

December 10, 2015



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**The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Announces National Search for New Executive Director**

Philadelphia, PA – The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, a founding resident company of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, announced today the departure of Executive Director Janelle McCoy effective January 2016. Ms. McCoy has been named the incoming Executive Director for the Oregon Bach Festival. .

Susan Schwartz McDonald, President of the COP Board, notes: “We are, of course, very disappointed to lose Janelle, who has been transformative for our organization in a relatively short time, but the Executive Committee of the Board has been working closely with her over the past 18 months, so we are able to oversee organizational operations while we mount a search for her replacement.”

Ms. McCoy joined the Chamber Orchestra as Executive Director in 2014, but her relationship with the organization as a mezzo-soprano and an artistic partner spanned more than a decade. “Leading The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia has been a true privilege,” McCoy said. “No other classical music organization in Philadelphia offers audiences such an intimate orchestral experience at such a high artistic level. Our musicians and our Music Director Dirk Brossé are world class, and the staff and Board are stronger than ever. Given all these resources, I have every confidence that this beloved ensemble will continue to grow and give great performances under new leadership.”

As Executive Director, McCoy has been instrumental not only in stabilizing the Chamber Orchestra’s finances by reducing overhead. She has also been highly effective in refining and implementing organizational strategy to expand the Chamber Orchestra’s artistic footprint, by broadening repertoire, reaching new audiences, and featuring exciting young talent. An example of that new breadth is last year’s national tour with Branford Marsalis, the most significant tour in its 51-year history. In addition, during the past two seasons, the Chamber Orchestra has performed in alternative venues across the city including Fringe Arts and World Cafe Live, while exploring multi-genre and multi-disciplinary performance with new collaborators.

Recently, the Chamber Orchestra announced an initiative through its board-designated “Special Projects Fund,” which will ensure underwriting and support for future commissions and particularly innovative projects. The first commission is a major work by Music Director Dirk Brossé, an internally-renowned composer who has premiered works with the Chamber Orchestra.

“The combination of artistic energy and fiscal discipline has enabled us to approach the future with renewed confidence and excitement,” said Ken Jarin, longtime Board member and Chair. “Although there’s heavy lifting ahead in the next few months as we look for just the right candidate, the committed oversight of the Board will ensure that we don’t lose momentum.”

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## **2015-2016 – 51<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.chamberorchestra.org)

215.893.1709

**September 20 & 21, 2015**

**DELIBES / TAO / SAINT-SAËNS**

**Dirk Brossé, conductor**

**Conrad Tao, piano and iPad**

Delibes: *Le roi s'amuse: Airs de Danse le Style Ancien*

Tao: Piano Concerto (World Premiere)

Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op.22

**October 18 & 19, 2015**

**THE FOUR SEASONS**

**Scott Yoo, play/conduct**

Piazzolla: Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Vivaldi: Le Quattro Stagioni, Op.8, Nos.1-4

*(The Four Seasons)*

**November 8 & 9, 2015**

**ALL BEETHOVEN**

**Dirk Brossé, conductor**

**Hanchien Lee, piano**

Beethoven: Coriolan Overture, Op.62

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major ("Emperor")

Beethoven: Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op.36

**December 5 & 6, 2015**

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

**James Judd, conductor**

Handel: Messiah, HWV 56 (Part I, "Hallelujah")

**February 28 & 29, 2016**

## **ARNOLD FLUTE CONCERTO**

**Dirk Brossé, conductor**

**Edward Schultz, flute**

Holst: St. Paul's Suite, Op.29, No. 2

Richter: *On the Nature of Daylight*

Arnold: Flute Concerto, Op.45

Bartók: Rumanian Folk Dances

Bloch: Suite Modale

Glass: Company

Herrmann: Suite from *Psycho*

**April 3 & 4, 2016**

## **BARTÓK / MENDELSSOHN**

**Ignat Solzhenitsyn, conductor**

Bartók: Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op.56

**May 15 & 16, 2016**

## **MENDELSSOHN / BROSSÉ / MOZART**

**Dirk Brossé, conductor**

**Lana Trotovsek, violin**

Di Vittorio: *Venus and Adonis*

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op.64

Brossé: *Echoes of Silent Voices*

Mozart: Symphony No.35 in D major, K.385 (*Haffner*)

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## **[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, 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' Orchestre 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, Sinead 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).

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## **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 51<sup>st</sup> Season 2015-16**

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