

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2014



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

***Concertmaster Miho Saegusa featured with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia
in an All-Mozart Program in January***

PHILADELPHIA – In January, concertmaster Miho Saegusa will be highlighted in a concert by The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia that features four fascinating works by Mozart. The eagerly anticipated program includes the *Adagio in E major for Violin and Orchestra, K. 261*, the *Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216*, the *Divertimento in D major, K. 136*. The program will conclude with Mozart's *Symphony No. 21 in A major, K. 134*. "**Mozart with Miho**" takes place at **2:30 pm, Sunday January 25, 2015** and **7:30 pm, Monday January 26, 2015** in the Kimmel Center's intimate Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center.

Violinist **Miho Saegusa** has been Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia since 2011. She has served as Assistant Concertmaster of the Kansas City Symphony, and is a member of the IRIS Chamber Orchestra, where she has held the Isaac Stern Concertmaster Chair on numerous occasions. Passionate about chamber music, she has performed at various festivals including Marlboro, Ravinia, Great Lakes and Music@Menlo in the United States, as well as the Kitakyushu International Music Festival in Japan. She has also collaborated with Musicians from Marlboro, Argento Chamber Ensemble, String Orchestra of NYC, Bryant Park Quartet, Quartet Accorda, and the Andsnes Project. She has appeared as soloist with the New Jersey Symphony, Aspen Chamber Symphony and Concert Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra, among others.

"Mozart with Miho"

conductor to be announced
Miho Saegusa, violin

2:30 pm, Sunday, January 25, 2015

7:30 pm, Monday, January 26, 2015

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

\$24 - \$81

www.chamberorchestra.org

215.893.1709

The Program

- selected comments excerpted from Bernard Jacobson's program notes for **Mozart with Miho**

*** Adagio in E major for Violin and Orchestra, K. 261**

*** Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216**

*** Divertimento in D major, K. 136**

*** Symphony No. 21 in A major, K. 134**

Adagio in E major for Violin and Orchestra, K. 261 (1776)

One of the great pianists of his day, Mozart also had a brief career as a violinist. When he was 13, he became concertmaster of the court orchestra of the archbishop of his native Salzburg, in which capacity he gave many performances at home and abroad, leading the orchestra and taking solo parts. He was modest about his violin playing, but it was widely admired; one fellow-violinist said Mozart could “play anything” on the instrument. In 1776, Mozart composed his ***Adagio in F Major for Violin and Orchestra, K. 261*** to insert into his *A major Violin Concerto, K. 219*, as a substitution for the concerto’s original Adagio. Profoundly lyrical and nourished by Mozart’s special genius as a composer of vocal music, the Adagio unfolds in a species of sonata form, almost like an aria for violin and orchestra.

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216 (1775)

Mozart’s series of five violin concertos represent a turning point in his career. In the course of these works, he demonstrates a level of genius that would characterize the bulk of his compositions for the rest of his life. In the last three, beginning with this work in G Major, Mozart strikes the perfect balance between virtuosic display and thematic content – ideas that remain central to the concerto repertoire for violin. At age 19, Mozart composed his Violin Concerto No. 3 in *G-major*. The concerto draws its life and vigor from several innovative choices, including the introduction of an entirely new theme by the soloist in his exposition, and the basing of the development on yet another new solo theme. The solo cadenza that appears near the end of the first movement was in this case, as in many others, left to the soloist to extemporize or for a third party to provide. Augustin Dumay will play cadenzas by Eugène Ysaÿe.

Divertimento in D major, K. 136 (1772)

Mozart wrote a host of smaller instrumental pieces, variously titled Serenade, Cassation, Nachtmusik, or Divertimento. Most of these were written for informal performances in Salzburg or Vienna, performed by small ensembles hired to play for a lover, a friend, or a special event: engagements, weddings, etc. In the early months of 1772, the 16-year-old Mozart wrote a set of three pieces for strings; *K. 136*, *K. 137*, and *K. 138*. From the busy figurations of its opening Allegro to the irreverent wit of its Presto finale, ***The Divertimento D-major, K. 136*** vividly evokes the musical entertainment of this era and has always been the most popular of the three. Mozart’s slow movements contain some of his most eloquent music, including the lovely Andante movement.

The Symphony No. 21 in A Major, K. 134 (1773)

Between 1769 and 1773, the teenage Mozart made three trips to Italy. These trips were the culmination of his career as a child prodigy and had a major impact on his musical development. Between the second and third trips, Mozart composed eight symphonies, the last of which was K.134. ***The Symphony No. 21 in A Major*** is set in one of Mozart’s favorite keys. It is a relatively spacious and ambitious example of the four-movement pattern. At this period in Mozart’s life, he was still alternating his symphonic designs between that of the three-movement operatic overture (fast-slow-fast) that he inherited from his Italian forerunners and the four-movement form, complete with minuet, out of which the symphony of the high classical period evolved. The first movement, according to the musicologist Stanley Sadie, is “the most densely worked of Mozart’s symphony movements to date”; the development of the vigorous opening motif is particularly insistent, giving the movement a monothematic cast more characteristic of Haydn.

Miho Saegusa, violin

Violinist **Miho Saegusa** has been Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia since 2011. She has served as Assistant Concertmaster of the Kansas City Symphony, and is a member of the IRIS Chamber Orchestra, where she has held the Isaac Stern Concertmaster Chair on numerous occasions. Passionate about chamber music, she has performed at various festivals including Marlboro, Ravinia, Great Lakes and Music@Menlo in the United States, as well as the Kitakyushu International Music Festival in Japan. She has also collaborated with Musicians from Marlboro, Argento Chamber Ensemble, String Orchestra of NYC, Bryant Park Quartet, Quartet Accorda, and the Andsnes Project. She has appeared as soloist with the New Jersey Symphony, Aspen Chamber Symphony and Concert Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra, among others.

Ms. Saegusa was the first-ever recipient of the Dorothy DeLay fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival, and additional honors include prizes at the New Jersey Symphony Young Artist Auditions, the Wieniawski-Lipinski International Competition, and the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition.

Born in Kitakyushu, Japan, Ms. Saegusa has played the violin since the age of five, and her principal teachers include Masao Kawasaki and Dorothy DeLay. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 2001, and completed graduate work at The Juilliard School, earning her Master of Music in 2003 and Artist Diploma in 2005.

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, Isaac Stern, Rudolph 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.

###

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*