



For Immediate Release
March 27, 2012, Houston, TX

ROCO features dynamic guest conductor, Alastair Willis, soprano, Karol Bennett, and the World Premiere of Anthony Brandt's *Maternity* on April 21st

Saturday, April 21, 2012, at The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston 77019

4pm – Pre-Concert Talk with composer, Anthony Brandt and librettist, David Eagleman

5pm – Concert*

Tickets are \$25, \$10 for students with valid student ID

*ROCOrooters music education/childcare available with advance reservations

Concert Program

Anthony Brandt, *Maternity*

Richard Wagner, *Siegfried Idyll*

Zoltán Kodály, *Galántai Táncok (Dances of Galanta)*

Gioachino Rossini, *Overture to La Scala di Seta (The Silken Ladder)*

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) continues its 2011-2012 season, “a fusion of cultures and generations,” by welcoming back audience favorite, **Alastair Willis**, who will conduct Wagner’s *Siegfried Idyll*, Kodaly’s *Dances of Galanta*, Rossini’s *Overture to La Scala di Seta*, and the world premiere of **Anthony Brandt’s *Maternity***, with libretto by **David Eagleman**, and featuring soprano soloist, **Karol Bennett**. Drs. Brandt and Eagleman will host a Pre-Concert Composer Talk at 4:00. And it wouldn’t be a ROCO concert without a surprise or two.

Maestro **Alastair Willis** is a Grammy-nominated conductor who has served as the Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony, Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras, and Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. Born in Acton, Massachusetts, Mr. Willis lived with his family in Moscow for five years before moving to Surrey, England, and later, Seattle, Washington. He received his bachelor’s degree with honors from England’s Bristol University and a Master of Music degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston.

Anthony Brandt is an Associate Professor of Composition and Theory at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His honors include a Koussevitzky Commission from the Library of Congress and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and Meet-the-Composer. A recording of his music, including his chamber opera "The Birth of Something," is available on Albany Records. He is a recipient of an Individual Artist Grant funded by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance. Dr. Brandt’s

composition "Maternity" is based on a short story by best-selling author and neuroscientist **David Eagleman**.

Hailed for her "sumptuous sound, wrenching poignancy, and faultless musicianship" (New York Times), soprano **Karol Bennett** has been heard worldwide in lieder, oratorio, opera, and new music. Her honors include the Pro Musicis International Award, an Artistic Ambassadorship, a fellowship from the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, and a Duo Recitalists Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This concert is sponsored in part by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

Contact

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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 is *the most fun you can have with serious music*. www.rocohouston.org