

Orpheus

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

August 9, 2011

Gabriel Kahane announced as Orpheus Chamber Orchestra's First-Ever Composer-in-Residence



New York, NY – Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, committed to changing the way the world thinks about orchestral performance, organizational dynamics and creative leadership, is proud to announce its first ever Composer-in-Residence: Gabriel Kahane. By integrating Kahane as writer, curator, performer, and ambassador in piloting a new Brooklyn series at Galapagos Art Space, Orpheus aims to introduce their distinctive approach to repertoire to a new generation of omnivorous music lovers. More information about the series can be found [here](#).

Orpheus' decision to launch the new series in a less formal space that welcomes music ranging from violinist Hilary Hahn to punk legends the Mekons marks an important addition to nearly 40 years of performance activity at Manhattan venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is a gesture reflecting Orpheus' persistent commitment to innovation, audience development, and leadership in the evolution of concert music and concert venues.

Over the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 seasons, Gabriel Kahane will curate and perform four concerts with Orpheus for the new series, compose a major song cycle with the orchestra featuring himself as soloist, and help design and host outreach events. Beginning with video interviews and continuing with program notes, school visits and patron events throughout the seasons, Kahane will share his perspectives on Orpheus, the contemporary music scene, his own creative process, and classical music programming. Kahane's voice will be a welcome addition to Orpheus' distinctive mode of musician-led collaboration.

On November 20, 2011, Orpheus and Kahane will kick off their Brooklyn series with a performance of Hindemith's *Kammermusik* No. 1 and works by Kahane. Among the works is *Orinoco Sketches*, a piece inspired by the diaries of Hannelore Kahane, the composer's grandmother, that was premiered by John Adams and the Los Angeles Philharmonic in May as part of the "Green Umbrella" series. This will be the New York premiere of *Orinoco Sketches*. March 18, 2012 will see Orpheus back at Galapagos Art Space playing a concert curated by



Kahane exploring the theme of Americana in concert music. Members of Orpheus will perform selections from John Adams's *John's Book of Alleged Dances* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring Suite* alongside performances by special guest Chris Thile, who will also perform with the orchestra March 24 at Carnegie Hall. During 2012-2013, Orpheus and Kahane will make two additional appearances culminating in Kahane's commission for Orpheus, to premiere at Carnegie Hall in April 27, 2013.

A standard bearer of innovation and artistic excellence, the Grammy Award-winning **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** is renowned as one of the world's foremost chamber orchestras. For nearly four decades the orchestra has been making music on a global stage, with tours on seven continents, from Brunei to Vienna. Orpheus presents an annual series at Carnegie Hall and appears regularly at major New York venues with esteemed soloists and rising stars, including Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma. Dedicated to pushing the boundaries of classical music, Orpheus has commissioned and premiered 34 original works and collaborates with dynamic artists across multiple genres. Orpheus' Grammy-winning discography comprises over 70 albums. Each Carnegie Hall performance is broadcast live on WQXR-New York Public Radio and rebroadcast on American Public Media's Performance Today and SymphonyCast, for a total of 1.6 million weekly listeners nationwide. Orpheus is committed to changing the way the world thinks about orchestras, organizational dynamics, and creative leadership. By performing without a conductor and integrating musicians into virtually every facet of the organization, Orpheus empowers its members and infuses performances with unparalleled energy. The Orpheus Process(TM), an original method that places democracy at the center of artistic execution, has been the focus of studies at Harvard and Stanford, and of leadership seminars at Morgan Stanley and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, among others. Tickets are available for the 2011-2012 Carnegie season starting on August 25. Tickets are available for the Galapagos season starting today.

Gabriel Kahane has established himself as a leading voice among a generation of young composers redefining music for the 21st century. Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for "an all around dazzling performance" in his orchestral debut at Walt Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Philharmonic earlier this year, Kahane moves with ease as a performer between musical realms. Performance highlights of the 2010-11 season included sold-out concerts with artists as varied as Chris Thile, Brad Mehldau, and Alisa Weilerstein, as well as with his father, the noted pianist and conductor Jeffrey Kahane, with whom he collaborated on a critically-acclaimed duo recital. Throughout his career, Kahane has performed and/or recorded with Sufjan Stevens, Rufus Wainwright, and Audra McDonald, who has incorporated his songs into her repertoire. Launched by his 2006 song cycle *Craiglistlieder*, Kahane's rapid ascent as a composer continues to bloom. He is also an in-demand theater composer, having received commissions from the Signature Theater in Arlington VA and the Williamstown Theater Festival in Massachusetts. 2012 sees the premiere of *February House*, a musical for New York City's Public Theater. A 2010 MacDowell Colony fellow, Kahane makes his home in Brooklyn, New York, in close company with a century-old piano and many books.

The residency of Gabriel Kahane is made possible through Music Alive, a residency program of the League of American Orchestras and Meet The Composer. This national program is designed to provide orchestras with resources and tools to support their presentation of new music to the public and build support for new music within their institutions. Funding for Music Alive is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and The ASCAP Foundation.

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For additional information, or to request an interview with a representative for Orpheus or Gabriel Kahane, please contact:

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Photo by Josh Goleman.