

# NEWS RELEASE

Contacts:

Mike Hogue

215.545.5451 x26

mhogue@chamberorchestra.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 10, 2018

**The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) and Music Director Dirk Brossé present the acclaimed Bluegrass Violinist Mark O'Connor in a concert featuring O'Connor's *Old Brass*.**

COP and Clef Club Musicians present the world premiere of COP Composer in Residence Adam Vidiksis' *Open Spaces - Concerto Grosso*

Andrew Lipke and Dirk Brossé team up to present *intersect9: Technical Ecstasy* at Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz.

Curtis Institute's Dai Wei, will premiere her work *Dear Lenny* in homage to Leonard Bernstein.

COP's *40 Under 40* program to open Bok Bar's season on May 24, 2018

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) ends our season with Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues showcasing the renowned Bluegrass soloist and composer Mark O'Connor and musicians from the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz in what promises be a revelatory genre-defying experience capping off COP's season-long exploration into the history and rich diversity of improvisation. The Kimmel Center series culminates in a performance of a new work by The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and the American Composers Forum (ACF) first Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence, Adam Vidiksis, entitled *Open Spaces - Concerto Grosso* for Chamber Orchestra and Improvising Ensemble. Curtis Institute of Music's Dai Wei performs as vocalist in the premiere of her composition *Dear Lenny*, an homage to the great Leonard Bernstein.

Philadelphia's love affair with Jazz spans over a century and Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz is very much at the center of the city's rich musical history. COP's season-long collaboration with the Clef Club of Jazz includes workshops for young musicians and a variety of concerts and events. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, COP and the Clef Club will present *intersect9: Technical Ecstasy* at the Clef Club of Jazz on South Broad Street. Hosted by Singer/Songwriter Andrew Lipke, this 9<sup>th</sup> installment in COP's innovative *intersect* series explores the role of melody in improvisation. "We'll be diving deep into timeless melodies in several styles of music and exploring how they

grow and thrive through improvisation and re-imagination,” said Lipke. He continued, “Where else can you hear and explore the melodies of Bach, Hassler, and Chopin leaned against that of Dave Brubeck, Elvis Presley, and Paul Simon? It’s going to be a fascinating and entertaining musical journey.”

The Chamber Orchestra’s season-long collaboration with Philadelphia’s Clef Club of Jazz also includes COP/ACF’s Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence Adam Vidiksis’ premiere of *Open Spaces*, a Concerto Grosso featuring the Chamber Orchestra and musicians from the Clef Club. “In composing the work, I have tried my best to respect the deep traditions of orchestral performance, while creating an opportunity for all the musicians - both the soloists and the orchestral players - to explore the boundary where their tastes, styles, and training coincide,” said Adam Vidiksis. “This is not a piece about jazz or classical music; it is open to what the performers themselves bring to it.” The first season for COP/ACF’s Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence has included multiple workshops, performances, and new compositions and arrangements.

The program will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American visionary Leonard Bernstein with an evocative new work by Curtis Composer Dai Wei entitled *Dear Lenny*. “While I was writing *Dear Lenny*, I remembered sitting in the practice room in the old Curtis building [18<sup>th</sup> and Locust], touching the old walls and imagining that a long time ago, Bernstein was also here,” Dai Wei explained. “He was studying at the Curtis Institute of Music as a young conductor and composer. The melody of the piece came out naturally while I was picturing this. I felt like I was talking to a musical mentor and a close friend whom I had never met. Gradually all of the images and feelings became the music and lyrics themselves - I have so many questions to ask and so much music to share with you, my dear Lenny.” This premiere marks Dai Wei’s second premiere with the Chamber Orchestra, which presented her debut last season with her work *Two of Us* depicting the emotional toll of a longtime separation and final reunion of two sisters.

In a season of improvisation, the Chamber Orchestra’s music director, internationally acclaimed composer and conductor Dirk Brossé, has re-orchestrated one of Jazz’s most beloved songs by composer Dave Brubeck - his *Blue Rondo à la Turk*. “This work will sparkle as I’ve created a jazzy dialogue between sections of the orchestra,” said Music Director Dirk Brossé. Brossé continued, “In keeping with our improvisation theme for the season, I’m excited to showcase COP violinist Alexandra Cutler-Fetkewicz improvising over this energetic work. There will even be an added improvisational surprise, but, you’ll have to attend the concert to find out!

We’re coloring the Philadelphia skyline with music as Bok Bar opens for the Summer. COP is excited to announce the continuation of our popular *40 under 40 Young Friends* program with a season-ending celebration on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Bok Bar in South Philadelphia. Located at the historic Bok Vocational School, the rooftop bar opens its summer season with and celebration and music provided by members of the Chamber Orchestra. Experience a night on top of the breathtaking Bok Bar in South Philadelphia while enjoying LIVE music by members the Chamber Orchestra. Meet the musicians over drinks and enjoy spectacular views of City as the Chamber Orchestra celebrates a season of great music under the summer sun. This event is open to the public. Members of COP’s *40 Under 40* membership subscription program receive free drinks during the event. Members and Subscribers of the Chamber Orchestra also receive benefits to exclusive performances at the Mann Center including *Jaws: Live in Concert* on June 2, 2018

###

## Andrew Lipke, Singer-Songwriter

**Andrew Lipke** is a Philadelphia based, South-African born multi-instrumentalist and composer active in many different styles of music. Lipke moved to Philadelphia to pursue a degree in composition at The University of The Arts and has since gone on to become a critically acclaimed and sought after arranger, producer, composer, performer, and educator.

Andrew is driven by a passion to find the common ground between disparate styles of music and his career reflects this. He has performed as a vocalist with several prominent American orchestras (Indianapolis Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia) in addition to touring the country with the acclaimed Led Zeppelin tribute band *Get The Led Out*.

He has produced dozens of records for local and regional artists and released five solo albums. In 2010, Andrew formed the Azrael String Quartet to perform music he had written for his album *The Plague* which upon release was named one of 2011's 50 best albums by Philadelphia Weekly. His 2012 work *Siddiqah* was choreographed by The Columbus Dance Theatre for their production *Rock out* which also included several string quartet arrangements of classic rock songs Lipke completed for the Carpe Diem String Quartet. In 2013, Andrew wrote a punk rock score for the internationally released EPIX film *Back Issues: The Hustler Magazine Story* and in 2014 had the privilege of completing orchestral arrangements for Blue Note Records' artist Amos Lee's sold out show with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra at the legendary Red Rocks amphitheater.

Andrew has always valued music education and through his involvement with the Philadelphia based non-profit LiveConnections has collaborated with several members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and other prominent local and regional musicians creating collaborative, cross-genre presentations for young people highlighting the transformative and boundary-crossing nature of music. In 2015, Andrew was invited by Music Director Dirk Brossé to collaborate with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia to create and curate an innovative, cross-genre concert series – which Lipke named, *intersect*. Andrew is currently working on a cross platform album/orchestral work based on the Herman Hesse book *Siddhartha* in addition to a number of other projects.

###

## Upcoming Performances 2017-2018 Season

### *Intersect9: Technical Ecstasy*

May 16, 2018

Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz

8:00PM Show | Doors open at 7:00PM

**Andrew Lipke**, Singer-Songwriter

**Rodney Marsalis**, COP Principal Trumpet

**Adam Vidiksis**, Electric Trap (COP/ACF Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence)

**Isaac Stanford**, Pedal Steel Guitar

Louis Taylor, Saxophone  
Phil D'Agostino, Bass  
Chris Giraldi, Drums

**Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues**  
**Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center**

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

Dirk Brossé, Conductor  
Mark O'Connor, Violin  
and featuring *Musicians from Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz*

Dai Wei – *Dear Lenny*  
Mark O'Connor – *Concerto No. 6, Old Brass*  
Dave Brubeck/Brossé – *Blue Rondo à la Turk*  
Adam Vidiksis (Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence) – *Open Spaces\* World Premiere*  
*\*featuring musicians from Philadelphia's 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 area 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 *Migrations* season, the Orchestra will perform five programs from October through May in the Kimmel Center's intimate, 600-seat Perelman Theater, two Chamber Music and one *Intersect* concerts at the Annenberg Center Live.

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.  
chamberorchestra.org

## 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*.

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 90 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](http://dirkbrosse.be)

### Adam Vidiksis,

#### **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia/American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter 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. [vidiksis.com](http://vidiksis.com)

# # #

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### *intersect*

May 16, 2018

#### **Clef Club of Jazz**

7:30PM Meet and Greet

8:00PM Concert

**Chris Girdi**, Drums

**Phil D'Agostino**, Bass

**Louis Taylor**, Saxophones

**Rodney Marsalis**, Trumpet

**Isaac Stanford**, Pedal Steel Guitar

**Adam Vidiksis**, Percussion and Electronics

Melodies have transcended genre and traveled through time....like the melody of a 16th century secular love song that J.S. Bach transformed into a somber hymn of worship, Tom Glazer used as a call for brotherhood and peace, Dave Brubeck spiced up with a swinging rhythm section, and Paul Simon used as a tribute to the forgotten soldiers of Vietnam; Or the melody of an 18th century French love song sung with versions by Joan Baez to Placido Domingo and Berlioz to Elvis; Or the melody Frederic Chopin called his most beautiful and went on to be transformed into numerous songs from multiple genres of music. We'll be diving deep into these and many other timeless melodies and exploring how they grow and thrive through improvisation and re-imagination.

Performing works and arrangements of works by:

J.S. Bach

Hans Leo Hassler

Frederic Chopin

Dave Brubeck

Andrew Lipke

Elvis Presley  
Paul Simon  
Jo Stafford  
Peter Rowen  
Jerome Kern

### **Brunch with Brossé**

May 20, 2018 | 12:30PM

Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

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

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 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](http://chamberorchestra.org)

### **Classical Conversations**

#### **Sunday Post-Concert Q&A**

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

COP Music Director Dirk Brossé hosts an informal and informative conversation and audience Q&A with featured artists in the Perelman Theater following all Sunday matinée performances.

### **Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues**

May 20, 2017 | Post-Concert

Speakers: Mark O'Connor, Dirk Brossé, Adam Vidiksis

**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 Maestro Dirk Brossé, 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



*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. Throughout the 2017-2018 season, WRTI will broadcast Live from exclusive COP events.

Tune into WRTI at 5PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month for a special broadcast of performances from the Chamber Orchestra.

## Season Partnerships



ANNENBERG  
CENTER LIVE  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA





AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM  
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER