

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22 July 2016



CONTACTS:

Michael Hogue, Marketing and Outreach Associate
215.545.5451 ex 26

**THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA
APPOINTS WILLIAM RHOADS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Philadelphia, PA –The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the appointment of William “Bill” Rhoads as its new Executive Director, following a nationwide search. Rhoads comes to the COP from the prestigious Orchestra of St. Luke’s in NYC, where he has served as Vice President of Marketing & Communications since 2006. At COP, Philadelphia’s world-renowned chamber orchestra, he will oversee the management of the organization and guide its future direction.

“We are thrilled to have Bill join us at the start of our 2016-17 Season, which is already an exciting year for us in many ways,” says Susan Schwartz McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees. “Bill’s extraordinary range of talents and accomplishments, and his innovative thinking about audience development, make him the ideal executive leader for an orchestra that has very high artistic aspirations and bold vision.”

A twenty-year veteran of the classical music industry, Rhoads has had a multi-faceted career as a publishing, production, recording, programming, and marketing executive in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. His 10-year tenure at Orchestra of St. Luke’s marked a period of unparalleled expansion for that institution. Rhoads played a key role in establishing and maintaining several strategic partnerships and collaborations, including the opening of [The DiMenna Center for Classical Music](#), and he was the driving force behind the launch of several new programs and series – among them, the Youth Orchestra of St. Luke’s (YOSL), 45below young member program, St. Luke’s Subway Series, the Notable Women Festival, and the OSL@DMC series.

Said Board treasurer, Daisy Van den Hooff-Mertens, who stepped in to manage COP during the search process, “Bill’s track record as a strategic thinker, sound fiscal manager, and creative collaborator impressed everyone who met him. He’s not just an exceptional professional, he’s a remarkably warm and engaging colleague. He quite literally ‘wowed’ the Search Committee with his energy, his ideas, and his breadth of talent. He met or exceeded our requirements on every single dimension.”

“I am excited and honored by the opportunity to move this deeply loved and respected institution forward as its Executive Director,” said Rhoads. “There is a palpable feeling of energy and dedication to COP’s vision and success among the Board, the musicians, patrons, and staff that I found truly inspiring. We are poised to do great things as an institution, and I look forward to

working with all our partners, constituents, and supporters in the coming years to present musical programs and experiences that enrich the entire Philadelphia community.”

In addition to his broad experience at Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Rhoads brings a diverse background in music publishing, production, and arts representation that give him the perspective and agility needed for vigorous leadership at a time when arts organizations are looking to diversify audience constituencies and broaden their funding base. During his tenure as Director of Concert Music at Carl Fischer Music, that company underwent a vibrant transformation built on effective capitalization of its publishing catalog and innovative representation of its talent roster, which expanded to include some of the most important composers of their generations. Under the auspices of his own marketing, production, and publishing company, Bill Rhoads & Associates, Rhoads represented a wide variety of clients, including Frank Zappa, John Zorn, Ornette Coleman, C.F. Peters Publishing, and Arabesque Recordings. A passionate advocate for the arts, he has been a guest lecturer and adviser to arts organizations, as well as a composer in his own right.

Now entering its 52nd season, the COP is a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, where it performs in Perelman Auditorium. Its reputation for music excellence has been built on a traditional repertoire of baroque and classical music integrated with diverse programming that has included many newly commissioned works by contemporary composers and performances by promising young soloists.

Ken Jarin, Chairman of the COP Board noted, “I’ve been associated with the COP for two decades, and I’ve never been more excited about the future of this organization than I am today. We want to inspire musical taste, not just satisfy it. Bill Rhoads knows how to develop arts partnerships and creative collaborations that will help us fulfill our mission.”

Added McDonald, “What we aspire to do as a chamber orchestra is to create an intimate connection to music performance based on our scale and our unique audience engagement. This is an important moment for us. We’re true to our roots but spreading our wings. Bill Rhoads is going to give us the lift we need to do that.”

About the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia:

Now entering its 52nd year, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is a prestigious musical ensemble that performs an annual concert series in Perelman Auditorium of the Kimmel Center under the baton of Music Director and renowned composer, Maestro (Sir) Dirk Brossé. Recognized for an eclectic repertoire that includes beloved masterpieces as well as important new commissions, and a history of featured performances by luminaries like Pavarotti and Rostropovich, COP aims to strengthen audience engagement – and nurture the next generation of classical concert-goers -- with an intimate and creatively curated musical experience.

###

2016-2017 – 52nd Season Schedule of Concerts

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA

Dirk Brossé, Music Director

The Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

www.chamberorchestra.org

215.893.1709

HAYDN, MOZART, AND THE RED CLIFF

Dirk Brossé, conducting

Ching-Yun Hu, piano

Geoffrey McDonald, guest conductor for Arriaga

October 9, 2016 | 2:30 PM

October 10, 2016 | 7:30 PM

PROGRAM

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*

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/haydn-mozart-and-the-red-cliff/>

MOZART, GLUCK, AND DANCES OF THE BLESSED SPIRITS

Bassem Akiki, conducting

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

November 6, 2016 | 2:30 PM

November 7, 2016 | 7:30 PM

GLUCK – Dance of the Blessed Spirits from *Orfeo ed Euridice*

MOZART – Clarinet Concerto

RESPIGHI – Ancient Airs and Dances

ARNOLD – Symphony for Strings

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/mozart-gluck-and-dances-of-the-blessed-spirits/>

ROSSINI, GOUNOD, AND STORIES FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA

Dirk Brossé, conducting
Rami Khalife, piano

December 4, 2016 | 2:30 PM
December 5, 2016 | 7:30 PM

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*

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/rossini-gounod-and-stories-for-piano-and-orchestra/>

BROSSÉ CONDUCTS THE SOUNDS OF AMERICA

Dirk Brossé, conducting
Michael Ludwig, violin

February 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM
February 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

CORIGLIANO – Voyage for String Orchestra
WINTORY – Apotheosis from Journey*
HAGEN – Songbook: Concerto for Violin, String Orchestra, Harp and Percussion
WHITACRE – October
FUCHS – American Rhapsody
PISTON – Sinfonietta
* *Philadelphia Premiere*

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/brosse-conducts-the-sounds-of-america/>

THE ITALIAN BAROQUE

Salvatore Di Vittorio, conducting
Gwyn Roberts, recorder

March 26, 2017 | 2:30 PM
March 27, 2017 | 7:30 PM

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*

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/the-italian-baroque/>

BEETHOVEN AND BROSSÉ'S PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Dirk Brossé, conducting

In collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art

May 14, 2017 | 2:30 PM

May 15, 2017 | 7:30 PM

ROUSSEAU – Overture to Le devin du village
BEETHOVEN – Symphony No. 1
CHABRIER – Habanera
BROSSÉ – Pictures at an Exhibition *

**World Premiere*

Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/20162017season/dirk-brosses-pictures-at-an-exhibition/>

SPECIAL EVENTS

[in]tersect featuring Andrew Lipke

November 30 | 8PM

February 22 | 8PM

May 10 | 8PM

World Café Live [in] University City

Each concert features music samples from the upcoming concerts. Website URL: <http://chamberorchestra.org/intersect/>

###

More about 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.

"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

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 and of the Ghent Film Festival. John Williams chose him as Principal Conductor of the *Star Wars in Concert World Tour*. He is professor of composition and conducting at the School of Arts / Royal Conservatory of Music in Ghent. He has composed some 400 works, including concerti, oratorios, Lieder, chamber music, and symphonic works. He has also composed extensively for cinema, television, and stage. His film soundtracks include *Boerenpsalm*, *Daens* (Academy Award Nominee, 1993), *Singularity*, and *Koko Flanel*. His score for the BBC/HBO series *Parade's End* was nominated for an Emmy Award. He wrote the scores for the musicals *Prince of*

Africa, Sacco & Vanzetti, Tintin - The Temple of the Sun (based on Hergé's world-famous cartoon character *Tintin*), *Rembrandt The Musical*, *Daens The Musical*, *Ben X*, *Pauline & Paulette* and 14-18.

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 whose work 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.

Dirk Brossé has conducted many top orchestras, both at home and abroad. Amongst them, the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic, Vancouver Opera, Opéra de Lyon, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the Philharmonic Orchestras of Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Basel, Madrid, Porto, Birmingham, Ulster, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, Queensland, St Petersburg, Los Angeles, and Boston. In 2008, he made his first appearance at the Royal Albert Hall in London, conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. In the summer of 2015, he made his first appearance at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden London. In September 2015, Brossé's *Celloconcerto* was recorded by The London Symphony Orchestra.

He has made more than 80 CD recordings and has collaborated with world-class artists such as José Van Dam, Barbara Hendricks, Julia Migenes, Claron McFadden, Julian Lloyd Webber, Sabine Meyer, Alison Balsom, Salvatore Accardo, John Williams, Toots Thielemans, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Randy Crawford, Lisa Gerrard, Mel Brooks,

Maurane, Sinead O' Connor, Maurice Jarre, Michel Legrand, and Youssou N'Dour. He has worked with directors Stijn Coninx, Frank Van Laecke, Susanna White and Roland Joffé, and with writers Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Seth Gaaikema, and Didier Van Cauwelaert.

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 set *Dirk Brossé, A Portrait in Music*. The documentary *Brossé, a Destiny in Music* by Jacques Servaes received international acclaim.

For more information, please visit www.dirkbrosse.be.

###

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 52nd Season 2016-17

HAYDN, MOZART, AND THE RED CLIFF | October 8 & 9, 2016

MOZART, GLUCK, AND DANCES OF THE BLESSED SPIRITS | November 6 & 7, 2016

ROSSINI, GOUNOD, AND STORIES FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA | December 4 & 5, 2016

BROSSÉ CONDUCTS THE SOUNDS OF AMERICA | February 26 & 27, 2017

THE ITALIAN BAROQUE | April 3 & 4, 2017

BEETHOVEN AND BROSSÉ'S PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION | May 14 & 15, 2017

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

chamberorchestra.org / 215.893.1709

###