

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: October 21, 2016

## Ricardo Morales, **Principal Clarinet for the Philadelphia Orchestra** soloist in **Mozart's beloved Clarinet Concerto**

Australian conductor **Kynan Johns** makes his Chamber Orchestra debut in a program of **20th century gems, ancient dances and Classical favorites**

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP)** invites internationally acclaimed Australian conductor Kynan Johns to open the second concert of COP's 16/17 season featuring Ricardo Morales on Clarinet. Showcasing the Chamber Orchestra's hallmark grace and intimacy with dance-inspired classics, the concert opens with the whimsical *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* from Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. Johns', having conducted Opera productions at the Covent Gardens and La Scala, brings a singular vision and style to Gluck's memorable work.

Having a 10 year relationship is a great start, 25 is even better, but, for the Morales brothers their entire musical lives were formed together in their native Puerto Rico and their long-time home here in Philadelphia and have blossomed into national fame – a total of 5 brothers spanning 17 years in age and each playing different instruments. The two brothers performing with the Chamber Orchestra: Ricardo and Jesús Morales, clarinet and cello respectively, are just a year apart in age and have spent much of their lives performing for family and friends. As children, the Morales brothers often performed "Paramndas," a Puerto Rican tradition of playing at the door of a friend or relative to initiate a festive evening of food, drinks, and music. Ricardo said he would often get in trouble for "standing too close to the food, and would be distracted and wind up eating." Ricardo will be performing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major, a selections he's working on since he was 14 years old. "I love the history of this work from its original conception for Bass Clarinet to how it's often heard in the present day, and how that gives us a window, and unique glimpse, into Mozart's mind."

The concert will also feature Respighi's evocative and colorful *Ancient Airs and Dances*. Though living over two centuries after the Renaissance and Baroque eras, Ottorino Respighi held great interest in the earlier Italian musical forms and dances. Based on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century lute music, *Ancient Airs and Dances* reveals the composer's love and obvious penchant for early Italian musical styles. The program concludes with a rarely heard British masterpiece from the early half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, *Symphony for Strings* by Oscar-winning British composer Malcolm Arnold. Written during World War II, *Symphony for Strings* was composed while Arnold was in the Army Band unit for the United Kingdom. The score offers a complex personal reflection spanning feelings of loss, desperation and hope endemic to one's emotional landscape during times of war.

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# **MOZART, GLUCK, AND DANCES OF THE BLESSED SPIRITS**

Sunday, November 6, 2016 | 2:30PM

Monday, November 7, 2016 | 7:30PM

## **Perelman Theater**

### **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**

300 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

[chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org) / 215.893.1709

Tickets \$24 - \$81

## **PROGRAM**

**Gluck** – *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* from *Orfeo ed Euridice* (1762)

**Mozart** – Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K.622 (1791)

**Respighi** – *Ancient Airs and Dances*, Suite No. 3 (1932)

**Arnold** – *Symphony for Strings*, Op. 13 (1946)

## **Kynan Johns, conductor**

**Kynan Johns**, a protégé of Maestro Lorin Maazel, served as Director Assistente at the Palau de les Arts, Valencia, Spain to both Maazel and Mehta. A native of Australia he has conducted the *Israel Philharmonic*, *Rotterdam Philharmonic*, *Cleveland Orchestra*, *Vienna Chamber Orchestra*, *Philharmonica della Scala*, *Netherlands Radio Symphony* and *Sydney and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras*. In Opera he has worked at Covent Garden, conducted at Italy's famed 'La Scala', Maazel's *1984* and *Don Giovanni*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Luisa Miller* and *Don Carlos* in Valencia; *Don Giovanni* with OperMagdeburg, Britten's *Turn of the Screw* in Rouen and *La Boheme & Faust* for the State Opera of South Australia. Johns worked with New York City Opera on Adés's *Powder Her Face*, Chin's *Alice in Wonderland*, and Offenbach's *Perichole*, *Mahagonny* for MSM as well as in recent seasons debuting with the Dortmund Philharmonic, Orquestra Metropolitana Lisbon, Israel Symphony Orchestra and returns to the Limburg Symphony-Netherlands, Orquestra Santa Cecilia, Madrid and the Asturias Symphony Orchestra. He was awarded the inaugural 'Centenary Medal' from the Australian Government for his services to music and serves as Director of Orchestras at Rutgers University. A prize winner of many international competitions including the Mitropoulos, Maazel/ Vilar and Besancon, he is represented by CAMI, New York. Upcoming engagements include Beethoven 9 and Mahler 5 in Madrid, Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* in Los Angeles and the Gypsy Baron in New York City.

## **Ricardo Morales, clarinet (principal clarinet for the Philadelphia Orchestra)**

Ricardo Morales is the principal clarinetist of The Philadelphia Orchestra. Prior to this, he was principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, a position he assumed at the age of 21 under the direction of James Levine. He began his professional career as principal clarinet of the Florida Symphony at age 18. In addition, he has performed as guest principal clarinet with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The New York Philharmonic and at the invitation of Sir Simon Rattle, performed as guest principal clarinet with the Berlin Philharmonic. He has also participated as principal clarinet of the Saito Kinen Festival Orchestra in Matsumoto, Japan, under maestro Seiji Ozawa.

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mr. Morales began his studies at the Escuela Libre de Musica along with his five siblings, who are all distinguished musicians. He continued his studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and Indiana University, where he received his Artist Diploma.

He has been a featured soloist with many orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Seoul Philharmonic, Les Violons du Roi, the Flemish Radio Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, the Puerto Rico Symphony, the Florida Symphony and the Columbus Symphony. During his tenure with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Mr. Morales soloed under the baton of

James Levine in Carnegie Hall and on two European tours. He made his solo debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2004 with Charles Dutoit and has since performed as soloist on numerous occasions.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Morales has performed in the MET Chamber Ensemble series at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall with James Levine at the piano, at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival, on NBC's *The Today Show*, and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has performed with many distinguished ensembles such as The Juilliard Quartet, the Pacifica Quartet, the Miró Quartet, the Leipzig Quartet and The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio. He has also collaborated with Christoph Eschenbach, André Watts, Emmanuel Ax, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Gil Shaham and Kathleen Battle. Mr. Morales is highly sought after for his recitals and master classes, which have taken him throughout North America and Europe. In addition, he currently serves on the faculties of the Juilliard School, Temple University and the Curtis Institute of Music.

His performances have been met with critical acclaim. The Philadelphia Inquirer hailed his appointment to the Philadelphia Orchestra, stating "...in fact, may represent the most salutary personnel event of the orchestra's last decade." He was also praised by the New York Times as having "...fleet technique, utterly natural musical grace, and the lyricism and breath control of a fine opera singer." Mr. Morales was also singled out in the New York Times review of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, describing his playing as "exquisite" and declared that he "deserved a place onstage during curtain calls."

His debut solo recording, *French Portraits*, is available on the Boston Records label. Morales' recent recordings include performances with The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio and also with the Pacifica Quartet, which was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award. Mr. Morales has joined forces with internationally recognized master acoustician and instrument maker Morrie Backun, of Backun Musical Services, to create MoBa, a line of artist clarinets and clarinet accessories including: mouthpieces, bells, and barrels. Mr. Morales has also been teaching clarinet online since 2012 as part of the ArtistWorks Classical Campus.

## **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 approach 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, focusing 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 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 subscription season, the Orchestra will perform six concert 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, the Chamber Orchestra has performed with such internationally acclaimed guest artists as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mstislav Rostropovich, Issac Stern, Rudolph Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, The Romeros 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 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, the 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 Camerata St. Petersburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestras of Venezuela and Ecuador. Dirk Brossé is a versatile and prolific composer. He has written some 400 works, including concerti, oratorios, lieder, chamber music and symphonic compositions, that have been performed all over the world and have been recorded in more than 40 countries. His most important 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. His film soundtracks include *Boerenpsalm*, *Daens* (Academy Award Nominee, 1993), *Singularity*, *Koko Flanel*, *Licht*, Stijn Coninx's *de Kavijaks*, Marian Handwerker's *Marie*, Martin Koolhoven's *Knetter*, Jaques Feyder's 1925 silent film *Visages d'Enfants*, and *Knielen op een bed violen* (Golden Calf Nominee, 2016). In 2012, Dirk scored the music for the Emmy Award Nominated BBC/HBO series *Parade's End*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. He wrote the scores for the musicals *Sacco & Vanzetti*, *The Prince of Africa*, *Tintin — The Temple of the Sun* (based on Hergé's world-famous cartoon character Tintin), *Rembrandt The Musical*, and *Musical Daens*, each time in close collaboration with Frank Van Laecke.

In 2010, at the request of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, he wrote *The Hallow-e'en Dances*. This Halloween-inspired work is especially written for age-old, traditional Chinese instruments. He recently composed *Haiku Cycle 1*, written for Jessye Norman and based on Haiku by Herman Van Rompuy. 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 such renowned actors as Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh.

Dirk Brossé has made more than 80 CD recordings and has conducted in numerous world-famous concert halls, such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre and the Royal Albert Hall in London, 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, Salvatore Accardo and, on a broader musical platform, with John Williams, Toots Thielemans, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Randy Crawford, Lisa Gerrard, Mel Brooks, Maurane, Sinéad 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 *Dirk Brossé, A Portrait in Music* by Jacques Servaes to international acclaim. [dirkbrosse.be](http://dirkbrosse.be)

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## **2016-2017 – 52<sup>nd</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)

215.893.1709

**Haydn, Mozart, and the *Red Cliff***

Sunday, October 9, 2016 | 2:30 PM

Monday, October 10, 2016 | 7:30 PM

**Dirk Brossé, conducting**

**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, conducting**

**Ricardo Morales, clarinet (principal clarinet for The Philadelphia Orchestra)**

**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, conducting**

**Rami Khalife, 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, conducting**

**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

**Pistons** - Sinfonietta

*\*Philadelphia Premiere*



## **The Italian Baroque**

Sunday, March 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM

Monday, March 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

**Salvatore Di Vittorio, conducting**

**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, conducting**

**Rousseau** - Overture to *Le devin du village*

**Beethoven** - Symphony No. 1

**Chabrier** - *Habanera*

**Brossé** - *Pictures at an Exhibition*\*

*\*World Premiere*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

*intersect* featuring Andrew Lipke

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

7:00PM Meet and Greet

8:00PM Meet and Greet

World Café Live in University City

**Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**

**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, 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

Discover how Music Director Brossé brings music from the page to the stage in a roundtable discussion.

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:**

215.545.5451

[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 informative 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 PECO 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 greet with COP soloists, conductors, and musicians featuring cocktails crafted by Garces Group.

### **Admission:**

Included with the purchase of concert ticket

### **Bar:**

Cash Bar