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ROCO in Concert presents *ROCO Celebrates France*

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

Performance on Sunday, April 6, 5:00 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 27, 2014



Photo credit:
Todd Rosenburg

HOUSTON — [River Oaks Chamber Orchestra](#) (ROCO) continues its chamber orchestra concert season titled *Around the World in ROCO Ways* with a performance of *ROCO Celebrates France* on April 5 – 6. Returning to the podium for ROCO will be Guest Conductor Alastair Willis to conduct Houston's only resident full-sized chamber orchestra in a performance of Debussy, Ibert and more.

Mr. Willis will lead ROCO in a performance of *Petite Suite* by [Claude Debussy](#) and *Divertissement* by [Jacques Ibert](#). ROCO, known for performing a repertoire of well-known, lesser-known and brand new music, will also include a reconstructed bassoon concerto by [Francois Devienne](#). For this piece, ROCO Principal Bassoonist Kristin Wolfe Jensen discovered a recording of the piece but ROCO librarian, Jason Stephens, was unable to find a complete score. Mr. Stephens then worked with Ms. Jensen to painstakingly reconstruct the score in parts from various sources.

ROCO continues its commitment to living composers with another world premiere commission titled *Le Tombeau de Cartier-Bresson* by Carter Pann. Mr. Pann composed this piece based on the photography of [Henri-Cartier-Bresson](#). It is dedicated to Terri Golas, who was General Manager at ROCO for five seasons and is a longtime friend.

Tickets for the Saturday concert at The Church of St. John the Divine are \$25 for General Admission and \$10 for Students. Tickets for the Sunday concert at Grace Presbyterian Church are \$20 for General Admission and \$10 for Students. Both concerts begin at 5:00 pm and tickets are available at the door or online at www.rocohouston.org

ROCO in Concert: ROCO Celebrates France

Saturday, April 5, 2014

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

2450 River Oaks Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77019

Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$10 for students at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700

Sunday, April 6, 2014

5:00 p.m., Grace Presbyterian Church

10221 Ella Lee Lane

Houston, Texas 77042

Tickets: \$20 general admission, \$10 for students at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700

Program:

Claude Debussy *Petite Suite*

Jacques Ibert *Divertissement*

Francois Devienne *Concerto No. 4 (in C Major) for Bassoon and Orchestra*

Carter Pann *Le Tombeau de Cartier-Bresson (World Premiere)*

Musician Bios:

Alastair Willis In 1999, Mr. Willis was invited to the American Symphony Orchestra League's National Conductor Preview in Salt Lake City and awarded a conducting fellowship to attend the Tanglewood Music Festival, where he studied and collaborated with Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano, Sir Andre Previn, Michael Thomas Tilson and Jorma Panula. Since then he has appeared with many orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Louisiana Symphony and North Carolina Symphony. Internationally, he has worked with the China National Symphony Orchestra Beijing, the Orchestra de Bretagne (France), Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Mexico City Philharmonic.



Photo Credit:
Todd Rosenberg Photography

Born in Massachusetts, Mr. Willis lived with his family in Moscow for five years before settling in Surrey, England. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from Bristol University and continued his studies at Kingston University, where he earned a post graduate Certificate of Education degree, teaching classroom music from grade school to high school levels. He won a scholarship in 1996 to study with Maestro Larry Rachleff at the Shephard School of Music, graduating with a Master of Music degree in 1999. In addition to assisting Maestro Rachleff, he spent three years as Principal Conductor of the Campanile Orchestra.

Carter Pann In the last fifteen years Carter Pann's music has become known for its blend of crafty, popular-sounding idioms, subtle and unabashed humor, and haunted melodic writing. His music has been performed around the world by such ensembles and soloists as the London Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, Berlin-Stockholm-Finnish Radio Symphonies, Seattle Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, National Symphony of Ireland, New York Youth Symphony, Richard Stoltzman, the Ying Quartet, pianists Barry Snyder and Winston Choi, and the Antares ensemble, among others. Honors in composition include the K.Serocki Competition for his First Piano Concerto (premiered by the Polish Radio Symphony in Lutoslawski Hall, Warsaw 1998), the Charles Ives Scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters, and five ASCAP composer awards. His Piano Concerto was nominated for a GRAMMY as "Best Classical Composition of the Year" 2001. His most recent work, *MERCURY CONCERTO* for flute and orchestra, was written for and premiered by fellow faculty member Christina Jennings and the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston.



Kristin Wolfe Jensen is the Principal Bassoonist of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. She is also Professor of Bassoon at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, and is on the faculty of the International Festival Institute at Round Top. She has a number of other critically acclaimed solo and chamber music recordings, including *Parables and Reflections*, bassoon music of Virko Baley, on the TNC label. Ms. Jensen is Co-director of the biennial Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition for young women bassoonists from the Americas, providing the largest prizes of any bassoon competition in the world. Ms. Jensen has toured Europe with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, served as Acting Principal Bassoonist of the Houston Grand Opera, and has been a member of the Dallas Opera Orchestra, the Richardson Symphony, the Las Vegas Symphony, Jupiter Symphony of New York and Continuum.



About ROCO

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star 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