



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Terri Golas, 713-665-2700, terri@rocohouston.org

Alecia Lawyer, 713-665-2700, alecia@rocohouston.org

ROCO Presents *Mutual Affection – Conductorless!*

Performance on Saturday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church

Performance on Sunday, February 14, 5:00 p.m. at The Church of St. John the Divine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2014

HOUSTON – River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) is in the mood for love simply because the audience is near them. Or should we say nearer to them — because they are conductorless! The mood is fitting for a romance with Dvorak and a salute to love with Elgar as ROCO presents its annual conductorless concert on Valentine’s weekend.

ROCO welcomes international soloist and conductor [Cho-Liang Lin](#) as concertmaster and soloist for a Valentine-themed concert that includes a world premiere commission by Derek Bermel and works by Elgar, Dvorak and Schubert.

In 2014, ROCO was invited to join a national consortium of the top chamber orchestras in the country to jointly commission a piece that ROCO would premiere this February. [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#) in San Francisco and [A Far Cry](#) from Boston partnered with ROCO to commission a major new piece for chamber orchestra by [Derek Bermel](#) in the first of a potentially fruitful coalition of peer organizations whose goal is to further the chamber orchestra repertoire. Creative collaborations such as these are part of ROCO’s mission. “We are committed to not only making classical music feel alive in how we present music and connect with our audience,” said ROCO founder and artistic director, [Alecia Lawyer](#), “but we are committed to physically keeping it alive through the creation of contemporary music by living composers. This is why our 2014-2015 orchestra series is named *ROCO Alive in Concert*.”

Tickets for the Friday concert at [Grace Presbyterian Church](#) are \$35 General Admission, \$25 Seniors and \$15 Students and the performance begins at 7:30 pm. 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. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.rocohouston.org

ROCO Alive in Concert: *Mutual Affection – Conductorless!*

Friday, February 13, 2015

7:30 p.m., Grace Presbyterian Church

10221 Ella Lee Lane

Houston, TX 77042

Tickets: \$35 General Admission, \$25 Senior, \$15 Students at www.rocohouston.org or 281-440-4850

Saturday, February 14, 2015

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

Program:

Elgar *Salut d'Amour*

Dvorak *Romance for Violin and Orchestra*

Schubert *Symphony No. 5*

Bermel *Murmurations*

([National Chamber Orchestra Commissioning Consortium](http://www.nationalchamberorchestra.com) world premiere)

[Cho-Liang Lin](#), concertmaster and soloist

[Derek Bermel](#), composer

Musician Bios:



Cho-Liang Lin, concertmaster and soloist

Violinist [Cho-Liang Lin](#) is lauded the world over for the eloquence of his playing and for the superb musicianship that marks his performances. In a concert career spanning the globe for more than thirty years, he is equally at home with orchestra, in recital, playing chamber music, and in a teaching studio. He was invited to join the faculty of the Juilliard School in 1991. More recently he was appointed professor of violin at the Shepherd School of Music. Mr. Lin has been Music Director of La Jolla Society's Summerfest since 2001.



Derek Bermel, composer

Described by the Toronto Star as an "eclectic with wide open ears", Grammy-nominated composer and clarinetist [Derek Bermel](#) has been widely hailed for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity. Bermel's works draw from a rich variety of musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop, rock, blues, folk, and gospel. Hands-on experience with music of cultures around the world has become part of the fabric and force of his compositional language. Bermel holds B.A. and D.M.A. degrees from Yale University and the University of Michigan.

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

###