

ORCHARD CIRCLE

www.orchardcircle.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Leading Members of Berlin Philharmonic in Election Night Bash

New York, NY -

Orchard Circle will have its opening concert with leading members of the Berlin Philharmonic, including their Concertmaster, at 8pm on Election Night, November 8th, 2016, at the DiMenna Center, 450 West 37th Street. The event includes drinks, jazz, dinner, and the viewing of election returns before and after the central program. Ticket prices range from \$27-\$117, are available through the website www.orchardcircle.com, and at the door the night of the concert (with \$3 surcharge).

The season opener, *Elective Affinities*, aims to create something memorable. The election night audience can watch the returns in a party-like atmosphere on a large screen with the DiMenna Center's high-definition projector. Unlike most election night parties, on the other hand, Orchard Circle also wants to use this opportunity to look inside our troubled times, with a program performed by a group of amazing musicians.

The players from the Berlin Philharmonic - led by Principal harpist Marie-Pierre Langlamet, and including Concertmaster Andreas Buschatz, Principal flutist Mathieu Dufour, Principal bassist Matthew MacDonald and several members of first Concertmaster Daniel Stabrawa's ensemble, as well as friends from both Berlin and New York - will bring a powerful perspective to what has lately been dubbed 'Weimar America.' The current election cycle has led to discussion of fascism coming to the United States, and the Berlin Philharmonic is unique in having been perhaps the key cultural export of the Nazis during WWII, while now being a particularly young, dynamic autonomous group, hence able to examine themselves and the world around them with piercing maturity.

The program includes music by sixteen American composers, primarily in a set of short waltzes intended to explore the 'Weimar America' concept. Composers on the program are Ned Rorem, John Harbison, John Corigliano, Fred Lerdaahl, Phillip Glass, Milton Babbitt, Laura Schwendinger, Eric Moe, Augusta Read Thomas, Virgil Thompson, Roger Sessions, Daniel Brewbaker, Charles Wourinen, Lowell Liebermann, Sebastian Currier and Nathan Currier.

The medley of waltzes, *The Fall of the House: Waltzing through Weimar America*, range from pieces written in the mid-1970s to pieces composed or arranged especially for this occasion receiving their premieres. During the waltzes only the elector counts of the candidates will be visible, gradually mounting, as the audience is literally ‘waltzed through Weimar America’ - and hopefully away from it - while the performance is in progress. We suspect it will create one of the more original election night events in the city. From the opening three ‘viewpoints’ of Ned Rorem’s *United States: Seven Viewpoints* to the waltzes at its finish, the program is both artistic prayer for sanity and get-together to watch returns among friends (the core program should be finished by 9:45, before West Coast polls close, and no one will feel cut off from the unfolding events during the evening). The full program can be found at www.orchardcircle.com.

Those with Gala and Inner Circle tickets will be seated at table and can choose a main course online until November 1st, with food served buffet-style for general admission ticket holders. The menu is currently being finalized with food coordinator Ivana Ristic, and can be viewed at the website. Jazz sets will be provided by Claffy: 23-year-old Harlem-based bassist Alexander Claffy will play and direct Orchard Circle’s jazz component, first playing while audience members have a quick drink and get seated, then picking up again while people eat after the central program, improvising around and off of the broad themes of the show. While 8pm is the show’s listed time, Claffy’s pre-show set will begin around 7:45 and run until 8:15.

About Orchard Circle

In a political spectrum, the middle usually has lots of power. But in today’s contemporary music scene, where is the voice of the aesthetic middle? Orchard Circle aims to create something that has never really existed: call it the midtown revival. Saying he loved this idea, composer John Corigliano noted that “the middle has been neglected far too long.” John Harbison, saying that our idea for a series of concerts of such music in a relaxed setting was both timely and important, bemoaned the fact that this kind of music - his kind of music, that of so many of his contemporaries, and of many young composers, too - no longer seems to have any relevance to “the presenters, press and high powered performers.” Only some new cohesion among this lonesome, fractious middle-of-the-middle can alter the situation, and that is what Orchard Circle hopes to initiate. More than sixty composers have supported its mission, and its first season will include music by more than 30 composers, including nine world premieres, in seven concerts. The opening concert is being given only in New York City, after which there will be three other programs, each given at both the DiMenna Center in New York and at the Ethical Society of Philadelphia, 1906 Rittenhouse Square.

For further information or photos, see www.orchardcircle.com or contact Nathan Currier at natcurrier@gmail.com

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