

### Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Pianist



“Well, this is a very unique orchestra you know? They decided 30 years ago to found an orchestra... and the best possible musicians joined for this project, and worked on great pieces with great conductors or musicians. They are people from an incredibly fine culture, and a very incredibly refined orchestra musically. In the history of the orchestra, I arrived in the latter part [performing Beethoven concertos under Harnoncourt and directing Mozart from the keyboard]. The COE was already established and incredibly unified. Don't forget that this is an orchestra that was not founded by an outsider – I mean a conductor – but by musicians themselves, who wanted to share in music-making, and we can understand that even after a quarter of a century there is a strong common wish to go on with the project. It's a pleasure to share music with them – an indestructible joy.”

### Emanuel Ax, Pianist



“The members of the COE are all great artists in their own right, but one immediately feels the delight that they have in playing with each other - their aim is to share their individual gifts, and to produce a unified vision of the music they they play. Most of all, they extend to musicians like me, who get to join them on occasion, the gift of friendship, both musical and personal. I always feel that playing with the COE is a true privilege, and it is a highlight of my musical life. In short, I am a devoted and grateful fan!”

### Lisa Batiashvili, Violinist



"This is the orchestra I have the biggest admiration for. Each member is a unique musician and it feels like they all share wisdom, knowledge, good taste and a great instinct for music. I find it remarkable that in certain symphonies, which can often



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sound very heavy and grounded, COE, with its round and warm tone, brings its special, natural genius for music making to every work - this is so rare to find."

#### Joshua Bell, Violinist



"Getting to play with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is always a special treat. It feels like chamber music in its grandest form."

#### Herbert Blomstedt, Conductor



The COE is like a good CEO: it is an undisputed leader but uses its power with discretion and always in the service of music. It has been my privilege over the years to join the Chamber Orchestra of Europe for many unforgettable concerts. It is a uniquely gifted ensemble, and since they play together only in their scarce free time they are super dedicated and prepared to bring any sacrifice for the sake of their art. The result is stunning and brings their audiences rare musical experiences. I thank God for them.



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Renaud Capuçon, Violinist



“This orchestra is "la crème de la crème"! I don't know how to describe it: they are now friends, a family to me and they make pure music. I enjoy playing with them, hearing them, being with them immensely.”

Joyce Di Donato, Mezzo-Soprano



“Performing with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe has been a dream, I have never heard wind-playing, string-playing and horn-playing quite so beautiful.”

Isabelle Faust, Violinist



“It is such an incredible experience to be with this orchestra! I have waited a long time for this moment and of course it's wonderful to be their chosen soloist for their first performance of Berg's Violin Concerto with Maestro Haitink. It can't ever get better than that so thanks for this absolute highlight.”



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## Bernard Haitink, Conductor



“The Chamber Orchestra of Europe is [...] highly responsive: everything happens immediately. More than an orchestra, it is in fact a group of exceptionally talented musicians. As true chamber musicians, they are used to listening to each other, without being exclusively focused on the conductor. This matches exactly the idea I have of conducting an orchestra.” (For Le Figaro,

19/01/2011)

“I can only say that this is an immense pleasure to work with these people. They are unique. They are 30 years old and of course there are many new, younger members, but they still have the same enthusiasm and extreme professionalism which many orchestras would envy them. I’m over the moon to work with them.”

“This Orchestra is the greatest gift in the later stages of my career.” (Lucerne Festival 2014)

**“[With the COE] I don’t feel I’m a conductor anymore. I feel I’m a musician who can make music with them. They respect each other, they love each other, they love music, and I find it enormously refreshing to work with them. Because the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is slightly smaller, one gets more into the heart of things, it’s very interesting. I love them.”**  
(BBC Proms 2015, for BBC Four Television)

## Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Conductor



**“The COE is for me the great adventure troop. I will be thankful as long as I live for all the great things we did together... Unforgettable rehearsals and performances and a loving connection to every single musician; this is unique.”**

## Janine Jansen, Violinist



“I will never forget my first meeting with the wonderful Chamber Orchestra of Europe. There was such a warm atmosphere and complete devotion to making music together. I was truly inspired by the direct and flexible communication with all these fantastic musicians and am very much looking forward to our future project!”

#### Vladimir Jurowski, Conductor



**“Working with COE is always an enormous challenge and an equally enormous joy. Every musician of this orchestra has a strongly developed musical personality and clear views on the questions of musical performance and style. And so any conductor coming to COE has the impossible task to convert all these different and very strong personalities into his (her) view of the piece. But once this has been achieved the joy of music-making on the stratospherically high level begins! Everybody in COE gives their absolute 150 % in concert but what's even more important - where for many orchestras the creative work ends with the last rehearsal, giving place to the "execution", for COE the process of the true creativity only starts with the first concert. They simply never get tired of looking for more colors, trying to penetrate even deeper into the piece which is being performed, always sensitively following the conductor's intentions but also offering new ideas of their own!... In short - an inspirational orchestra!”**

#### Patricia Kopatchinskaya, Violinist



“The Chamber Orchestra of Europe is not even a dream, it is a dream within a dream. When you start playing with these musicians, you start a relationship for life. It's all about love, dedication, honesty and truth: this is real music-making.”



Magdalena Kožená, Mezzo-Soprano



“To work with COE is always an incredibly special event for me and one of many reasons why I feel so is that the musicians treat each project as if it was a very unique and festive event for them as well. To be supported by players with so many years of experience, knowledge and respect for each other inspires me, enables me to perform in a free and creative atmosphere and often brings me closer to a deeper understanding of what is essential in music.”

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Conductor



**“I have admired the Chamber Orchestra of Europe since my student years through wonderful concerts and recordings; I also had the privilege to witness very closely the work of these great musicians with the late Carlo Maria Giulini. Some years later, when I first stood among them to make music, we immediately felt a very unique connection. The artistry, enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge of these musicians have no boundaries. Every single moment with the COE counts amongst the most treasurable in my life as a musician. I am looking forward to many more moments like these.”**

Sir Antonio Pappano, Conductor



To be made an honorary member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, an ensemble I hold in the highest possible esteem, makes me so very happy and proud. That I will continue to collaborate in the future with these fabulous musicians is a rare gift. Thank you COE!

Sir Simon Rattle, Conductor



"This is such a special orchestra and you feel that people have known each other for a very long time and have very deep relationships. It's really a gigantic string quartet with some winds and percussion! I've loved every minute of it."

Sir András Schiff, Pianist



**"There are orchestras, good ones, great ones and then there is the COE. This is a community of individuals who love music and who obviously enjoy being together. Like in good chamber music, there is a constant flow of give and take. It is a unique ensemble. There is no routine. They come from different countries and schools of playing, but they have their very own sound as an ensemble. It's also an incredibly intelligent orchestra. I have played concertos, directed from the keyboard, and now also conduct the symphonic repertoire. The rehearsals are a joy. You don't have to say things twice. The collective sensitivity and intelligence of this group is admirable. Together they represent the very essence of Europe, something the politicians of the EU could learn from. It makes me happy and proud to be associated with this unique 'orchestra'."**

Robin Ticciati, Conductor

"If part of being a musician is about the daily necessity to reevaluate the notes we have in front of us, to search with integrity and occasional vulnerability, to quest for the ultimate truth from these wondrous composers in our lives, then the COE makes that journey both possible and



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joyful. This is just the rehearsal... Add the audience and it is then that this magical group flies in concert with unshackled emotional zeal underpinned by a deep wisdom. Technique is never a barrier and the parasitic effect of 'routine' simply doesn't exist. The COE is all about the music. That comes first. Not an easy thing to achieve. It's a privilege to work with them."

Yuja Wang, Pianist



"Beside being so amazing, exquisite musicians, they are also so heart-warming as human beings. I'm having a great time! It's my first time with the COE and we are already talking about our next projects in different countries. It's just the feeling of how much they intensely listen all the time and their reaction in the concert, the creativity that only happens in the moment... It's really magical and it made me love the pieces more. It's amazing musicianship and the way we play like chamber music, it's just a joy."