

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 19, 2015**



**CONTACTS:**

Vena Johnson, Communications and Outreach Coordinator  
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia  
215.545.5451 x26  
Edward McNally, Above The Fold, Inc  
404.281.6419

**The Champagne will flow as [The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia](#) Celebrates  
Its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Grand Finale Concert in Verizon Hall on Sunday, May 10!**

***Music Director Dirk Brossé conducting his “Philadelphia Overture” along with rousing  
masterpieces by Barber and Beethoven***

***Alan Morrison is organist for “Toccata Festiva” and “The Triple Concerto” will feature cellist  
Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, violinist Soovin Kim and pianist Ignat Solzhenitsyn***

Philadelphia – After five decades and more than 300 concerts, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia will finish its 50th Anniversary Season with a special commemorative performance in Verizon Hall at 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Maestro Dirk Brossé will lead the orchestra in a spirited program and will also welcome his two esteemed predecessors to the stage to take a bow with him--Founder Marc Mostovoy, who served from 1964 to 2004, and Conductor Laureate Ignat Solzhenitsyn, who held the baton from 2004 to 2010. Before the concert, the guest artists and musicians will welcome Chamber Orchestra subscribers to join them in Commonwealth Plaza for a champagne toast.

Brossé will open the 50th Anniversary Celebration concert with his own composition, *The Philadelphia Overture*, followed by Beethoven’s *Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano*. Also known as *The Triple Concerto*, it will feature violinist Soovin Kim, cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker and Ignat Solzhenitsyn at the piano. The exuberant *Toccata Festiva* by Pennsylvania native Samuel Barber will open the second part of the program and will feature organist Alan Morrison from The Curtis Institute of Music. Ludwig Van Beethoven’s triumphant *Symphony No. 5* will serve as a fitting grand crescendo to the Chamber Orchestra’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert and Season.

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. This past fall, the Chamber Orchestra completed a successful national tour with Branford Marsalis.

For highlights from The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia’s first 50 years, visit:  
<http://www.chamberorchestra.org/about/history-mission.php>

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert**  
**2:30 pm, Sunday, May 10**

Dirk Brossé, conductor

Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, cello  
Soovin Kim, violin  
Alan Morrison, organ  
Ignat Solzhenitsyn, piano

**Brossé – The Philadelphia Overture**

**Beethoven – Concerto in C major for Violin, Cello, Piano, and Orchestra, Op. 56, “Triple Concerto”**

**Barber – *Toccata Festiva* for Organ, Strings, Trumpet & Timpani**

**Beethoven – Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67**

**Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center**

300 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

\$48 - \$125

[Tickets](#)

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

215.893.1709

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Program**

**The Philadelphia Overture – Brossé**

formerly titled *A Fanfare for Philadelphia*

This is how David Patrick Stearns of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* described Brossé’s musical gift to the people of Philadelphia in his review of its world premiere during the Maestro’s first regular season concert with The Chamber Orchestra on September 25, 2010:

“As a composer, Brossé’s sensibility in *Fanfare for Philadelphia* clearly hails from John Williams’ cinematic timing and Leonard Bernstein’s harmonic language. More than a fanfare, the piece was a compressed theme and variations, each section having its own orchestral sound, much in the spirit of Philadelphia’s well-defined neighborhoods. Broad cinematic strokes were everywhere, stopping short only at quoting the theme from *Rocky*.”

***Toccata Festiva* – Barber**

*Alan Morrison, organ*

Samuel Barber, one of the very first students at the Curtis Institute of Music, composed the *Tocca Festiva* for the inauguration of a new organ at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Mary Curtis Zimbalist, a friend and patron of the composer since his youth at the Curtis Institute, funded the organ and also commissioned this piece. Paul Callaway, the organist and music director at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., played the organ at the premiere in September 1960, with Eugene Ormandy conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra.

*Toccata Festiva*, written to display the wide expressive range of the new instrument, as well as the virtuosity of the Philadelphia Orchestra, is built around the transformations of a single theme, first introduced by the brass right after a brief introductory flourish. This theme, taken up by the organ as well as various orchestral instruments, is in turn fanfare-like, lyrical, playful and grandiose. Its frequent recurrences unify a piece that otherwise contains great contrasts in tempo, dynamics, and sound color.

There are two extended organ solos, the first a lyrical passage, much of it over a single long-held pedal tone, and the second a cadenza for pedal only. The program book for the first performance notes that this cadenza was written with the cooperation of Barber's friend Thomas Schippers, the eminent conductor who was also an

accomplished organist. The cadenza adds a great deal of brilliance to a work that, originally written to celebrate a single joyous occasion, has gone on to earn a permanent place in the organ repertory.

### **Concerto in C Major for Violin, Cello, and Piano, “Triple Concerto” - Beethoven**

*Soovin Kim, violin*

*Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, cello*

*Ignat Solzhenitsyn, piano*

The “Triple Concerto” may well be one of Beethoven's most enigmatic works. Indeed, some commentators have seen it as a vast rhapsody intended to show off the virtuosity of three hand-picked soloists. Beethoven's grand concerto style is eminent throughout, but because of the use of multiple soloists accompanied by an orchestra, the work also reflects the old *sinfonia concertante* and *concerto grosso* genres. No composer before 1804 had ever thought to cast a piano trio as a concerto soloist grouping. The resulting musical forces are both unusual and formidable, and the scale of the triple concerto is correspondingly grand. The first movement has over 530 bars (nearly half of them in C major), and the third is virtually as substantial, with just under 500 bars, while the second is quite brief. Among the works many unique charms, Beethoven creates, in the opening *Allegro* movement, an animated dialogue between the piano trio members in place of the usual cadenza. Mozart's good friend and student Carl Czerny described the concerto as “grand, tranquil, harmonious and lively” and for good reason.

### **Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 – Beethoven**

Quite possibly the world's most famous symphony, this is the ultimate classical masterpiece that requires no introduction to audiences anywhere on Earth. The notoriously recognized opening four notes of the work represent fate knocking at the door. The feeling of heroism embodied throughout the symphony was heard in the rest of Beethoven's works during the middle period of his life. The 5th was written when he first admitted his encroaching deafness, but was unwilling to be destroyed by his fate.

It is only a little ironic that E.M. Forster described Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 as “the most sublime noise that has ever penetrated into the ear of man. (As the composer's hearing receded...), he brought back the gusts of splendor, the heroism, the youth, the magnificence of life and of death, and, amid vast roarings of a superhuman joy, he led his Fifth Symphony to its conclusion.”

### **Dirk Brossé – conductor, composer**

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).

## **Marie-Elisabeth Hecker - cello**

Cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker made her international breakthrough with her sensational success at the 8th Rostropovich Competition in Paris in November 2005, where she became the first contestant in the event's history to win both first prize and two special prizes. Since then Hecker has become one of the most sought-after soloists and chamber musicians of the younger generation, recognized for her deep intensity of expression and natural affinity for the cello, with *Die Zeit* describing her playing as "heartbreakingly sad and instinctively beautiful." The music critic for *El Pais* wrote "Hecker plays like an angel ... the beauty of her sound is enhanced by an exquisitely elegant line and sweeping lyricism. There is absolutely no artifice to mislead the audience; her performance comprises musicality and pure talent."

Born in 1987 in Robert Schumann's hometown of Zwickau, Hecker developed a passion for music early on in her life and began learning the cello at the age of five, with the distinguished German cellist Peter Bruns becoming her principal teacher. She continued her studies with Heinrich Schiff and subsequently took part in masterclasses with eminent figures such as Anner Bylisma, Frans Helmerson, Bernard Greenhouse, Gary Hoffman and Steven Isserlis. Early recognition came when she won Germany's important Jugend Musiziert competition at the age of 12, which was then followed by the special prize at the 2001 Dotzauer Competition and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in 2009.

Among the highlights of her career to date are performances with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Mariinsky Orchestra, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonia Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin and Vienna Symphony Orchestra, partnering conductors such as Barenboim, Gergiev, Herreweghe, Janowski, Kreizberg, Krivine, Luisi and Nagano. In addition, she has appeared in recitals in Amsterdam, Barcelona, London, Lucerne, Madrid, Munich and Paris.

As a chamber musician she appears in concert with her husband Martin Helmchen and Christian Tetzlaff, as well as with Louis Lortie, Alina Ibragimova and Nils Mönkmeyer. Marie-Elisabeth Hecker plays on a Luigi-Bajoni cello of 1864.

### **Soovin Kim - violin**

At age 20, Soovin Kim won first prize in the Paganini International Competition. Subsequent awards included the Henryk Szeryng Career Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. Equally gifted in concerto, recital, and chamber music repertoire, Kim has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra, Accademia di Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, and Seoul Philharmonic. He has given solo recitals at New York's Weill Hall, the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, Ravinia, Tokyo's Casals Hall, and the Seoul Arts Center. He is an active participant in the Marlboro Festival.

Particularly known for his breadth of repertoire, Kim typically takes on everything from Bach to Paganini to the big romantic concertos to new commissions. His recording of Paganini's 24 Caprices for solo violin was released in February 2006 and was named Classic FM Magazine's "Instrumental Disc of the Month." He released a CD with Stomp/EMI of four commissioned works by Korean composers, written for and performed by his ground-breaking piano quartet MIK (Made in Korea). He recorded string quintets of Boccherini and Schubert with cellist Janos Starker and the Arensky cello quartet with Lynn Harrell, both released by Delos, and duo works by Schubert, Bartók, and Strauss with Jeremy Denk for Koch/Discover. Kim and Denk performed the Brahms sonatas in Seoul and Rome and the Charles Ives sonatas in Philadelphia and at Bard College.

Kim is the first violinist of the Johannes Quartet, an ensemble that has performed newly commissioned works by Esa-Pekka Salonen, Derek Bermel, and William Bolcom. He also arranged for and performed the premiere of Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer's string trio in 2007. Kim is a graduate of the Curtis Institute and also studied at The Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers include David Cerone, Donald Weilerstein, Victor Danchenko and Jaime Laredo. Kim is also a member of the faculty of SUNY-Stony Brook and Bard College.

### **Alan Morrison - organ**

Alan Morrison is recognized as one of America's premier concert organists, performing in prestigious concert organ venues across the United States and in Canada, as well as in international festivals. Morrison is a champion of twentieth- and twenty-first-century composers, personally introducing their works to audiences in recitals and concerts, and he enjoys collaborating with vocalists and other instrumentalists in chamber programs. Morrison is the head of the organ departments at The Curtis Institute of Music and at Westminster Choir College of Rider

University, where he is also an Associate Professor of Organ. He currently serves as College Organist at Ursinus College and frequently conducts master classes sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

Morrison is a regular performer at The Kimmel Center, where he also serves as an artistic adviser. In Philadelphia, he has appeared in concert with The Philadelphia Singers, Mendelssohn Club Chorus, Singing City, and Choral Arts Society. In addition to extensive solo and orchestral performances throughout the United States, Morrison has performed in festivals in Canada, Europe, and South America. He has also performed with The United States Army Chorus.

Morrison has recorded ten critically acclaimed CDs for Gothic Records, ACA Digital Recording, and DTR. These and other concert performances are regularly featured on American Public Media's *Pipedreams* and *Performance Today*, and on radio stations throughout many countries. On television, he has been featured on two episodes of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and on Georgia Public Television in a performance of the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1. In 2003, Mr. Morrison appeared with Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma for the Fred Rogers Memorial Service, which was telecast live from Pittsburgh's Heinz Hall. Alan Morrison is under the exclusive management of Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.

### [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. Last fall, 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.

*"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).

###

### **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 50th Anniversary Season 2014-15**

Di Wu Plays Mendelssohn | September 14 & 15, 2014 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center  
Baroque Concerti with Hai-Ye Ni | October 19 & 20, 2014 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

Spotlight on Kozasa | November 9 & 10, 2014 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center  
November 11, 2014 | The Lincoln University  
Mozart with Miho | January 25 & 26, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center  
Mahler's 4th | February 22 & 23, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center  
Masters of All Time | March 22 & 23, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center  
50th Anniversary Celebration | May 10, 2015 | Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center

Kimmel Center: \$24 - \$81 | [chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org) or 215.893.1709  
The Lincoln University: Free | Groups of 10+ require reservation: 484.365.7434

# # #