



# THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA

*intersect10*

## **PROGRAM**

*There will be an intermission.*

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**Wednesday, February 20 @ 7:30 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre

This performance is part of The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Africa's vast influence on western classical and popular music styles is immeasurable. Though it would clearly be impossible to complete a comprehensive exploration of this enormous impact in one show, this installment of *intersect* will follow a few lines of influence as they weave their way through multiple musical decades, composers, performers and genres. From the ragtime swing of Scott Joplin and the delta blues of Robert Johnson, to the polyrhythmic vitality of Steve Reich and the pop synthesis of Paul Simon, we will explore some specific moments that were informed by African musical traditions and that inspired American musicians throughout our history, celebrating the wonderful results through performance, discussion and discovery.

This performance will feature works and arrangements by:

Paul Simon  
Steve Reich  
Robert Johnson  
Scott Joplin  
Wayne Shorter  
Bob Marley  
Andrew Lipke  
Vusi Mahlasela  
Fela Sowande

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Andrew Lipke**

Lipke is a Philadelphia-based, South African-born multi-instrumentalist and composer active in many different styles of music. Lipke moved to Philadelphia to pursue a degree in composition at the University of The Arts and has since gone on to become a critically acclaimed and sought-after arranger, producer, composer, performer and educator. He is driven by a passion to find the common ground between disparate styles of music and his career reflects this. He has performed as a vocalist with several prominent American orchestras (Indianapolis Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra) in addition to touring the country with the critically acclaimed Led Zeppelin tribute band Get The Led Out. He has produced dozens of records for local and regional artists and released five solo albums. In 2010, Lipke formed the Azrael String Quartet to perform music he had written for his album *The Plague* which upon release, was named one of 2011's 50 best albums by *Philadelphia Weekly*. His 2012 work, *Siddiqah*, was choreographed by The Columbus Dance Theatre for their production *Rock out*, which also included several string quartet arrangements of classic rock songs Lipke completed for the Carpe Diem String Quartet. In 2013, Lipke wrote a punk rock score for the internationally released EPIX film *Back Issues: The Hustler Magazine Story* and in 2014, he had the privilege of completing orchestral arrangements for Blue Note Records artist Amos Lee's sold-out show with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra at the legendary Red Rocks amphitheater.

Lipke has always valued music education and through his involvement with the Philadelphia based non-profit LiveConnections, he has collaborated with several members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and other prominent local and regional musicians creating collaborative, cross-genre presentations for young people highlighting the transformative and boundary-crossing nature of music. In 2015, Lipke was invited by music director Dirk Brossé to collaborate with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia to create and curate an innovative, cross-genre concert series named *intersect*. Lipke is currently working on a cross-platform album/orchestral work based on the Herman Hesse book *Siddhartha*, in addition to a number of other projects.

### **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 leading 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 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 ninth season as Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In the 2018-2019 season, the Orchestra will also perform five programs at the Kimmel Center.

Over the course of the ensemble's rich and diverse history, the Chamber Orchestra has performed with internationally acclaimed guest artists such 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.



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