



River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

MEDIA CONTACT

Carey Kirkpatrick, The CKP Group, 832-930-4065 x101 / carey@theckpgroup.com



River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Announces Season 12: “Go Boldly!”

HOUSTON — The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) announces its 2016-2017 season, themed “Go Boldly,” with programming that expands the professional chamber orchestra’s footprint, new commissioned works from energetic composers and state-of-the-art technology to further connect audiences with performing artists.

“ROCO’s 12th season builds upon the concept of stepping into an unknown space and wildcatting,” says Alecia Lawyer, ROCO founder, artistic director and principal oboist. “Risk-taking in the arts isn’t simply about doing wild and unexpected things. It’s also about using extremely talented people to realize their own ideas.”

This season marks ROCO’s bold entrance into The Woodlands following a successful debut series by the ROCO Brass Quintet at The Woodlands United Methodist Church in 2015. ROCO continues presenting these intimate chamber concerts while adding performances that feature the full 40-piece orchestra as part of ROCO’s “In Concert” series. ROCO’s entrance into The Woodlands for 2016-17 marks the continuation of ROCO’s efforts to perform throughout the Greater Houston area, with 39 concerts in 16 different venues performed throughout the region.

- MORE -

PAGE 2

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

ROCO continues its bold tradition of new commissions as part of the “In Concert” performances. Featured composers on the 2016-17 season include Pulitzer prize winner Jennifer Higdon, Michael Gilbertson, Eduardo Lorenz and Alex Miller.

ROCO continues its partnership with Octava, the innovative digital program note and commentary delivery app. ROCO will utilize Octava as an enhancement mechanism to directly communicate with the audience in real time, offering insightful commentary from the musicians, scholars and guest artists during performance.

ROCO In Concert

ROCO launches its 2016–2017 In Concert series with “**Dance Like No One’s Watching**,” Sept. 23 at Miller Outdoor Theatre and Sept. 24 at The Church of St. John the Divine (SJD). The program features the Texas premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s *Dance Card*, a work for string orchestra based on the baroque dance suite form, which ROCO co-commissioned with the San Francisco-based New Century Chamber Orchestra. Mei Ann Chen conducts and Scott St. John returns as concertmaster for this program that also features Dmitri Shostakovich’s *Ballet Suite No. 2*, Fanny Mendelssohn’s *Overture in C* and Mikhail Glinka’s *Kamarinskaya*.

Nov. 18 at The Woodlands United Methodist Church (TWUMC), and Nov. 19 at SJD, ROCO presents “**Space: The Final Playground**.” The program features another ROCO commission and the Texas premiere of Michael Gilbertson’s *Cosmos*, a piece in five short movements, each of which is inspired by an element of the cosmos. During the concert, soloists from WindSync — a theatrical, Houston-based wind quintet — will move throughout the performance space while playing. David Danzmayr conducts the program, which also includes Franz Schubert’s *Symphony No. 6*, Czech composer Vilém Tausky’s *Coventry* and *Elgia Andina* by Gabriella Franks.

ROCO audience favorite Andrés Cárdenes returns to lead ROCO’s annual conductorless concert on Feb. 24, 2017, at TWUMC, and Feb. 25, 2017, at SJD. The Grammy-nominated violinist will lead from the chair and serve as soloist during “**People are People**.” The program features the world premiere of a violin concerto commissioned by ROCO and written specifically for Cárdenes by Eduardo Lorenz. Other works on the program are Luigi Rodolfo Boccherini’s *Symphony No. 25 in A-Major* and Aaron Copland’s *Three Latin American Sketches*.

The Season 12 “In Concert” series comes to a close on March 31, 2017, at TWUMC and April 1, 2017, at SJD, with “**Double Trouble**.” The concert includes the ROCO commissioned world premiere of Alexander Miller’s *Concerto Grosso for double reeds* along with Saverio Mercadante’s *Concerto for Flute in E-minor* featuring ROCO flutist Brook Ferguson.

- MORE -

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

ROCO Unchambered

ROCO's Unchambered series, on the stage at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH), features individual ROCO musicians in an intimate chamber ensemble. The series opens Oct. 9 with "**Fantasy, Love and Sex(tet)**," featuring cellist Richard Belcher and violinist CeCe Belcher in a program that comprises Robert Schumann's *Fantasy Pieces Op. 73 for Cello and Piano*, Erwin Schulhoff's *Duo for Violin and Cello* and Ernő Dohnányi's *Sextet for Clarinet, Horn, Piano, Violin, Viola and Cello*.

Violinist Aloysia Friedmann is the featured artist for "**Tasting Menu**" on Nov. 13. Along with pianist Scott Cuellar, Friedmann performs Eugene Ysaie's *Solo Sonata No. 3 in D-minor, Op. 27*; Robert Schumann's *Sonata No. 2 in D-minor*, and a quartet of tangos by Isaac Albeniz, Astor Piazzolla, Paul Schoenfeld and Igor Stravinsky.

On Feb. 12, 2017, percussionist Matt McClung and violinist Maureen Nelson perform a program of solos and duets, including Astor Piazzolla's *L'histoire du Tango*, in a program titled "**Stolen Moments**." In this unique program, Nelson and McClung perform works originally intended for their counterpart's instrument.

The Unchambered series concludes March 5, 2017, with Franz Schubert's *Octet*. "**Schubert Octet**" features clarinetist Nathan Williams.

ROCO Brass Quintet

During Season 12, the celebrated ROCO Brass Quintet (Jason Adams, trumpet; George Chase, trumpet; Gavin Reed, horn; Thomas Hultén, trombone; Jared Lantzy, bass trombone) returns for a series of performances in The Woodlands. The group also performs Friday evening "Rush Hour" concerts at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH).

ROCO Connections

Each season, ROCO collaborates with dynamic partners throughout the Houston community with a series of "Connections" concerts. The 2016–2017 lineup includes:

- An annual Musical and Literary Ofrenda at Lawndale Art Center on Oct. 25.
- A performance by the ROCO Brass Quintet at The Centrum on Cypress Creek's FACE series on Dec. 13.
- A Beer and Brass performance by the ROCO Brass Quintet at Saint Arnold Brewing Co. on Jan. 5, 2017.
- A partnership with Interactive Theater Company that brings Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* to life at the Houston Zoo on Jan. 22, 2017. The concert is also performed at Texas Children's Hospital thanks to a generous grant from The Moran Foundation.

PAGE 4

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

- A performance by ROCO clarinetist Maiko Sasaki at Asia Society Texas Center on March 23, 2017 titled “**Roots, Reeds and Rhapsody.**” The program includes Sergei Prokofiev’s *Overture on Hebrew Themes*, Franz Liszt’s *Hungarian Rhapsody*, Béla Bartók’s *Romanian Folk Dances*, Claude Debussy’s *Pagodas from Estampes*, Zhou Long’s *Song of the Ch’in* and Bright Sheng’s *Concertino for Clarinet and String Quartet*.
- A presentation of “Music Under the Stars” by the ROCO Brass Quintet on April 21, 2017, at Colonial Park in West University.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions, from \$50, are on sale now. For more information or to purchase a subscription, visit ROCOHouston.org.

ABOUT THE RIVER OAKS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) is a 40-piece professional chamber orchestra that was founded in 2005 by Alecia Lawyer. A Juilliard-trained musician with an eclectic background as a performer, recording artist, adjunct professor and radio host, Lawyer had a vision to reimagine the orchestral experience for both audience and musicians. The result is ROCO: An orchestra of all-star musicians, distinguished conductors and contemporary composers who come together from all over the world to present unexpected classics, original compositions and delightful performances that dissolve the barriers between audience and orchestra.

Website: <https://rocohouston.org>

Public phone number: 713-665-2700

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rocohouston>

Instagram: @rocohouston

Twitter: @rocohouston

#

- MORE -

PAGE 5

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

**RIVER OAKS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
2016–2017 SEASON CALENDAR**

ROCO IN CONCERT: “DANCE LIKE NO ONE’S WATCHING”

Friday, September 23, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Miller Outdoor Theater

Saturday, September 24, 2016, 5 p.m.

The Church of St. John the Divine

UNCHAMBERED: “FANTASY, LOVE AND SEX(TET)”

FEATURING RICHARD AND CECE BELCHER

Sunday, October 9, 2016, 5 p.m.

Matchbox 3, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

ROCO BRASS QUINTET

Friday, October 14, 2016, 6 p.m.

Matchbox 4, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

Sunday, October 16, 2016, 5 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

CONNECTIONS: MUSICAL AND LITERARY OFRENDA AT LAWNSDALE ART CENTER

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 6 p.m.

Lawnsdale Art Center

UNCHAMBERED: “TASTING MENU”

FEATURING ALOYSIA FRIEDMANN

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 5 p.m.

Matchbox 3, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

ROCO IN CONCERT: “SPACE: THE FINAL PLAYGROUND”

Friday, November 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 5 p.m.

The Church of St. John the Divine

**CONNECTIONS: ROCO BRASS QUINTET ON CYPRESS CREEK FACE SERIES AT
THE CENTRUM**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 3 p.m.

The Centrum

- MORE -

PAGE 6

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

CONNECTIONS: BEER AND BRASS AT ST. ARNOLD'S BREWERY

Thursday, January 5, 2017, 6 p.m.

Saint Arnold Brewing Company

CONNECTIONS: PETER AND THE WOLF AT THE HOUSTON ZOO

Sunday, January 22, 2017, 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Houston Zoo

ROCO BRASS QUINTET

Friday, January 27, 2017, 6 p.m.

Matchbox 4, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

Sunday, January 29, 2017, 5 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

UNCHAMBERED: "STOLEN MOMENTS"

FEATURING MAUREEN NELSON AND MATT MCCLUNG

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 5 p.m.

Matchbox 3, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

ROCO IN CONCERT: "PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE" / CONDUCTORLESS CONCERT

Friday, February 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 25, 2017, 5 p.m.

The Church of St. John the Divine

UNCHAMBERED: "SCHUBERT OCTET"

FEATURING NATHAN WILLIAMS

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 5 p.m.

Matchbox 3, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

CONNECTIONS: ROOTS, REEDS AND RHAPSODY

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Asia Society Texas Center

ROCO IN CONCERT: "DOUBLE TROUBLE"

Friday, March 31, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 5 p.m.

The Church of St. John the Divine

- MORE -

PAGE 7

ROCO Announces 2016–2017 Season

ROCO BRASS QUINTET

Friday, April 7, 2017, 6 p.m.

Matchbox 2, Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

Sunday, April 9, 2017, 5 p.m.

Woodlands United Methodist Church

CONNECTIONS: “MUSIC UNDER THE STARS”

Friday, April 21, 2017, 7 p.m.

Colonial Park, West University