

March 1, 2016

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## **April 3 & 4, Conductor Laureate Ignat Solzhenitsyn Leads The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in Two All-Time Audience Favorites by Bartók and Mendelssohn**

(Philadelphia) April 3 & 4, Ignat Solzhenitsyn will conduct The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in two works: *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* (1936) by Béla Bartók and *Symphony No. 3 in A minor ("Scottish")* (1842) by Felix Mendelssohn. Both works have been popular with audiences since their premieres even though both challenged the orchestral conventions of their time. The Bartók work features several antiphonal effects created by a range of instruments including celeste, piano, xylophone, snare drum, cymbals, tam-tam, bass drum and timpani. Mendelssohn's "Scottish Symphony" was one of the very first symphonies conceived to be played without any pauses. The combination together is sure to be one of the most beautiful and evocative programs of the season.

The concerts on Sunday April 3 (2:30 pm) and Monday April 4 (7:30 pm) will be in the intimate Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. After the Monday evening concert, the audience is invited to gather at the Kimmel Center's PECO bar, enjoy a cocktail, and mingle with maestro Solzhenitsyn and orchestra musicians. Tickets can be ordered at [chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org).

Solzhenitsyn, the Conductor Laureate of the Chamber Orchestra, is delighted to be returning this season to conduct two of his favorite pieces. "I'm fascinated by the range of moods and qualities in this pair of works written almost a century apart by two brilliant composers. They are both full of subtle, sometimes surprising sounds and powerfully evocative rhythms and melodies. As a complete concert, this program will be a wonderful showcase of the very high quality and rare sensitivity of this excellent chamber orchestra!" The conductor added, "Even though we are performing the moodier work on the second half of the program, I can't think of a better way to celebrate the shift from winter to spring here in Philadelphia."

Notes about "Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste":

You may have heard *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* in settings other than concert halls, since parts of this Bartók work have been featured in several films and TV programs (including "Dr. Who") and even a contemporary hip hop recording. The second movement accompanies "Craig's Dance of Despair and Disillusionment" in the film *Being John Malkovich*, while the Adagio movement was featured in Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*. Anthony "Ant" Davis, from the underground hip hop group Atmosphere, also featured the Adagio on the album *Lucy Ford*. This Adagio, which features timpani glissandi and xylophone, is an example of Bartók's "night music". It is also commonly thought that the 1:2:3:5:8:5:3:2:1...rhythm of the xylophone solo that opens the third movement is based on the famous Fibonacci Sequence.

Notes about "Scottish":

In 1829, Mendelssohn visited the medieval ruins of Holyrood Chapel at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. This is how he described the experience in a private letter: "In the deep twilight we went today to the palace where Queen Mary lived and loved...The chapel below is now roofless. Grass and ivy thrive there and at the broken altar where Mary was crowned Queen of Scotland. Everything is ruined, decayed, and the clear heavens pour in. I think I have found there the beginning of my 'Scottish' Symphony."

Mendelssohn never publicly called attention to the symphony's Scottish "origins". Only after the composer's death did his biographer learn what first inspired the work. Since then, audiences everywhere have associated it with the wild romantic landscapes of Scotland. Although it was the fifth and final of Mendelssohn's symphonies to be completed, it was the third to be published. Unlike in his other symphonies, Mendelssohn marked the movements to be performed without any break, so that they emerge and evolve from the original musical idea he first wrote down after visiting the historic ruin outside Edinburgh.

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### **Concert Details:**

**2:30 pm, Sunday, April 3**

**7:30 pm, Monday, April 4**

**Ignat Solzhenitsyn, guest conductor**

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

[chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org) / 215.893.1709

[Tickets](#) \$24 - \$81

### **PROGRAM**

***Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste, BB 114 (1936) - Béla Bartók***

1. *Andante tranquillo*
2. *Allegro*
3. *Adagio*
4. *Allegro molto*

### **INTERMISSION**

***Symphony No. 3 in A minor ("Scottish") (1829-1842) – Felix Mendelssohn***

1. *Andante con moto*
2. *Vivace non troppo*
3. *Adagio*
4. *Allegro vivacissimo*

## **Ignat Solzhenitsyn – Guest Conductor**

Recognized as one of today's most gifted artists, and enjoying an active career as both conductor and pianist, Ignat Solzhenitsyn's lyrical and poignant interpretations have won him critical acclaim throughout the world. Maestro Solzhenitsyn currently serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and Conductor Laureate of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. From 2006 to 2011, he served as the Chamber Orchestra's Music Director for six seasons. Solzhenitsyn is much in demand as a guest conductor, having recently led the symphonies of Baltimore, Buffalo, Dallas, Indianapolis, Nashville, New Jersey, North Carolina, Seattle, Toledo, and Toronto, the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Czech National Symphony, as well as many of the major orchestras in Russia including the Mariinsky Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Moscow Philharmonic, the Bolshoi Symphony, and the Moscow Symphony. He has partnered with such world-renowned soloists as Richard Goode, Gary Graffman, Steven Isserlis, Leila Josefowicz, Sylvia McNair, Garrick Ohlsson, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Mitsuko Uchida.

In recent seasons, his extensive touring schedule in the United States and Europe has included concerto performances with numerous major orchestras, including those of Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Saint Louis, Los Angeles, Seattle, Baltimore, Washington, Montreal, Toronto, London, Paris, Israel, and Sydney, and collaborations with such distinguished conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, James Conlon, James DePreist, Charles Dutoit, Lawrence Foster, Valery Gergiev, Krzysztof Penderecki, André Previn, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gerard Schwarz, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Maxim Shostakovich, Yuri Temirkanov and David Zinman. In addition to his recital appearances in the United States at New York's 92nd Street Y, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, St. Paul's Ordway Theatre, Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, and many others from coast to coast, Mr. Solzhenitsyn has also given numerous recitals in Europe and the Far East in such major musical centers as London, Milan, Zurich, Moscow, Tokyo, and Sydney.

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Solzhenitsyn has collaborated with the Emerson, Borodin, Brentano, and St. Petersburg String Quartets, and in four-hand recital with Mitsuko Uchida. He has frequently appeared at international festivals, including Salzburg, Evian, Ludwigsburg, Caramoor, Ojai, Marlboro, Nizhniy Novgorod and Moscow's famed December Evenings.

A winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Ignat Solzhenitsyn serves on the piano faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Tanglewood Music Center. He has been featured on many radio and television specials, including CBS Sunday Morning and ABC's Nightline. Born in Moscow, Mr. Solzhenitsyn resides in New York City with his wife and three children.

### **[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'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. 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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## **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 Trovovsek, 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**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Season 2015-16**

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**ALL BEETHOVEN | November 8 & 9, 2015**

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