



# Baroque Unbound: Improvisation in the Time of Bach

The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia  
Annenberg Center Live Orchestra-in-Residence

**Stephen Tavani** Violin

**Frances Tate** Flute

**Glenn Fischbach** Cello

**Mark Rimple** Lute

Featuring **Kevin Laskey**, Composer – World Premiere

## PROGRAM

*There will be an intermission.*

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**Wednesday, November 1 @ 7:30 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **Telemann, Georg Philipp** (1681-1767)

*Paris Quartet No. 7 in D Major, TWV 43:D3* (1737)

- I. Prélude: Vivement
- II. Tendrement
- III. Vite
- IV. Gaiment
- V. Modérément
- VI. Vite

### **Bach, Johann Sebastian** (1685-1750)

*Trio Sonata from Musical Offering in C minor, BWV 1079* (1747)

- I. Largo
- II. Allegro
- III. Andante
- IV. Allegro

### **Laskey, Kevin** (b. 1990)

*Charade (an unruly dance suite)* (World Premiere)

### **Handel, George Frideric** (1685-1759)

*Trio Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 2, No. 2* (1733)

- I. Andante
- II. Allegro
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegro

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **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 the Curtis Institute of Music 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 70 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 at the Kimmel Center.

Over the course of the ensemble's rich and diverse history, The Chamber Orchestra

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.

### **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. 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 pieces that have been performed all over the world and 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 García Márquez; *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*.

Brossé has also composed extensively for cinema, television and stage. His 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, 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.

Brossé has made more than 80 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, he 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](http://dirkbrosse.be)

### **Kevin Laskey** (Composer)

Laskey is a composer, percussionist and music writer based in Philadelphia. His music lives in a netherworld between highly-notated concert music and more vernacular styles, drawing from classical, jazz and folkloric idioms alike. Laskey has written for a diverse range of acclaimed performers and ensembles including PRISM Quartet, Sō Percussion, Yarn/Wire, Bearthoven, Exceptet, Warp Trio, the San Francisco Choral Artists, soprano Tony Arnold, saxophonist Jan Berry Baker and trombonist Ray Anderson. Upcoming projects include new works for the Daedalus Quartet, Unheard-of Ensemble and Arcana New Music Ensemble.

As a percussionist, Laskey originated the drum set parts to genre-bending works by Anthony Davis and Laurie Altman, and has worked closely with composers Christian Wolff, John Luther Adams and Dan Trueman on presenting their major works for percussion. He also continues to perform as a jazz drummer with various groups in and around Philadelphia. As a music writer, Laskey has contributed pieces on music to NPR and the journal *Music & Literature*, and is the editor of *Jazz Speaks*, the official blog of The Jazz Gallery in New York City.

Laskey holds a BA in music, summa cum laude, from Princeton University where he received the Edward R. Cone Prize in music, the Louis Sudler Prize in the arts and won the university concerto competition. He holds an MA in music composition from Stony Brook University. He is currently completing a PhD in music composition at the University of Pennsylvania where he studies with James Primosch, Jay Reise and Anna Weesner.