

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 7, 2018

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) to present one of the world's leading improvisers on the keyboard, Philadelphia's Jeffery Brillhart, as he conducts and plays music of J.S. and C.P.E Bach, and Rameau.

Experience Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* featuring COP's Stephen Tavani, Meichen Liao-Barnes, Elizabeth Kaderabek, and Edward Schultz.

Brillhart to improvise on themes heard in the concert as a part of COP's 2017-2018 *Improvisionaries* Season

A founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (COP) announces its fourth concert in their *Improvisionaries* season: Brillhart: All Baroque. For this concert, COP will present one of the world's leading improvisers on the keyboard, Philadelphia's Jeffery Brillhart, as he conducts and plays music of J.S. and C.P.E Bach, and Rameau. In addition to spotlighting the Baroque art of figured bass, embellishment and ornamentation, Brillhart will perform his own improvisations on themes heard in the concert as a centerpiece of the program.

"Long live Rameau, down with Gluck!" Debussy exclaimed after hearing some of his great French predecessor's music. One of the greatest French composers of his time, Jean-Philippe Rameau replaced Jean-Baptiste Lully as the dominant French opera composer. Rameau found great success in the area of *tragédies en musique* but was also known as the leading French composer for the harpsichord. Rameau's Overture to *Zais* and *Les Indes Galantes* displays the latter part of the prominent composer's career which focused primarily on operatic output. The compositional style, full and warm, was a hallmark of Rameau and stood in staunch opposition to the popular Italian Opera Buffa style. Rameau was often criticized by fellow French composers of the day for being too conservative as the competing Opera Buffa style began to win favor.

Perhaps no other composer in the history of music had as profound an effect on Western European musical tradition as J.S. Bach. Historical accounts of Bach's style of improvisation have generated schools of thought and interpretation that are perhaps more various and heavily debated than any other composer of his time. The prolific body of work numbers in the thousands ranging from solo and chamber music, to oratorios and symphonies. The Chamber Orchestra will perform one of Bach's most thrilling and beloved orchestral works, the *Brandenburg Concertos*, originally scored to win favor of Margrave Christian Ludwig of Brandenburg.

In music as in other spheres, fashions change. When Johann Sebastian Bach died in 1750, his close contemporary Georg Philipp Telemann wrote a sonnet to mark the occasion, and in it he paid tribute to his friend's talents as an organist. But Johann Sebastian's chief claim to fame, according to Telemann, was that he was the father of the great Bach, the Bach of Berlin. That was Carl Philipp Emanuel, J.S. Bach's second surviving son, who was serving at the time as harpsichordist to Frederick the Great in the Prussian capital. COP will feature C.P.E. Bach's Harpsichord Concert in D minor, which shows elements of his father's works as it showcases the trademark freshness and originality that made C.P.E. a prominent musical figure of 18th century.

Brillhart: All Baroque

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center

Sunday, February 25, 2018 | 2:30 PM

Monday, February 26, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Jeffrey Brillhart, Conductor and Keyboard

Jean-Philippe Rameau – Overture from *Zais*, (1748), RCT 60

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach – Harpsichord Concerto in d (1748), Wq. 23

I: Allegro

II: Poco Andante

III: Allegro assai

Johann Sebastian Bach – *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 3 in G (1717-23), BWV 1048

featuring Stephen Tavani, Violin, Meichen Liao-Barnes, Violin, and Elizabeth Kaderabek, Violin II

I: [Allegro]

II: Adagio

III: Allegro

INTERMISSION

Johann Sebastian Bach – Air from Suite No. 3 in D, (1730), BWV 1068

Jeffery Brillhart – Improvisation on themes in the program

Johann Sebastian Bach – *Brandenburg* Concerto in No. 5 in D (1717-23), BWV 1050

Featuring Stephen Tavani, Violin and Edward Schultz, Flute

I: Allegro

II: Affettuoso

III: Allegro

Jean-Philippe Rameau – Chaconne from *Les Indes galantes* (1735)

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Jeffery Brillhart, Conductor and Keyboard

Jeffrey Brillhart has performed throughout the United States, Brazil, South Africa, and Europe as conductor and organist and is known for his musical versatility. He was awarded first place at the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 1994 and joined the music faculty of Yale University in 2005, where he teaches organ improvisation to graduate level students. Mr. Brillhart is Director of Music and Fine arts at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, where he oversees music, education, and arts programs that involve more than two-hundred children, youth, and adults each week. He is also music director of Philadelphia's acclaimed Singing City Choir, one of the first integrated community choirs in the United States. At Singing City he follows a distinguished line of conductors that includes Elaine Brown and Joseph Flummerfelt. Under his direction, his choral ensembles have performed with the Kronos Quartet, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Symphony in C, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, The Chamber Orchestra of

Philadelphia, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Bobbie McFerrin, Dave Brubeck, Helmuth Rilling, and Rossen Milanov, and on tours to Cuba, Northern Ireland, Brazil, Germany, Russia, the Balkans, and South Africa. He will lead upcoming tours to Mexico (2019) and Israel and Jordan (2020). Mr. Brillhart maintains an active schedule as conductor, organist, competition adjudicator, and clinician, most recently at the Kimmel Center (with Canadian Brass and TenThing), Curtis Institute of Music, the Eastman School of Music, Westminster Choir College, Furman University, Walla Walla College, and Baylor University. His organ improvisation textbook, *Breaking Free: Finding a Personal Language for Organ Improvisation through 20th-Century French Improvisation Techniques*, was published by Wayne Leupold Editions in 2011. A second textbook, *A World of Possibilities: Master Lessons in Improvisation* will be released Summer 2018. His choral and organ compositions are published by Hope Publishing and EC Schirmer. He was recently awarded the 2016 Elaine Brown Award for Choral Excellence, presented by the Pennsylvania American Choral Directors.

Upcoming Performances 2017-2018 Season

intersect 8: Anatomy of Fusion

March 28, 2018

Annenberg Center Live

Harold Prince Theater

7:30PM Show | Doors open at 7:05PM

Andrew Lipke, Host

Martha Mooke, Special Guest

Mozart, Mooke, and Fauré

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center

Sunday, April 1, 2018 | 2:30 PM

Monday, April 2, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Martha Mooke, Electric Viola/Composer

Born Lau, Viola *Astral Spotlight Artist*

Mozart – Symphony No. 38, “Prague”

Hummel – Fantasie for Viola and Orchestra

Martha Mooke – *Invisible Hands* for electric viola and orchestra *World Premiere*

Rodrigo – *Dos danzas espanolas*

Fauré – *Pelleas et Melisande* Suite

Intersect9: Technical Ecstasy

May 16, 2018

The Clef Club of Jazz

8:00PM Show | Doors open at 7:00PM

Andrew Lipke, Host

Adam Vidiksis, Special Guest (Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence)

Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center

Sunday, May 20, 2018 | 2:30 PM

Monday, May 21, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Dirk Brossé, Conductor

Mark O'Connor, Violin

and featuring Musicians from Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz

Dai Wei – Homage to Bernstein

Mark O'Connor – Concerto No. 6, *Old Brass*

Dave Brubeck/Brossé – Blue Rondo à la Turk

Adam Vidiksis (Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence) – Concerto Grosso* *World Premiere*

**featuring musicians from Philadelphia's Clef Club of Jazz*

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. The Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1964 by Marc Mostovoy, has a well-established reputation for distinguished performances of repertoire from the Baroque period through the twenty-first century.

The Chamber Orchestra's development was motivated, in part, by the desire to provide performance opportunities to young professional musicians emerging from area conservatories and other regional training programs, but also by a desire to make a substantial contribution to the city and the region's cultural life. In addition to presenting its own productions, the Chamber Orchestra started to develop an entrepreneurial business model by seeking other performance opportunities among the region's presenter/producer community, thereby providing supplementary employment for its members. The ensemble also championed new music, with a focus on local composers. In total, the organization has commissioned and premiered over seventy new works.

In 1994, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, a concert pianist and conducting graduate from the Curtis Institute of Music, joined the Chamber Orchestra as Assistant Conductor. In 1998, he was named Principal Conductor and, ultimately, Music Director in 2004. A conductor and composer of international acclaim, Maestro Dirk Brossé now enters his eighth season as Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In the 2017-2018 season, the Orchestra will perform six programs from October through May in the Kimmel Center's intimate, 600-seat Perelman Theater.

Over the course of the ensemble's rich and diverse history, COP has performed with such internationally acclaimed guest artists as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Mstislav Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, Rudolph Serkin, The Eroica Trio, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Romero Guitar Quartet, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Ben Folds, Branford Marsalis, Elvis Costello, Sylvia McNair, Steven Isserlis,

Joseph Silverstein, Ransom Wilson, Gerard Schwarz, Jahja Ling, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, among others. The ensemble travels regularly, having toured the United States, Europe, and Israel. chamberorchestra.org

Dirk Brossé, Music Director

Sir Dirk Brossé, born in Ghent, Belgium in 1960, is a multi-faceted composer and an internationally acclaimed conductor. He is currently Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Music Director of the Film Festival 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. He subsequently specialized in conducting, which he studied in Maastricht, Vienna and Cologne. He is currently Professor of Composition and Conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Ghent. Dirk Brossé has conducted every leading Belgian orchestra, among them, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, 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 Ulster Symphony Orchestra of Northern Ireland, the Liverpool Philharmonic, the RTE Orchestra Dublin, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Porto Philharmonic, the Queensland Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Camerata St. Petersburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Noord Nederlands Orkest, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestras of Venezuela and Ecuador.

Dirk Brossé is a versatile and prolific composer. He has written over 400 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. Among his most performed 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*.

He has also composed extensively for cinema, television and stage. Brossé's film soundtracks include *Boerenpsalm*, *Daens* (Academy Award Nominee, 1993), *Koko Flanel*, *Back to Utopia*, *Licht*, Stijn Coninx's *de Kavijaks*, Marian Handwerker's *Marie*, Martin Koolhoven's *Knetter*, Roland Joffé's *The Lovers*, Jaques Feyder's 1925 silent film *Visages d'Enfants*, and *Knielen op een bed violen* (Golden Calf Nominee, 2016). His score for the BBC/HBO series *Parade's End* starring Benedict Cumberbatch was nominated for an Emmy Award. He wrote the scores for the musicals *Sacco & Vanzetti*, *Ben X*, *The Prince of Africa*, *Tintin — The Temple of the Sun* (based on Hergé's world-famous cartoon character Tintin), *Rembrandt the Musical, 14-18 the musical*, *Pauline & Paulette* and *Musical Daens* — each time in close collaboration with stage director 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 renowned actors Emma Thompson, Sir Derek Jacobi, and Kenneth Branagh.

In 2010, at the request of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, he wrote *The Hallow-e'en Dances*. This Halloween-inspired work was especially written for traditional Chinese instruments. He recently composed

Haiku Cycle 1, for Jessye Norman and based on Haiku by Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Union.

In 2016, he made his debut at Carnegie Hall in New York, conducting his violin concerto *Black, White & In Between* with the Chamber Orchestra of New York.

Dirk Brossé has made more than 90 CD recordings and has conducted in numerous world-famous concert halls, such as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre, the Royal Albert Hall in London, Opera 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, and Salvatore Accardo. On a broader musical platform, he has performed with John Williams, Toots Thielemans, Hans Zimmer, Elmer Bernstein, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Randy Crawford, Lisa Gerrard, Mel Brooks, Maurane, Sinead O' Connor, Viktor Lazlo, Maurice Jarre, and Youssou N'Dour.

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. Since 2016, Dirk Brossé is a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts. dirkbrosse.be

Adam Vidiksis,

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia/American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter

Steven R. Gerber Composer-in-Residence

Adam Vidiksis is a composer, conductor, percussionist, improviser, and technologist based in Philadelphia whose interests span from historically informed performance to the cutting edge of digital audio processing. Often drawing from both acoustic and electronic sounds, his music has been heard in concert halls and venues around the world. Critics have called his music "mesmerizing", "dramatic", "striking" (*Philadelphia Weekly*), "notable", "catchy" (*WQHS*), "interesting", and "special" (*Percussive Notes*), and have noted that Vidiksis provides "an electronically produced frame giving each sound such a deep-colored radiance you could miss the piece's shape for being caught up in each moment" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). His unique approach to composition has been praised for its "outstanding control" (*Philadelphia Weekly*) and for being "restrained" and "magical" (*Local Arts Live*).

His music has been played by many ensembles including the Black Sea Symphony in Constanta, Romania, Omaha Symphony, Momenta Quartet, Zephyrus Duo, and SPLICE. His commissions include Network for New Music, ICIA, Luna and Renegade Theater Companies, Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology, Ensemble Mise-En, Federal Winds, and the ElectroAcoustic Piano project. His compositions have been heard at numerous festivals and conferences including SEAMUS, ICMC, the College Music Society, the National Student Electronic Music Event, the Society of Composers, Incorporated conferences, the Huntsville New Music Festival, Soundcrawl Festival, the Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Raven Stadium, the Guthman Musical Instrument Competition at Georgia Tech, the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, the Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, Athens Slingshot, the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, the International Csound Conference, and the Licino Refice

Conservatorio di Musica in Frosinone, Italy. Vidiksis's music has been recognized with awards from SCI, ASCAP, Phindie, and Blow-Up Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival. His works are available through HoneyRock Publishing and PARMA Recordings.

A devoted advocate of new music and improvisation, Vidiksis has served for six years as the conductor of the Temple Composers Orchestra, and two as a founding member on the executive board of the Impermanent Society of Philadelphia, a Philadelphia based organization that is focused on promoting freely improvised live performance that focuses on experimental sound and movement. He has performed in the North America, Europe, and China as an improviser in both percussion and electronics. His deep interest in bringing new works to life has led him to conduct numerous premieres, working with international groups such as Ensemble NJ_P and the Black Sea Symphony.

Vidiksis previously held positions as director of the wind ensemble at Drew University in Madison, NJ, and also as assistant conductor of the Delaware County Symphony in Aston, PA. Vidiksis holds degrees from Drew University, New York University, and Temple University, culminating in a doctoral degree in music composition. Vidiksis currently serves on the composition and music technology faculty of Temple University as a Conwell Entrepreneurial Fellow, where he teaches classes in music theory, orchestration, composition, and music technology. He is currently conductor of the Temple Composers Orchestra, faculty advisor to conTemplum (Boyer College's new-music student organization and student chapter of the Society of Composers, Inc.), director of the Boyer Electroacoustic Ensemble Project (BEEP), and has co-curated the electroacoustic concert series Cybersounds. vidiksis.com

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SPECIAL EVENTS

intersect

March 28, 2018

Annenberg Center

May 16, 2018

Clef Club of Jazz

7:30PM Meet and Greet

8:00PM Concert

intersect is a bold venture celebrating the common DNA shared by music in all its forms and showcasing the musicians of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Led by Philadelphia singer/songwriter, composer, and producer **Andrew Lipke**, in collaboration with Music Director **Dirk Brossé**, every *intersect* concert is an innovative, multi-genre exploration of music's numerous crossroads. Audiences at *intersect* are encouraged to challenge their conceptions of where one genre of music ends and another begins, while enjoying an unprecedented collaborative performance in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.. In juxtaposing seemingly polar styles, *intersect* illuminates the intrinsic universality of musical expression.

Brunch with Brossé

May 20, 2018 | 12:30PM

Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Dirk Brossé, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Discover how Music Director Brossé brings music from the page to the stage in a roundtable discussion. Examine the musical selections featured in upcoming programs with the Maestro before Sunday performances in a conversation over brunch.

This intimate endeavor takes place in the Comcast Circle at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts prior to select Sunday performances conducted by Maestro Brossé. Cost is \$40 per person, which includes brunch and your very own copy of the score. Space is limited.

Admission: \$40

215.545.5451

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Classical Conversations

Sunday Post-Concert Q&A

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts

COP Music Director Dirk Brossé hosts an informal and informative conversation and audience Q&A with featured artists in the Perelman Theater following all Sunday matinée performances.

Brillhart: All Baroque

February 25, 2018 | Post-Concert

Speakers: Jeffrey Brillhart, Bill Rhoads

Mozart, Mooke, and Fauré

April 1, 2018 | Post-Concert

Speakers: Dirk Brossé, Martha Mooke, Born Lau

Bluegrass, Bernstein, and the Blues

May 20, 2017 | Post-Concert

Speakers: Mark O'Connor, Dirk Brossé, Adam Vidiksis

Admission:

Included in Sunday's ticket

Concerts & Cocktails

Post-Concert Cocktail Hour

The PECO Bar at the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza

Immediately following every Monday series concert

This post-concert celebration, featuring cocktails crafted by Garces Group, offers patrons the opportunity to meet-and-greet with COP soloists, guest conductors, composers, and musicians.

Admission:

Included with the purchase of concert ticket

Bar:

Thank you to our 2017/2018 Season Partners



Driving hunger from our communities

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, in cooperation with the Kimmel Center of the Performing Arts, is partnering with Philabundance, the region's largest food bank providing nearly 90,000 people food per week.

During each Chamber Orchestra Sunday concert throughout the season, our performances will also become a charitable site to collect non-perishable food donations.

Media Sponsor



The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is proud to be sponsored by the Philadelphia area's leading provider of classical music, WRTI. Throughout the 2017-2018 season, WRTI will broadcast Live from exclusive COP events.

Tune into WRTI at 5PM on the 3rd Sunday of every month for a special broadcast of performances from the Chamber Orchestra.

Season Partnerships



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