

NEWS RELEASE

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THE CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA OF
PHILADELPHIA

DIRK BROSSÉ | MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 1, 2017

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) will feature the music of American Composers of the 20th and 21st century. Featuring music by Eric Whitacre, Daron Hagen, Walter Piston, John Corigliano, Austin Wintory and Kenneth Fuchs.

This concert will feature Philadelphia native **violinist Michael Ludwig**, the son of longtime Philadelphia Orchestra violinist Irving Ludwig.

Grammy Award nominated for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media *Journey* by Austin Wintory to have **Philadelphia Premiere.**

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP)** will perform a concert featuring music of American composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. From the popular Eric Whitacre, to Pulitzer Prize-winning composers John Corigliano and Walter Piston, this program displays the many-faceted American compositional output over the last seventy-five years.

This concert will feature violinist Michael Ludwig. Michael, son of longtime Philadelphia Orchestra violinist Irving Ludwig, has been hailed by *Strad Magazine* for his “effortless, envy-provoking technique... sweet tone, brilliant expression, and grand style.” A highly sought-after, Philadelphia-based soloist, Michael Ludwig serves as Artist-in-Residence Professor of Violin at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University.

Both Curtis Alumni, Daron Hagen and Michael Ludwig have worked together closely over the years, and with Hagen’s composition *Songbook: Concerto for Violin, String Orchestra, Harp and Percussion*, Daron composed the work with Michael Ludwig’s abilities in mind. The work was premiered with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, an orchestra for which Michael Ludwig was Concertmaster. Hagen drew inspiration for the work from his wife, who would sing these traditional songs to their son at bedtime.

The economy of music and entertainment has changed dramatically in the late 20th and 21st centuries. One unique development is the rapid growth of video games and the culture that derives from it. In 2012, Austin Wintory composed the music to the video game *Journey*; this score would become the first of its kind to be nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media. The changing economic landscape has also yielded talented artist/entrepreneurs, like Eric Whitacre, whose virtual online choirs have introduced his music to global audiences like never before. COP sat down with local internationally acclaimed composers to discuss these trends in a community panel discussion January 26th at Christ Church, “Composing Music in the 21st Century: How modern composers navigate the ever-changing economy of music.”

COP season sponsor, WRTI will present a special broadcast of composers who will be featured in the February *Sounds of America* series program on *Now is the Time*, hosted by award winning composer, Kile Smith. This broadcast, scheduled for Saturday, February 18th, 2017 at 9PM will include music by Corigliano, Whitacre, Fuchs, and Daron Hagen. For more information about *Now is the Time* go to wrti.org/programs/now-time.

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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

Perelman Theater
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
300 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA
chamberorchestra.org / 215.893.1709
Tickets \$24 - \$81

PROGRAM

CORIGLIANO – *Voyage* for String Orchestra

WINTORY – Apotheosis from *Journey**

HAGEN – *Songbook*: Concerto for Violin, String Orchestra, Harp and Percussion

WHITACRE – October

FUCHS – American Rhapsody

PISTON – Sinfonietta

**Philadelphia Premiere*

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia welcomes the New Year with a wide-ranging salute to American music. Featuring violinist Michael Ludwig performing Daron Hagen's *Songbook*, American symphonist Walter Piston, the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Corigliano, and the evocative and colorful score for the video game *Journey* by Austin Wintory.

Now is the Time – Broadcast WRTI

Saturday, February 18, 2017 | 9:00 PM
wrti.org/programs/now-time

Kile Smith, Host

Contemporary American music is being recorded all the time, and *Now is the Time* to take a listen and explore the music of American composers today. All types...all styles...listen to contemporary American music every Saturday night with host and composer Kile Smith. On this special broadcast of *Now is the Time* will focus to works being featured on the contemporary American music concert, *Brossé conducts the Sounds of America*, with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia on February 26th and 27th. We will listen to the music of John Corigliano, Daron Hagen, Eric Whitacre, and Kenneth Fuchs.

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. Maestro Solzhenitsyn, in assuming the position of Conductor Laureate in 2010, remains closely associated with the Chamber 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 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 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, 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 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 García Márquez; *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), *Koko Flanel*, *Back to Utopia*, *Licht*, Stijn Coninx's *de Kavijaks*, Marian Handwerker's *Marie*, Martin Koolhoven's *Knetter*, Roland Joffé's *The Lovers*, Jaques Feyder's 1925 silent film *Visages d'Enfants*, and *Knielen op een bed violen* (Golden Calf Nominee, 2016). His score for the BBC/HBO series *Parade's End* starring Benedict Cumberbatch was nominated for an Emmy Award. He wrote the scores for the musicals *Sacco & Vanzetti*, *Ben X*, *The Prince of Africa*, *Tintin — The Temple of the Sun* (based on Hergé's world-famous cartoon character Tintin), *Rembrandt the Musical*, *14-18 the musical*, *Pauline & Paulette* and *Musical Daens* — each time in close collaboration with stage director Frank Van Laecke.

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 renowned actors Emma Thompson, Sir Derek Jacobi, and Kenneth Branagh.

In 2010, at the request of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, he wrote *The Hallow-e'en Dances*. This Halloween-inspired work was especially written for traditional Chinese instruments. He recently composed *Haiku Cycle 1*, for Jessye Norman and based on Haiku by Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Union.

In 2016, he made his debut at the Carnegie Hall in New York, conducting his violin concerto *Black, White & In Between* with the Chamber Orchestra of New York.

Dirk Brossé has made more than 80 CD recordings and has conducted in numerous world-famous concert halls, such as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre, the Royal Albert Hall in London, Opera 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 Blumenthal, and Salvatore Accardo. On a broader musical platform, he has performed with John Williams, Toots Thielemans, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Randy Crawford, Lisa Gerrard, Mel Brooks, Maurane, Sinead 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-Set *Dirk Brossé, A Portrait in Music*. The documentary *Brossé, a destiny in Music* by Jacques Servaes received international acclaim. Since 2016, Dirk Brossé is a member of the **Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts**. 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

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

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

Piston - Sinfonietta

**Philadelphia Premiere*

The Italian Baroque

Sunday, March 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM

Monday, March 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

Salvatore Di Vittorio, Conductor
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

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-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 2016/2017 Season Partners



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 2016/2017 season, our performances will also become a charitable site to collect non-perishable food.

Media Sponsor with WRTI



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.