



PRESS RELEASE

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ROCO Performs Concert of *Serious Fun*

Performance on Saturday, November 8, 5:00 p.m. at The Church of St. John the Divine

Performance on Sunday, November 9, 4:00 p.m. at The Centrum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2014

HOUSTON — [River Oaks Chamber Orchestra](#) (ROCO) shows both its serious and fun sides in a concert featuring the [Beethoven](#) Piano Concerto No. 1 alongside a world premiere composition based on the famous [Lewis Carroll](#) nonsense poem *Jabberwocky*. The composition by [Anthony DiLorenzo](#) is the 37th world premiere commissioned by ROCO since 2005. Leading it all from the podium will be the inimitable [Alastair Willis](#), who returns to conduct ROCO for the sixth time in their first ten years.

Also returning to ROCO will be pianist [Anne-Marie McDermott](#) performing the [Beethoven](#) *Piano Concerto No. 1*. “Anne is one our favorites so we had to ask her back for this special 10th season.” said [Alecia Lawyer](#), Founder and Artistic Director of ROCO. “And Tony has played trumpet with us and knows ROCO from the inside so we’re very excited to hear what he composes just for us.” For this commission, Mr. DiLorenzo immersed himself in the *Jabberwocky* poem and hopes listeners will lose themselves in the music. “The music will take the audience down the rabbit hole into Alice’s wondrous world,” said Mr. DiLorenzo. “I feel it’s important to capture her surroundings in this upside down inverted universe, as well as add underscoring and bringing to life the story within the story.”

The concert also includes [Mendelssohn’s](#) *Overture “The Fair Melusina”* and the *Overture to the Wasps* by [Vaughan Williams](#). Alastair Willis summarizes this seriously fun concert best: “To a literary-themed program you are called, beware the *Jabberwock* and prepare to be enthralled. With heavyweights like Beethoven, Vaughan Williams and DiLorenzo, for sure ‘twill be brillig – as always with ROCO!”

Tickets for the Saturday concert at [The Church of St. John the Divine](#) are \$35 for General Admission, \$25 for Seniors and \$15 for Students and the performance begins at 5:00 pm. Tickets for the Sunday concert at [The Centrum](#) are \$25 General Admission, \$20 Seniors and \$10 Students and the performance begins at 4:00 pm. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.rocohouston.org

ROCO Alive in Concert: *Serious Fun*

Saturday, November 8, 2014

5:00 p.m., The Church of St. John the Divine

2450 River Oaks Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77019

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

Sunday, November 9, 2014

4:00 p.m., The Centrum

6823 Cypresswood Dr.

Spring, Texas 77379

Tickets: \$25 General Admission, \$20 Senior, \$10 Students at www.rocohouston.org or 281-440-4850

Program:

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 1*

Mendelssohn *Overture "The Fair Melusina"*

Vaughan Williams *Overture to the Wasps*

DiLorenzo *Jabberwocky (ROCO Commissioned World Premiere)*

Alastair Willis, conductor

Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Anton Miller, concertmaster

Anthony DiLorenzo, composer

Musician Bios:



Alastair Willis Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis is currently the Music Director of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. Previous positions include Principal Guest Conductor with the Florida Orchestra's Coffee Concert series, Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony, Assistant Conductor with the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras, and Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. In the past few seasons, Willis has guest conducted orchestras around the world including the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfonica de Rio de Janeiro, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, China National Orchestra (Beijing), and Silk Road Ensemble (with Yo-Yo Ma) among others. His recording of Ravel's "L'Enfant et les Sortilèges" with Nashville Symphony and Opera for Naxos was Grammy nominated for Best Classical Album in 2009.



Anne-Marie McDermott In a career that has spanned over 25 years, American pianist Anne-Marie McDermott has played concertos, recitals and chamber music in hundreds of cities throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. The breadth of her repertoire matches that of her instrument, spanning from Bach, Haydn and Beethoven to Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev and Scriabin to works by today's most influential composers -- Aaron Jay Kernis, Steven Hartke, Joan Tower and Charles Wuorinen, among them. As an Artistic Director, Ms. McDermott leads the Ocean Reef Chamber Music Festival in Florida and the Avila Chamber Music Celebration in Curacao.



Anthony DiLorenzo Emmy Award winning composer Anthony DiLorenzo grew up in Stoughton Massachusetts. His music is performed throughout the world by symphony orchestras and chamber groups, including The San Francisco Symphony, The New World Symphony, The Louisiana Philharmonic, The Utah Symphony, The Tokyo Symphony, and The Boston Pops Orchestra. Burning River Brass under the direction of Feza Zweifel, regularly performs Anthony's works in their concerts. You can also hear his music weekly on ABC's College Football, Ice Skating, Horse racing and countless cues for ESPN, HBO, FOX and numerous campaigns for NBC.



Anton Miller Since giving his Carnegie Hall concerto debut in 1992 with the New Chamber Orchestra of New York, American violinist Anton Miller has appeared throughout the United States and abroad as a soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and pedagogue. Miller gave the world premiere performance in Beijing, China of Xiaogang Ye's *Last Paradise* for violin and orchestra. He has made several appearances in Brazil to tour Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, and Brahms Concertos with the Orchestra Sinfonica de Campinas, and has performed recital tours in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, and China.

About ROCO

ROCO is a Houston-based professional chamber orchestra of 40 select musicians, distinguished guest conductors and dynamic composers who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist Alecia Lawyer, ROCO has been called the most fun you can have with serious music. www.rocohouston.org

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