

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and Maestro Dirk Brossé announce 2018-2019 Season – *Migrations*. All concerts to pair western classical music with musical traditions all over the world.

2018-2019 *Migrations* Season to include **5 series programs** at the Perelman Theater, part of the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts, **2 intersect series events**, in venues throughout the city, and a **3-concert Chamber Music Series** at Annenberg Center Live

COP announces partnerships with the **90.1 FM WRTI, Global Philadelphia, and Astral Artists,**

COP to continue **composer residency** in partnership with **American Composers Forum** made possible through a generous matching grant by the **Steven R. Gerber Trust.**

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) and Music Director Dirk Brossé announce the Chamber Orchestra's 54th season: *Migrations*. This *Migrations* season **spotlights instruments and music** from a wide and varied spectrum of **cultures and traditions** representing **distinct regions of the world** and **diverse communities** that immigrated to and reside in the **city of Philadelphia**. Executive Director, Bill Rhoads explains, "through **performances, the creation of new works, discussions, forums, and workshops** we will highlight **connections, celebrate** the differences, and develop a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, the rich variety and sophistication of diverse musical cultures, using the western classical music as a **springboard for exploration and discovery.**" From **September 2018 through May 2019**, the Chamber Orchestra will perform **5 series concerts in the Perelman Theater.**

"I am **thrilled** to present such a **multi-faceted and fascinating musical journey** around the world," says Maestro Brossé. Brossé continues, "The Chamber Orchestra and I are proud to spotlight the **rich panoply of communities** that create the fabric of Philadelphia." Philadelphia's history is rich in cultural diversity, and highlighting how these cultures make up the identity of our society as a whole is paramount to the Chamber Orchestra's *Migrations* season. **The Chamber Orchestra has partnered with Global Philadelphia to ensure every community** has access to our performances and programs city-wide. At a time of increasing tensions and xenophobia, the Chamber Orchestra will provide a nexus for **diversity, acceptance, and inclusivity, through world-class performances and transformative musical experiences to all residents.**

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia's **dynamic and innovative programming** defines COP's unique identity and presence as resident company of the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts and within the broader landscape of the greater Philadelphia region. **To build a firm foundation for stability,** and to position the Chamber Orchestra for a strong 2019/2020 season, COP will present a **five-program / ten-concert series** at the Kimmel Center this year. Executive Director, Bill Rhoads adds, "these past few years have been a

challenging time for many arts organizations, and **resilient though we are**, COP is no exception. A temporary period of consolidation is needed to ensure our long term sustainability and **create the foundation for future vitality and growth**. By reducing the number of programs to five, COP can **exercise the financial discipline** required to accomplish these objectives **without any compromise** to the quality of programming. We expect to be back to the **full six by 2019/2020**, and we are thankful to our devoted patrons for their patience as we gear up to accomplish that.”

###

2018-2019 Season

AFRICA: Jegede, Schubert & Arriaga

Sunday, October 7, 2018 | 2:30 PM

Monday, October 8, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Tunde Jegede, Kora

Schubert – Overture in the Italian Style, D. 590

Arriaga – Symphony in D

Fela Sowande – African Suite for String Orchestra

Tunde Jegede – Interlude: solo kora

Jegede – *Cycle of Reckoning* for Kora and Chamber Orchestra

U.S. Premiere

ASIA: Harrison, Mozart & Dvořák

Sunday, December 9, 2018 | 2:30 PM

Monday, December 10, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Wu Man, Pipa

Mozart – Divertimento, Op. 138

Dvořák – Serenade for Strings

Dirk Brossé/Traditional – *Mu yang Gu-niang*

Wu Man – Interlude: solo pipa

Lou Harrison – Concerto for Pipa and String Orchestra

EUROPE: Handel, Vivaldi & Bach

Sunday, February 24, 2019 | 2:30 PM

Monday, February 25, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Caterina Lichtenberg, Mandolin

Handel – Overture to *Agrippina*, HWV 6

Caldara – Sinfonie a Quattro

Caterina Lichtenberg – Interlude: solo mandolin

Torelli – Concerto for Mandolin

J.S. Bach – Air on a G string for string orchestra

Vivaldi – Concerto for Mandolin

Program to be performed without intermission

THE AMERICAS: DeFalla, Dvořák & Chabrier

Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 2:30 PM

Monday, April 1, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Jordan Dodson, Guitar *Astral Spotlight Artist*

Manuel de Falla – *El Amor Brujo* Suite

Villa-Lobos – Concerto for Guitar

Chabrier – *Habañera*

Dvořák – Notturmo for Strings, Op. 40

Steven Gerber – *Homage to Dvořák*, from *Spirituals for String Orchestra*

COP Composer in Residence – New Work for Electric Guitar and Chamber Orchestra

World Premiere

MIDDLE EAST: Shaheen, Mozart & Saint-Saëns

Sunday, May 19, 2019 | 2:30 PM

Monday, May 20, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Simon Shaheen, Oud

François-Adrien Boieldieu – Overture to *Le Calife de Bagdad*

Mozart – Symphony No. 36 “Linz”

Saint-Saëns – “Bacchanale” from *Samson and Delilah*

new arrangement by COP composer-in-residence

György Ligeti – Roumanian Concerto

Simon Shaheen – Interlude: solo oud

Shaheen – Fantasie for Strings and Oud

Philadelphia Premiere

***Artists, Dates, and Programs subject to change**

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 leading conservatories 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 ninth season as Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In the 2018-2019 season, the Orchestra will perform five 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'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 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. Brossé's 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 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 Barenboim, 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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SPECIAL EVENTS

Brunch with Brossé

Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center for 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

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Classical Conversations

Sunday Post-Concert Q&A

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

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.

AFRICA: Jegede, Schubert & Arriaga

Sunday, October 7, 2018 | Post-Concert

Featuring: Dirk Brossé, Tunde Jegede

ASIA: Harrison, Mozart & Dvořák

Sunday, December 9, 2018 | Post-Concert

Featuring: Dirk Brossé, Wu Man

EUROPE: Handel, Vivaldi & Bach

Sunday, February 24, 2019 | Post-Concert

Featuring: Caterina Lichtenberg

THE AMERICAS: DeFalla, Dvořák & Chabrier

Sunday, March 31, 2019 | Post-Concert

Featuring: Dirk Brossé, Conductor, Jordan Dodson, Guitar *Astral Spotlight Artist*

MIDDLE EAST: Shaheen, Mozart & Saint-Saëns

Sunday, May 19, 2019 | Post-Concert

Featuring: Dirk Brossé, Simon Shaheen

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 2018/2019 Season Partners

Media Sponsor



The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is proud to be sponsored by the Philadelphia area's leading provider of classical music, WRTI. Throughout the 2018-2019 season, WRTI will broadcast Live from exclusive COP events.

Tune in all season long as WRTI and COP team up to bring you exciting highlights of the 2018-2019 *Migrations* Season. Experience live interviews, on air performances, and monthly broadcasts featuring the prominent voices of WRTI. More Information: wrti.org

Season Partnerships



The Chamber Orchestra is excited to partner with Global Philadelphia. In a season dedicated to the world traditions, Global Philadelphia and COP's will highlight the many rich and diverse cultures that create the fabric of the Philadelphia landscape. More Information: globalphiladelphia.org



The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is proud to enter its second year partnership with Astral Artists, one of Philadelphia's leading artist management organizations dedicated to fostering rising-stars in music. In the 2018-2019

Migrations season COP will feature Jordan Dodson, Guitar. More Information: astralartists.org



The American Composers Forum Philadelphia Chapter, the Chamber Orchestra, and the Steven R. Gerber Trust are excited to continue our Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residency for the 2018-2019 season. More

Information: acfphiladelphia.org