

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 4, 2019) The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia announces the appointment of Anne Hagan as its new Executive Director, after a five-month national search.

A voice graduate of Indiana University who first came to Philadelphia to study at the Academy of Vocal Arts, Hagan has had a long and distinguished career in not-for-profit executive leadership and development, including significant experience in music and education. Her arts leadership experience includes seven years as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Boys Choir, where her tenure fortified the financial stability of the organization, expanded its educational outreach, and oversaw the addition of the Philadelphia Girls Choir. She has also worked in support of institutional advancement for the Pennsylvania Ballet, as well as educational institutions like Temple, Rowan, and Drexel, to secure funding for scholarships, capital projects, and other institutional programs. She holds a graduate degree in arts management from Drexel University.

Said Hagan, “As someone deeply rooted in this region for decades, I have been a long-time admirer of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia for its consistently high artistic quality and its commitment to making a distinctive contribution to the musical life of our community. It’s a great privilege to have the opportunity to lead this organization and help shape its destiny.”

Hagan will be working closely with Music Director, Sir Dirk Brossé, and the COP Board of Directors in advancing the mission of the organization: delivering an intimate orchestral music experience unique to an ensemble of its scale and artistic excellence. COP programming is inspired by a desire to help secure the future of our classical repertoire, placing it in a broader context enriched by contemporary works (including new commissions) and the contributions of other musical genres. Creative collaborations with other major arts institutions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Clef Club of Jazz, and the Annenberg Center, are a key focus of those ambitions.

“It’s a stroke of good fortune that, after looking around the country for new leadership, we were lucky enough to find a candidate who suited the bill so well right here in our own backyard,” noted Susan Schwartz McDonald, the President of the COP Board. “Anne has the skill and experience to run a performing arts organization – a challenge that requires not just organizational leadership but also tenacity and fresh thinking. And Anne is a natural champion who never flags. Arts management is not for the faint of heart!”

The COP was able to operate smoothly during the search process thanks to interim leadership from Mitchell Krieger, a highly experienced, Philadelphia-based consultant who had recently retired as Executive Director of the Victoria Symphony.

Said Hagan, “Everything I love about this orchestra is reflected in the current season, which integrates string instruments from other musical cultures beautifully with our own traditions, thanks to Maestro Brossé’s exciting repertoire choices and the artistic excellence of our performers.”

Adds Brossé, “As we plan for 2019-20, I am excited to be working with Anne, whose personal passion for the job adds new energy to the room. She has good instincts and great judgment. And her commitment to audience and donor engagement is exactly what we need.”

“I love rallying people and dollars behind great causes – but especially great music,” said Hagan. “It’s my job to make sure we continue to build on the engagement of one of the city’s most committed audiences and secure the financial support our ensemble truly deserves. The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia has given me the opportunity of a lifetime.”

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## **2018-2019 – 54<sup>th</sup> Season Schedule of Concerts**

### **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](http://www.chamberorchestra.org)**

(215) 545-1739

### **Bach, Vivaldi, and Corelli**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019 | 2:30 PM**

**Monday, February 25, 2019 | 7:30 PM**

#### **Caterina Lichtenberg, Mandolin**

**J.S. Bach** – Air “On the G string” from Orchestral Suite #3 in D Major, BWV 1068

**Caterina Lichtenberg** – Interlude for Mandolin solo

**Domenico Gaudioso** – Concerto for Mandolin

**Antonio Caldara** – Sinfonie a Quattro

**Antonio Vivaldi** – Concerto for Mandolin

**Arcangelo Corelli** – Suite for String Orchestra

## **El amor brujo, Clearfield, and the Guitar**

Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 2:30 PM

Monday, April 1, 2019 | 7:30 PM

**Dirk Brossé, conducting**

**Jordan Dodson, Guitar**

**Manuel de Falla** – El amor brujo

**Heitor Villa-Lobos** – Concerto for Guitar

**Emmanuel Chabrier** – Habanera

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

**Jordan Dodson** – Interlude for Guitar solo

**Andrea Clearfield** – “Glow” for Electric Guitar and Chamber Orchestra

*\*World Premiere*

## **Mozart’s Linz Symphony, Saint-Saëns, and the Oud**

Sunday, May 19, 2019 | 2:30 PM

Monday, May 20, 2019 | 7:30 PM

**Dirk Brossé, conducting**

**Simon Shaheen, Oud**

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

**Wolfgang A. Mozart** – Symphony #36 in C Major, K.425

**Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. Clearfield** – “Bacchanale” from *Samson and Delilah*

**Simon Shaheen** – Interlude for Oud solo

**Simon Shaheen** – Concerto for Oud and Chamber Orchestra

## **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, is a 33-member professional ensemble led by Music Director, Sir Dirk Brossé. Established in 1964 by Marc Mostovoy, and originally named Concerto Soloists, the orchestra has a well-established reputation for distinguished performances of repertoire spanning the Baroque period through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The inception of the ensemble was motivated, in part, by the desire to provide performance opportunities for young professional musicians emerging from the Curtis Institute of Music and other regional training programs, as well as the intention to contribute meaningfully to the region's cultural life. Over time, its mission and programming have broadened, inspired by a desire to help secure the future of classical repertoire by placing it in a broader context of contemporary works (including new commissions), other musical genres and traditions, and lesser-known pieces from the traditional repertoire which deserve modern audience attention. Creative collaborations with other major arts institutions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Clef Club of Jazz, and the Annenberg Center, have been a key focus of those ambitions – all with the intention of enriching the musical experiences of Philadelphia audiences through original programming choices that stretch boundaries and invite fresh perspectives. In total, the

organization has commissioned and premiered over seventy new works. It remains committed to showcasing emerging young performers of exceptional talent.

Ignat Solzhenitsyn, a concert pianist and conducting graduate from the Curtis Institute, was named Principal Conductor in 1998 and Music Director in 2004. As Conductor Laureate (since 2010), Maestro Solzhenitsyn has gone on to a distinguished international career as concert pianist and conductor but remains closely associated with the Orchestra.

The current Music Director is Maestro Sir Dirk Brossé, a composer and conductor of international acclaim who performs regularly with major orchestras around the world. Maestro Brossé is a prolific and versatile composer, whose broad body of work encompasses concerti, oratorios, lieder, chamber music and symphonic pieces, as well as scores for cinema, television and stage.

Over the course of the ensemble's rich and diverse history, the Chamber Orchestra has performed with a remarkable roster of world-renowned artists, including Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mstislav Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, Rudolph Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Steven Isserlis, Joseph Silverstein, and Catherine Michel, as well as virtuosos of contemporary music genres such as Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Mark O'Connor, Elvis Costello, and Sylvia McNair.

In the 2018-2019 subscription season, the Orchestra will perform five concert programs, from October through May, in the Kimmel Center's 600-seat Perelman Theater.

### **Dirk Brossé, Music Director**

Dirk Brossé, an internationally acclaimed conductor and composer, is currently Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He is also Professor of Composition and conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Ghent, Belgium.

Dirk Brossé has guest-conducted many major symphony orchestras throughout the world, among them, the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic, the Philharmonic Orchestras of Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Madrid, Birmingham, Ulster, Liverpool, Glasgow, Prague, Copenhagen, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, Queensland, St Petersburg, Caracas, Osaka, Munich, Dublin, Krakow, Budapest, Vancouver, and Los Angeles.

Maestro Brossé is also a highly-regarded, award-winning composer whose body of some 400 works encompasses concerti, oratorios, lieder, chamber music and symphonic pieces, as well as scores for cinema, television and stage, including the Emmy-nominated score for the BBC/HBO series, *Parade's End*. Other scores include *Prince of Africa*, *Daens*, *Sacco & Vanzetti*, *Tintin*, *Rembrandt*, *Ben X*, *Pauline & Paulette*, *14-18* and *Scrooge*. Maestro Brossé's versatility is evident in commissions written for age-old instruments around the world, an enthusiasm that has led him to champion variety in repertoire and integrate broad cultural traditions in his programs for the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. His *Pictures at an Exhibition*, inspired by a series of paintings on display in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, was commissioned by the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in 2015 and had its world premiere in the Perelman Theater, followed by a performance in New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Maestro Brossé is a versatile and creative performer with a keen interest in cinematic music and an early proponent of bringing movie scores to orchestral venues. He was chosen by John Williams to conduct the Star Wars in Concert World Tour in 2009, the first of its kind. He is also director of The World Soundtrack Academy at the prestigious Ghent Film Festival.

He has made more than 100 CD recordings and has collaborated in diverse artistic projects with world class artists such as José Van Dam, Barbara Hendricks, Julia Migenes, Julian Lloyd Webber, Alison Balsom, Salvatore Accardo, Sara Sant’Ambrogio, Anthony McGill, John Williams, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Mark O’Connor, Michel Legrand, and John Malkovich. He has worked with directors Stijn Coninx, Susanna White, and Roland Joffé, and with writer, Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Considered one of Belgium’s foremost cultural luminaries and world ambassadors, Dirk Brossé has been awarded virtually all of Belgium’s highest artistic honors, including a knighthood. He is a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, and a Fellow in Arts & Humanities at the Brussels University VUB, as well as a recipient of the Global Thinkers Forum Award for Excellence in Cultural Creativity.

An enthusiastic “artistic citizen” of Philadelphia, Maestro Brossé has led the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia since 2010. His tenure with the ensemble has been associated with creative programming designed to cultivate a broader appreciation for the unique experience and enduring relevance of the chamber orchestra in contemporary music life, and a keen appreciation for the versatility and virtuosity of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. [www.dirkbrosse.be](http://www.dirkbrosse.be)

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Chamber Music Series**

***Call and Response:*** Music of African-American Composers  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | 7:30 PM  
Annenberg Center Live

*Featuring players of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia*

### **intersect featuring Andrew Lipke**

***intersect II:*** Africa Defining Influence on American Music  
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 | 7:30 PM  
Annenberg Center Live

*Andrew Lipke, Singer-Songwriter*

*intersect* is a bold venture celebrating the common DNA shared by music in all its forms and showcasing the phenomenal musicians of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Led by Philadelphia singer/songwriter, composer, and producer Andrew Lipke 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 a relaxed, informal atmosphere. In juxtaposing seemingly polar styles, *intersect* illuminates the intrinsic universality of musical expression.

## **Brunch with Brossé**

Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 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 music of Beethoven with the maestro before it's performed on Sunday in a discussion over a hearty 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 enrollment, brunch, and your very own copy of the score to keep. Space is limited.

#### **Admission:**

215.545.1739  
[chamberorchestra.org](http://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 question and answer session in the Perelman Theater following Sunday Matinée performances.

#### **Admission:**

Included in Sunday's ticket

## **Concerts & Cocktails**

### **Post-Concert Cocktail Hour**

The Encore 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 speak with COP soloists, guest conductors, and musicians over cocktails crafted by Garces Group.

#### **Admission:**

Included with the purchase of concert ticket

#### **Bar:**

Cash Bar