

# Midwest Chamber Ensemble

Steve Lewis, Music Director

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## MIDWEST CHAMBER ENSEMBLE RELEASES THIRD ALBUM: *Vieux Amis-Nouveaux Costumes* on July 19, 2019

Prairie Village, KS – The Midwest Chamber Ensemble announces the release of its third album, a collection of chamber works by New York-based composer Philip Lasser, on July 19, 2019. The album's French title translates to *Old Friends in New Clothes*, which are a collection of songs by French composers Gabriel Fauré and Claude Debussy that Lasser arranged for soprano and small ensemble. This recording features acclaimed Kansas City-based soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson and conductor Steve Lewis. The album also includes three other works by Lasser: a sonata for cello and piano, *Jewelry Box* for violin and piano, and *Ballade* for flute and string ensemble.

Currently a faculty member at The Juilliard School, Lasser creates a unique sound world that blends together the colorful harmonies of French Impressionist sonorities and the dynamic rhythms of American music. He directs the European-American Musical Alliance, a summer school in Paris dedicated to training musicians in the tradition of famed pedagogue Nadia Boulanger.

The release of the album will be celebrated with a concert and party on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. at the Simpson House, 4509 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO. Tickets include a copy of the CD and are available through Midwest Chamber Ensemble's website, [www.midwestchamberensemble.org](http://www.midwestchamberensemble.org). CDs will be available to order from Luyben Music in Kansas City (816-753-7111; shipping available) and CD Baby. Digital downloads will be available on iTunes and CD Baby.

Entering its eighth season, the Midwest Chamber Ensemble is a Kansas City-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the performance of Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble music of the classical tradition. The ensemble's personnel is selected on the basis of artistic merit and comprises young professional musicians and exceptional music students. The Midwest Chamber Ensemble prepares its members for future career opportunities by creating a professional environment and providing its audiences quality concerts. MCE has been featured on KCUR 89.3 and Kansas Public Radio, and has received positive reviews from KCMETROPOLIS. Music director Steve Lewis founded the Ensemble in 2012 and also serves as the Music Director of the Medical Arts Symphony at KU Medical Center.