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ROCO's 2014-2015 Alive In Concert Series Finale "Notes To Be Written"
Features Pierre Jalbert World Premiere Featuring Mezzo-Soprano Sasha Cooke
Thursday, April 23rd, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at The Church of St. John the Divine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 11, 2015



Sasha Cooke

HOUSTON — ROCO (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra) performs its 10th Anniversary Alive In Concert series finale, "Notes To Be Written," featuring the world premiere of "*From Dusk To Starry Night*" by Pierre Jalbert, led by conductor David Danzmayr and featuring mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, April 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at The Church of St. John the Divine.

In keeping with ROCO's 10th Anniversary season theme of programming works based on literary sources, Pierre Jalbert's "*From Dusk To Starry Night*" draws from the poetry of Walt Whitman and Stephen Foster. The program also comprises two works by Felix Mendelssohn: his Symphony Number 5 ("*Reformation*") and "*Hebrides Overture*."

"*From Dusk to Starry Night*' takes as its theme the many meanings and characteristics of 'night'", says composer Pierre Jalbert. "The work contains four songs, each one with its own contrasting character. The first song, '*The night in silence*,' contains texts of Walt Whitman, references the clear starry night and, in the middle section, the rising moon. The second song is a fast moving scherzo of sorts, from a poem of Amy Lowell, referencing fireflies at midnight. The third song, also from Whitman, alludes to the sounds of war, beating drums and bugles. Though it does not directly refer to night, I thought of this as a kind of apocalyptic nighttime battle scene, full of calamity and intensity. The last song uses the text of a Stephen Foster song, '*Slumber My Darling*.' Though its lullaby characteristics remain, the melody and setting is very different."

One of the most highly-regarded American composers of his generation, Pierre Jalbert has won the Rome Prize, the BBC Masterprize, the Chamber Music of Lincoln Center's Stoeger Award and the American Academy of Arts and Letters award. Noted for his mastery of instrumental and orchestra colors, Jalbert's work has been heard in recent seasons in performances by The Boston Symphony, The Houston Symphony, The Vermont Symphony, The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and The California Symphony. He has held the position of professor of composition and theory at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music since 1996.

Grammy-award-winning young mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke was hailed by The San Francisco Chronicle as "the glory of the production" for her triumphant assumption of the title role in the world premiere of Mark Adamo's "*The Gospel of Mary Magdalen*" at San Francisco Opera. Other recent engagements include Britten's "Spring Symphony" with Alan Gilbert and The New York Philharmonic, as well as performances with Pierre Boulez and The Chicago Symphony, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and The Philadelphia Orchestra. Houston audiences will remember her role debut as Magnolia in

Houston Grand Opera's recent production of Jerome Kern's *"Show Boat."* Other recent operatic engagements include her role debut in the title role of Donizetti's *"Anna Bolena"* with Opéra National de Bordeaux and Sonja in Domenick Argento's *"The Aspern Papers"* with Dallas Opera.

Now in his second season as Music Director of the Illinois Philharmonic in Chicago, conductor David Danzmayr has also been appointed Music Director of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. The young Austrian conductor won second prize at the 2013 Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition, and has appeared as guest conductor with The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, The Sinfonieorchester Basel, The Mozarteum Orchester, The Salzburg Chamber Philharmonic and The Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna to name a few. For his extraordinary success he has been awarded the Bernhard Paumgartner Medal by the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum.

Until recently, Ertan Torgul held the post of associate concertmaster with The San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, also serving as acting concertmaster for four seasons. He has performed as soloist and guest concertmaster for the symphonies of San Francisco, Indianapolis, Sacramento, Phoenix, Tucson and many others.

Tickets for the April 23 concert at [The Church of St. John the Divine](http://www.rocohouston.org) are \$35 for General Admission, \$25 for Seniors and \$15 for Students. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.rocohouston.org.

ROCO Alive in Concert: *Notes To Be Written*

Thursday, April 23, 2015

7:30 p.m., The Church of St. John the Divine
2450 River Oaks Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77019

Tickets: \$35 general admission, \$25 Senior, \$15 for students at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700

Program:

Mendelssohn *Hebrides Overture*

Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 5, Reformation*

Jalbert *From Dusk To Starry Night* (ROCO Commissioned World Premiere)

David Danzmayr, conductor
Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano
Ertan Torgul, concertmaster
Pierre Jalbert, composer

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