Vidiksis holds degrees from Drew University, New York University, and Temple University, culminating in a doctoral degree in music composition. Vidiksis currently serves on the composition and music technology faculty of Temple University as a Conwell Entrepreneurial Fellow, where he teaches classes in music theory, orchestration, composition, and music technology. He is currently conductor of the Temple Composers Orchestra, faculty advisor to conTemplum (Boyer College’s new-music student organization and student chapter of the Society of Composers, Inc.), director of the Boyer Electroacoustic Ensemble Project (BEEP), and has co-curated the electroacoustic concert series Cybersounds.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**intersect**

7:00PM Meet and Greet  
8:00PM Concert

*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**

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-Concert 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 Q&A 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, featuring cocktails crafted by Garces Group, offers patrons the opportunity to meet-and-greet with COP soloists, guest conductors, composers, and musicians.

Admission:
Included with the purchase of concert ticket

Bar:
Cash Bar

Thank you to our 2017/2018 Season Partners

PHILABUNDANCE
Driving hunger from our communities

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, in cooperation with the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts, is partnering with Philabundance, the region's largest food bank providing nearly 90,000 people food per week.

During each Chamber Orchestra Sunday concert throughout the season, our performances will also become a charitable site to collect non-perishable food donations.

Media Sponsor

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is proud to be sponsored by the Philadelphia area's leading provider of classical music, WRTI.

Tune into WRTI at 5PM on the 3rd Sunday of every month for a special broadcast of performances from the Chamber Orchestra.
Season Partnerships