

NEWS RELEASE

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THE CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA OF
PHILADELPHIA

DIRK BROSSÉ | MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA, PA | March 1, 2019

DIRK BROSSÉ CONDUCTS WORLD PREMIERE ELECTRIC GUITAR CONCERTO BY ANDREA CLEARFIELD

Astral Artists National Auditions winner Jordan Dodson plays both classical and electric guitar in a program featuring new music by Andrea Clearfield alongside Villa-Lobos, de Falla, Chabrier, and Steven Gerber.

March 31 and April 1, 2019

Music Director Dirk Brossé leads The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in a performance celebrating the music of the Americas by featuring guitar soloist and Astral Spotlight Artist **Jordan Dodson** along with Philadelphia composer and Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence, **Andrea Clearfield**. The performances will take place in the **Perelman Theater** at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on **Sunday March 31st at 2:30pm** and **Monday April 1st at 7:30pm**.

Praised by The New York Times for her “consonant and melodic style”, these concerts see the premiere of Clearfield’s new **Electric Guitar Concerto, “Glow”**. Inspired by the colorful abstract paintings of Louise Clearfield and Colorado artist Eva Darrington, the work unfolds over three movements titled Sing, Streak, and Glow. Clearfield used her synesthesia to inform the sound of the work, incorporating not only lush harmonies to match the colors in the paintings, but also to have soloist Jordan Dodson use extended techniques on the electric guitar such as using a violin bow on the strings. This commission’s embrace of bold ideas perfectly serves the Chamber Orchestra’s mission to enrich Philadelphia’s musical culture by allowing audiences to experience original and vital artistry in the intimate acoustic of the Perelman Theater.

Late American composer **Steven Gerber** joins the program with ‘Homage to Dvořák’, a movement from his *Spirituals for String Orchestra*. Gerber’s music has been described as a “coherent and logical amalgam of centuries of musical thought” (Washington Post) and offers an additional window into the nature of classical music from the Americas.

The program also features the guitar concerto of Brazilian composer **Heitor Villa-Lobos** and the beloved *El amor brujo* of **Manuel de Falla**. These pieces and French composer **Emmanuel Chabrier's** Habanera demonstrate the boundary crossing elements of style that defines the 2018-2019 Migrations Season.

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Andrea Clearfield

Andrea Clearfield (b. 1960) is an award-winning composer of music for chorus, orchestra, opera, chamber ensemble, dance, and multimedia collaborations. Clearfield creates deep, emotive musical languages that build cultural and artistic bridges. She has been praised by the New York Times for her "graceful tracery and lively, rhythmically vital writing", the Philadelphia Inquirer for her "compositional wizardry" and "mastery with large choral and instrumental forces", the L.A. Times for her "fluid and glistening orchestration" and by Opera News for her "vivid and galvanizing" music of "timeless beauty".

She was appointed the Steven R. Gerber Composer in Residence with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Dirk Brossé, Artistic Director for the 2018-19 season. Her works are performed widely in the U.S. and abroad. Among her 150 works are ten large-scale cantatas including one commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra. Her cantata, *Tse Go La*, for double chorus, electronics and chamber orchestra is inspired by her music fieldwork documenting Tibetan melodies in the Himalayas. *Lung-Ta* (The Windhorse) was presented as a gift to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama as an initiative for world peace. Her first opera, *Mila, Great Sorcerer*, to libretto by Jean-Claude van Itallie and Lois Walden, commissioned by Gene Kaufman and Terry Eder will be presented at the NYC Prototype Festival in January, 2019, Kevin Newbury, director.

She is a recipient of a 2017 Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, a 2016 Pew Fellowship and was awarded fellowships at the American Academy in Rome, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Ucross, Blue Mountain Center, Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, Djerassi, Montalvo, Civitella Ranieri, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Copland House among others. She was keyboardist with the Relâche Ensemble for 25 years and was honored to have been invited to perform with the Court of the Dalai Lama in 1995. She has been invited as visiting composer to numerous universities and colleges including Yale-National University of Singapore, Curtis Institute of Music, University of Texas at Austin, Emory University, Indiana University, University of Chicago, College of William and Mary, Michigan State, University of Arkansas and the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Recording Academy (Grammy's) Philadelphia Chapter.

Her music is published by Boosey & Hawkes, G. Schirmer, Hal Leonard and Seeadot. Dr. Clearfield served on the composition faculty at The University of the Arts from 1986 - 2011. She received a DMA from Temple University where she was awarded the University-wide Presidential Fellowship and was

honored as a Distinguished Alumna. A passionate advocate for building community around the arts, she is also the founder and host of the renowned Salon featuring contemporary, classical, jazz, electronic, dance and world music since 1986 and winner of Philadelphia Magazine's "Best of Philadelphia" award. More at www.andreaclearfield.com

Jordan Dodson

Performance Today describes classical guitarist Jordan Dodson as "one of the top young guitarists of his generation." A winner of Astral's 2013 National Auditions, he is an active soloist and chamber musician based in New York and Philadelphia. He has also received awards from the 2011 Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, the 2010 Indiana International Guitar Competition, and the 2008 American String Teachers Association Competition. In 2013, he was a Young Artist in Residence on American Public Media's Performance Today.

Mr. Dodson's recent performance and teaching schedule has taken him across the U.S. and abroad to venues such as (Le) Poisson Rouge (New York City), Roulette (Brooklyn), the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia), and the Museo Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá), and to such music festivals as the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, and Festival Daniou (France).

An advocate for contemporary music, Mr. Dodson has commissioned and premiered dozens of pieces internationally, including works by Lewis Nielson, Elliot Cole, Robert Sirota, and Gabriella Smith. He performs in several New York City chamber ensembles including Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and Contemporaneous, and he recently collaborated with such acclaimed artists as the International Contemporary Ensemble, Anne-Marie McDermott, and Ransom Wilson. He can be heard on the album Subject on Tzadik Records.

In the fall of 2011, Mr. Dodson was one of two students selected to inaugurate the Curtis Institute of Music's classical guitar studio, bringing to the school not only a new instrument, but also new repertoire and new possibilities for music-making. Curtis Dean John Mangan said Dodson fulfilled the school's need for "ambassadors for the instrument and its repertoire who could create interest among their peers, along with a desire to collaborate."

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Jordan Dodson started playing music at a young age. He holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and his teachers have included Clare Callahan, David Starobin, and Jason Vieaux. He plays a Gary Lee guitar.

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 21st 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

2018-2019 | 54th 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

(215) 545-1739

El amor brujo, Clearfield, and the Guitar | The Americas

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 | Middle East

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

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

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

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