

DRAFT RELEASE
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In March, [The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia](#) Presents a Fascinating Program of Four “Masters of All Time” - Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn & Verdi!

Nir Kabaretti is guest conductor for the March 22 & 23 concerts in the Perelman Theater, featuring soloist Sean Chen, a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Prizewinner

Philadelphia – Lovers of great music are in for a very special treat this month as The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia presents an irresistible program from four of the “Masters of All Time.” Guest conductor Nir Kabaretti will lead the Orchestra in Haydn’s mysterious overture to his opera about the Arabian sorceress *Armida*, Mozart’s final and most intimate piano concerto (No. 27), a dramatic single movement sinfonia by the 14-year old prodigy Felix Mendelssohn, and the only known chamber music composed by Giuseppe Verdi. “Masters of All Time” will be presented in the Perelman Theater of the Kimmel Center at 2:30 pm, March 22 and at 7:30 pm Monday, March 23.

Please join maestro Kabaretti and Mr. Chen in the Perelman Theater for *Classical Conversations*, an informal and informative question and answer session following the 2:30 pm matinee performance. The 7:30 pm Monday performance will be followed at 9:15 p.m. with a Young Friends Mixer in the PECO Bar of The Kimmel Center. Stay for a cocktail and a chance to chat in person with the musicians about the concert.

Nir Kabaretti has earned international acclaim as Music Director of the Santa Barbara Symphony and the Southwest Florida Symphony. Maestro Kabaretti has worked with some of the world’s most sought-after musicians, leading opera houses, and celebrated orchestras and has collaborated with such virtuosos as Lang Lang, Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, and Hélène Grimaud. He has also conducted orchestras in cultural capitals all over the world including Belgrade, Genoa, Jerusalem, Milan, Rome, Seville, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Toulouse, Vienna and Zagreb.

Sean Chen will make his Chamber Orchestra debut performing Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat Major*, and will be playing Mozart’s own cadenzas for this work. Just two years ago, Chen won the American Pianists Association’s DeHaan Classical Fellowship, one of the most lucrative and significant prizes available to an American pianist. That year, Chen also won Third Prize at the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, becoming the first American to reach the finals since 1997.

In his program notes for this concert, Bernard Jacobson writes that “Mozart’s last piano concerto is one of those pieces that confound expectations. Rather than ending his dazzling sequence of such works with a ringing affirmation, the composer here seems rather to be speaking to us under his breath. Among display pieces...this is surely the most intimate, the most secret, and thus the most quintessentially Mozartean. What distinguishes the B-flat-major Concerto is...the quality of an almost *consciously* late work. In place of zest or fight there is now resignation, regret, a bittersweet sense of nostalgia, and an almost palpable feeling of exhaustion.”

"MASTERS OF ALL TIME"

Nir Kabaretti, guest conductor

Sean Chen, piano

2:30 pm, Sunday, March 22, 2015

followed by Classical Conversations, a Q&A session with maestro Kabaretti and Sean Chen

7:30 pm, Monday, March 23, 2015*

followed at 9:15 p.m. with a Young Friends Mixer with the Musicians in the PECO Bar of The Kimmel Center

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 S. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

\$24 - \$81

www.chamberorchestra.org

215.893.1709

Concert Program

HAYDN **Armida: Overture (1783/84)***

** This will be the first time The Chamber Orchestra has performed Haydn's Armida overture.*

MOZART **Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major, K. 595 (1787-91)**

I **Allegro**

II **Larghetto**

III **Allegro**

MENDELSSOHN **Sinfonia No. 10 in B minor (1823)**

Adagio–Allegro–più presto

VERDI **String Symphony in E minor (1873)**

I **Allegro**

II **Andantino**

III **Prestissimo**

IV **Allegro assai mosso**

SEAN CHEN, piano

Pianist Sean Chen is being hailed as a rising star with a "million-volt smile" and a "formidable set of fingers" (Dallas Morning News). In 2013 Chen won the American Pianists Association's DeHaan Classical Fellowship, one of the most lucrative and significant prizes available to an American pianist. He also won Third Prize at the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, becoming the first American to reach the finals since 1997. The 27-year-old American pianist has appeared as soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra under Gerard Schwarz, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin and Miguel Harth-Bedoya, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and the Corpus Christi, New West, Phoenix and San Diego symphony orchestras, and also the Suwon City Philharmonic in South Korea. Last season, Chen performed in recital at Jordan Hall in Boston, the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, SubCulture in New York City, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and on tour in the Czech Republic.

Highlights of Chen's 2014-15 season include debuts with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia at the Kimmel Center, the symphony orchestras of Hartford, Tucson, Santa Fe, and Carmel, and his return to the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. He appears in recital in Jacksonville, New Orleans, and in Hawaii, as well as the Steinway Series at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the Salk Institute in San Diego, and with soprano Jessica Rivera in Thousand Oaks, California. A strong proponent of the music of our time, Chen has performed new works by Lisa Bielawa, Michael Williams, Nicco Athens, Michael Gilbertson, and Reinaldo Moya.

Recent CD releases include an album of Michael Williams' solo piano works on the Parma label, a live recording from the Cliburn competition released by Harmonia Mundi, and *La Valse*, a solo recording on the Steinway label, as part of his American Pianists Association prize. The New York Times praised Chen's "alluring, colorfully shaded renditions" of works by Scriabin and Ravel on the latter, and Los Angeles Music Examiner noted, "Los Angeles native Sean Chen has the rare ability to combine poetic musical sensibilities and dazzling technical prowess."

Born in 1988 in Margate, FL, Chen grew up in the Los Angeles area of Oak Park, CA. His impressive achievements before college included receiving an NFAA ARTSweek award, a prize at the California International Young Artist Competition, the Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight Award, the Evelyn Vonar Storrs Scholarship, and the Glenn Miller Scholarship. These honors combined with his extraordinary intellect facilitated offers of acceptance by MIT, Harvard, and the Juilliard School. Choosing to study music, Chen earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Juilliard, where he won the 2010 Gina Bachauer Piano Competition, the 2010 Munz Scholarship, and first prize at the 2008 Juilliard Concerto Competition. While attending Juilliard, Chen was the recipient of a notable third-party scholarship: the 2010 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. In competition, Chen won Second Prize at the 2011 Seoul International Music Competition, Third Prize at the 2013 Morocco Philharmony International Piano Competition, Best Performance of an American Work at the 2009 Cleveland International Piano Competition, and was a semifinalist at the 2012 Leeds International Piano Competition.

Chen received his Artist Diploma at the Yale School of Music in 2014 as a George W. Miles Fellowship recipient, and a student of Hung-Kuan Chen and Tema Blackstone. His former teachers include Jerome Lowenthal, Matti Raekallio, and Edward Francis. He has been featured in a nationally syndicated radio series that chronicled the finals week of the APA's competition, as well as on *From the Top*, American Public Media's *Performance Today*, WQXR (New York), WFMT (Chicago), WGBH (Boston), and WFYI (Indianapolis). The webcast of his April 2013 performance of Bartók's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Indianapolis Symphony can be viewed at AmericanPianists.org. In March 2014, International Piano magazine named Sean Chen "One To Watch." He is currently under the management of the American Pianists Association.

NIR KABARETTI, guest conductor

Internationally acclaimed conductor, Nir Kabaretti, has been recently appointed Music Director of the South West Florida Symphony and continues his tenure as Music and Artistic Director of the Santa Barbara Symphony in Santa Barbara, California. Described as "a conductor with immense musicality and warm personality" by Maestro Zubin Mehta, Kabaretti has earned an impressive reputation across continents for his command of a vast symphonic and operatic repertoire, and his profound knowledge of and sensitivity to the music he conducts. Born in Israel, Kabaretti began piano lessons at the age of six, later studied piano and conducting at The Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, and continued his education at the prestigious University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where he graduated from in 1995

Upon his graduation, Kabaretti began working as coach and chorus master at the Vienna State Opera and the Salzburg Festival. He subsequently advanced to positions as assistant to the music director at the Teatro Real in Madrid and personal assistant to Maestro Zubin Mehta at Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Italy. He was appointed Principal Conductor of the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra in Israel in 2002 and its Music Director till 2008. Maestro Kabaretti has worked with some of the world's most sought-after musicians, leading opera houses, and renowned orchestras. Some of his collaborators include Lang Lang, Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, and Héléne Grimaud.

As guest conductor, Kabaretti keeps a busy international schedule throughout the year. Some of his appearances have included the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmonica de Buenos Aires, Orquestre National du Theatre du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice di Genova, Orchestra del Teatro Petruzzelli di Bari, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano "La Verdi", Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Israel Symphony Orchestra of Rishon Le Tzion, Haifa Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester, La Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid, La Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria, Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla and the Bochumer Symphoniker. In July 2010, Kabaretti debuted at the summer season of the Caracalla Roman Bath in Rome for Prokofiev's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Kabaretti's operatic experience includes productions at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Macbeth*, *Il Trovatore*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Journey to Rheims*), Teatro Real in Madrid (*Cenerentola*, *Die Walküre*), The Israeli Opera (*Fidelio*, *Manon Lescaut*), Opéra de Lausanne (Nino Rota's *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Falstaff*), Avenches Festival (*Nabucco*), The New National Theatre in Tokyo (*The Barber of Seville*) and Opera Santa Barbara (*Carmen*). He conducted *The Diary of Anne Frank*, a guest production of the Vienna State Opera performed at both the Bregenz Festival and Expo 2000 in Hanover. In 2005, Kabaretti lead Teatro San Carlo di Napoli on its first tour to Japan, conducting *Il Trovatore* both in Kyoto and Tokyo.

[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. This fall, 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.

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**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 or 215.893.1709
The Lincoln University: Free | Groups of 10+ require reservation: 484.365.7434

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