

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midwest Premiere of Gabriel Prokofiev's Bass Drum Concerto Featuring Joby Burgess Highlights Chicago Composers Orchestra Winter Concert

CHICAGO (February 13, 2012) – The Chicago Composers Orchestra delivers the Midwest premiere of Gabriel Prokofiev's *Concerto for Bass Drum and Orchestra* at its Winter Concert on **Tuesday February 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Ruth Page Theater, located at 1610 North Dearborn Street in Chicago**. The piece will feature renowned percussionist Joby Burgess on bass drum. Also on the program are world premieres of works by Elliot Cole and Chicago composer Brian Baxter.

Gabriel Prokofiev, grandson of Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev, is a London-based composer, producer, and founder of the NONCLASSICAL record label and club night. He has produced dance, electro and hip-hop music under a variety of different guises. What gives his contemporary classical writing its unique edge is his background in dance music combined with his classical roots. The Daily Telegraph said about one of his string quartets that it "defies comparison." Gabriel's groundbreaking *Concerto for Turntables & Orchestra* was premiered by DJ Yoda and The Heritage Orchestra at The Scala in Kings Cross and recently toured by the BBC Concert Orchestra. Other recent works include *Sleeveless Scherzo*, a piece for solo violin and solo dancer for Rambert Dance Company.

One of Britain's most diverse percussionists, Joby Burgess is best known for his virtuosic performances, daring collaborations and extensive education work all over the world. Dedicated to the development of the percussion repertoire, often in combination with electronics, Joby spends much of his time commissioning and recording new music, often with his three chamber music projects: Powerplant, New Noise and ensemblebash. Recent highlights have included extensive tours with Peter Gabriel's New Blood Orchestra and Graham Fitkin's all-star band. In 2004 Joby was appointed professor of percussion and director of percussion ensembles at Junior Trinity College of Music, Greenwich.

Joby and Gabriel previously collaborated on the release of Gabriel's composition, (IMPORT/EXPORT), for Joby's group Powerplant.

"The second season of the Chicago Composers Orchestra is really taking shape to be a completely out-of-the-box...and maybe even out-of-our-minds, experience," jokes CCO co-founder Randall West. "Just over one month ago, we brought more than 200 guests to the Garfield Park Conservatory for our December concert and introduced our work to a whole new audience. We're building on the season by bringing together two of the most innovative and influential voices in contemporary classical music, Gabriel and Joby, for a Winter

Concert that's going to introduce Chicago to a whole new sound...with a British accent, of course."

In addition to the Prokofiev piece, Princeton-based composer Elliot Cole will premiere his *De Rerum* at the Winter Concert, which features two rappers and video projections along with the orchestra. Also, CCO co-founder Brian Baxter will premiere his *Roots Run Deep*.

"The Ruth Page Center Theater is going to provide a phenomenal venue for these pieces, and we're thrilled to be able to take our music in new directions and into new territories yet again," says Baxter.

Conductor Matthew Kasper, a conductor who has led orchestras at venues including the Pierre Monteux School, Queens College, Chicago College of Performing Arts and the CUNY New Music Festival, returns to the podium to lead 40 of the most talented young professional musicians in the area. These musicians have performed with orchestras all over the Midwest including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as with various new music groups in the city including Dal Niente, Anaphora and Palomar.

As a prelude to the Winter Concert, the CCO will host a NONCLASSICAL Club Night in conjunction with Gabriel's record label and imported from its very popular home turf in the UK, on Saturday February 18. The night will feature Gabriel and Joby as DJ and percussionist. NONCLASSICAL Club Night made its American debut in New York at the Wordless Music series, and spread to the SXSW Festival in Austin to great critical response. CCO enthusiasts will be notified of the time and location of the club night by following the CCO's Facebook and Twitter pages, or by signing up for the CCO email list through the website.

Tickets to the Chicago Composers Orchestra Winter Concert on February 21 at the Ruth Page Theater are \$15 if purchased online (\$20 at the door), and \$10 for students. Please visit www.chicagocomposersorchestra.org for bios and program notes.

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