



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: James Rowland**

**713.665.2700**

**james@rocohouston.org**

**www.rocohouston.org**

### **ROCO Honors our Veterans with the Music of John Philip Sousa**

**October 8, 2013, HOUSTON, TX.** The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) salutes our nation's veterans with a rousing Veteran's Day weekend performance of *ROCO Sousa Style* led by conductor Keith Brion of the New Sousa Band. The first flag-waving performance will be on Saturday, November 9 at the Church of St. John the Divine at 5:00 pm. The second performance will be a *free* concert at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center on Sunday, November 10 at 6:30 pm. At either concert, all veterans and uniformed military personnel are admitted for free.

Mr. Brion has led orchestras around the world, dressing in Sousa attire and recreating the Sousa band experience by programming concerts as Sousa himself would have led them over 100 years ago today. With ROCO, Mr. Brion will once again recreate a Sousa concert experience with the music of Sousa, Grainger, Strauss, Kern, Dvořák and Cohan. There will be marches, overtures, polka music and an audience sing-along of patriotic tunes by George M. Cohan. Soprano Alicia Gianni will perform songs from Jerome Kern and Antonín Dvořák while ROCO musicians Joseph Foley and Thomas Hulten will perform a brass duet by H. L. Clarke. ROCO percussionist Matthew McClung completes the festive evening of turn-of-the-century musical selections with the one and only ragtime hit *Fluffy Ruffles* by G. H. Green.

Tickets for Saturday night's performance are \$25 General Admission, \$10 Student and free for all uniformed military personnel and veterans. They can be purchased at [www.rocohouston.org](http://www.rocohouston.org). Sunday's concert is free to all in honor of the men and women who have served or are serving to protect our great nation.

#### **ROCO Sousa Style**

**Keith Brion, conductor**

**Alicia Gianni, soprano**

**Joseph Foley, cornet**

**Thomas Hulten, trombone**

**Matthew McClung, percussion**

**Saturday, November 9, 2013**

5:00 at The Church of St. John the Divine  
2450 River Oaks Blvd. (at Westheimer Rd.)

\$25 General Admission; \$10 Students  
Uniformed veterans and military personnel are free

**Sunday, November 10, 2013**

6:30 at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center  
2002 Holcombe Blvd.  
Admission is free

[Keith Brion](#), Music Director of his own New Sousa Band, has appeared as a frequent guest conductor with nearly all of America's major symphony orchestras and professional bands. His New Sousa Band, begun in 1979, is a realization of Mr. Brion's dream to reincarnate the Sousa Band and once again tour America's towns and cities. In addition to leading the New Sousa Band, Mr. Brion maintains an active career as an orchestra conductor, presenting his popular Sousa revival concerts with almost all of America's symphony orchestras, including the Boston Pops, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the St. Louis, Dallas, Milwaukee symphonies. His overseas orchestral engagements have included the London Concert Orchestra and the Gothenburg Symphony. Mr. Brion is currently recording the complete wind music of John Philip Sousa for Naxos records with London's Royal Artillery Band. Eight volumes of a projected 16 CD series have been recorded.



[Alicia Gianni](#) American Soprano Alicia Gianni, whose performances have been described as “charming, impressive” and “powerfully real,” has notably been seen on the stages of opera houses and concert halls both nationally and internationally. More recently, Ms. Gianni has been performing jazz/pop throughout the city of Houston. In 1997, she was awarded 1st place in a vocal competition at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, performing with such artists as Herb Ellis and Elvin Jones in the evening concert for 6,000 fans. She attended the University of Washington where she performed as a featured soloist with the UW Jazz Choir and received her graduate degree in Opera performance at the College-Conservatory of Music at University Cincinnati. An avid recitalist, she was discovered singing at a private recital at a ranch just outside of Houston and was asked to sing at the Loews Las Vegas Resort for Magic Johnson, and Craig Ferguson for a T-Mobile convention. The Alicia Gianni Trio has performed at Café Adagio, private parties and weddings, King Biscuit Patio Café and The Tasting Room at Uptown Park. Ms. Gianni sings frequently at Eddie V's in Houston and is currently working on her debut album at Sugar Hill Studios as a singer/songwriter.



[Joseph Foley](#) has been principal trumpet of the Rhode Island Philharmonic since 1990, and is the Principal Trumpet of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed and toured with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Boston Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Ballet of London, and the New York Philharmonic. As a soloist, he has performed with the Boston Pops, the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, and at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. He can be heard on recordings of the Boston Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Atlantic Brass, Empire Brass, the Metropolitan Opera Brass and many others. His first solo CD is due out this year. A clinician for the Vincent Bach Corporation, he has presented master classes at music schools around the world.



[Thomas Hulten](#) is Principal Trombone with ROCO, the Houston Grand Opera/Houston Ballet and Affiliate Artist with the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. He started playing at the age of ten in the local Salvation Army Band in his hometown of Katrineholm, Sweden. Since moving to Houston in 1997, he has performed with the Houston Symphony, Theater Under The Stars, Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Dave Brubeck, Natalie Cole, Barry Manilow, Patti Austin, Johnny Mathis and Michael Bolton. Hulten has played in the orchestra for several touring Broadway musicals, most recently “A Chorus Line” and “Wicked” at the Hobby Center in Houston. He has been featured at the International Trombone Festival and has toured Europe, Japan, Germany, Holland Australia, New Zealand and the USA. His album “Slide Side” was released by Tierra Studios in 2009 and is available on iTunes and Amazon. “Slide Side” was nominated for five Grammys in 2010.



[Matthew McClung](#), principal percussionist for ROCO, has a diverse background. He received a Masters degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and went on to receive the first Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in percussion ever awarded by Rice University, while also playing three seasons with the Honolulu Symphony. Matt has also performed with the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet Orchestra, the Hawaii Opera Theater, the Glimmerglass Festival Orchestra, the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, the Hanover Chamber Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the symphony orchestras of Arkansas, Austin, Corpus Christi, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Houston, Kentucky, Lexington, Maui, San Antonio, and Victoria. As a Brown Scholar, Matthew was also the founder and first teacher of the Mini-Maestros program, a music-and-movement class for young people given through the preparatory program of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. He is currently co-director of the Corpus Christi High School All-Stars, is an associate professor of music at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and the principal percussionist of the Glimmerglass Festival Orchestra.



### **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](http://www.rocohouston.org)