

June 5, 2015



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***The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Awarded Major Grants from  
The Joseph and Marie Field Foundation and The William Penn Foundation***

(Philadelphia) The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia has been awarded more than \$500,000 in arts grants in first half of 2015. The largest grants came from The William Penn Foundation with an amount of \$300,000 and The Joseph and Marie Field Foundation which awarded the Chamber Orchestra grant of \$200,000. In recognition of the grant from The Joseph and Marie Field Foundation, the Chamber Orchestra has announced it will name the Concertmaster's chair in honor of Joseph and Marie Field in perpetuity.

"These two large grants come at a very exciting time in the fifty year history of the Chamber Orchestra at a time when the Chamber Orchestra is reaching new audiences and building innovative partnerships with artists and communities across Philadelphia," said Executive Director Janelle McCoy. "This generous support of our mission will enable us to continue to provide gorgeous music to audiences here in Philadelphia and in other cities where our musicians may perform. It also represents support for our expanding vision of what it means to be a dynamic performing arts ensemble in this city."

In addition, The Presser Foundation (\$15,000) and The Musical Fund Society (\$3,700) have each presented the Chamber Orchestra with grants totaling \$18,700 to support a special commission by composer Conrad Tao. The innovative work will have its world premiere on September 20 and 21, 2015 in the Perelman Theater when Tao performs his new concerto for chamber orchestra, piano, and iPad, combining familiar orchestral sounds with contemporary electronics.

In addition to the generous grants from The Joseph and Marie Field Foundation and The William Penn Foundation, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia has been awarded more than \$200,000 in other arts grants in the past fiscal year.

NOTE: *This list includes funds that were awarded before June 30, 2014, but received in the past twelve months.*

CHG Charitable Trust - \$50,000 (*in honor of the Chamber Orchestra's 50th anniversary*)  
The Civic Foundation - \$1,000  
David Haas Fund - \$3000  
The Elizabeth Ellis Foundation Trust - \$10,000  
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation - \$50,000 (*received in 2014*)  
John K and Elizabeth Knorr Foundation - \$2,500  
Musical Fund Society - \$3,700  
NEA - \$10,000 (*received in 2015*)  
Otto Haas Charitable Trust - \$5,000  
PA Council on the Arts - \$22,631  
Philadelphia Cultural Fund \$14,408  
The Presser Foundation - \$45,000 (*this total includes \$15,000 for the Conrad Tao commission*)  
Tamaqua Foundation - \$5,000

### [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, a conductor and composer of international acclaim. For half a century, the Chamber Orchestra has earned a sterling reputation around the world for distinguished performances of repertoire from the Baroque period through the 21st century.

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia has commissioned and premiered over 70 new works and has performed with such internationally acclaimed artists as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Mstislav Rostropovich, Issac Stern, Rudolf Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Elvis Costello, and Sylvia McNair, among others. In the fall of 2014, the Chamber Orchestra completed a successful national tour with Branford Marsalis.

The Chamber Orchestra performs from September through May in the Kimmel Center's intimate, 600-seat Perelman Theater and performs one concert program each year in the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall as well as selected concert programs at Lincoln University. The Chamber Orchestra also performs with other musical ensembles throughout the region and travels regularly across the United States, Europe, and Israel.

Chamber Orchestra Music Director Dirk Brossé has made more than 60 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, the Victoria Hall in Geneva, the Seoul Arts Center, the Tokyo Forum and the Concert Hall Shanghai.

### [Dirk Brossé](#) – Music Director

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 Filmfestival 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 and Brussels. He subsequently specialized in conducting, which he studied in Maastricht, Vienna and Cologne. Alongside his many guest professorships, 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 Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, 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 200 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. 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*.

In 2010, at the request of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, he wrote *The Hallow-e'en Dances*. This Halloween-inspired work is specially written for age-old, traditional Chinese instruments. He is currently working on a guitar concerto.

Besides this, Dirk Brossé has composed for the theatre and the cinema on numerous occasions. His best-known soundtracks are *Koko Flanel*, *Licht*, Stijn Coninx's *de Kavijaks* and *Daens* (Academy Award Nominee, 1993), Marian Handwerker's *Marie*, Martin Koolhoven's *Knetter*, and Jaques Feyder's 1925 silent film *Visages d'Enfants*. 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 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 60 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 Blumenthal, 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." He has received numerous prizes, among them, the Flemish Government's "Gouden Erepenning" award for merit and the prestigious Achiel Van Acker Award. He is an Advisory Board Member of the independent think tank "Itinera Institute." Since 2010, Dirk Brossé has been a Freeman of the town of Destelbergen. In late 2010, EMI Classics released the 6 CD Box Set *Dirk Brossé, A Portrait in Music*. All the music of Dirk Brossé is available on CD. For more information, please visit [www.dirkbrosse.be](http://www.dirkbrosse.be).

*"The Chamber Orchestra always walks a fine line between creating an experience that's different from what goes on elsewhere in the Kimmel Center and something that won't alienate mainstream audiences. Music Director Dirk Brossé is so singular that, regardless of an individual concert's success, it won't be like anything else around."* - The Philadelphia Inquirer

For information, please contact the Chamber Orchestra at 215.545.5451 or visit [chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org).

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## **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 51st Anniversary Season 2015-16**

**DELIBES / TAO / SAINT-SAËNS | September 20 & 21, 2015**

**THE FOUR SEASONS | October 18 & 19, 2015**

**ALL BEETHOVEN | November 8 & 9, 2015**

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH | December 5 & 6, 2015**

**ARNOLD FLUTE CONCERTO | February 28 & 29, 2016**

**BARTÓK / MENDELSSOHN | April 3 & 4, 2016**

**MENDELSSOHN / BROSSÉ / MOZART | May 15 & 16, 2016**

**Tickets: \$24 - \$81**

**Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts  
300 S. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19102**

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

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