American Classical Orchestra 2018 Gala Concert and Benefit
*L’amour et la musique* on Wednesday, April 11
at The Loeb Boathouse in Central Park


New York, NY (March 12, 2018) — **American Classical Orchestra** (ACO), hosts its Annual Gala Concert and Benefit, titled *L’amour et la musique*, on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018** at **The Loeb Boathouse in Central Park**. All proceeds from the benefit support the ACO’s 2018-2019 season at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and other venues around New York City, as well as the 2019 Classical Music for Kids program.

For the past 19 years, Classical Music for Kids (CMK) has provided thousands of elementary students with direct access to classical music at in-school presentations led by Maestro Crawford and the ACO musicians. These interactive age-appropriate performances introduce points about musical style and composition, while demonstrating the inherent differences between period instruments and their modern counterparts. CMK is offered at no cost to New York City public schools and for many students, this is their first exposure to classical music. In 2019, ACO will present Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* to New York City schools. ACO woodwind and brass musicians will bring the story of Peter and the animals to life, introducing classical music and the instruments of the orchestra to the youngest school audiences. Teachers will also be provided with a curriculum guide to help them prepare students for the performance.

Executive Director Kristine Spensieri says, "The intimate setting of The Boathouse is the perfect opportunity to
hear the sensitive nature of period instruments and our esteemed musicians, and I can’t think of a better way
to support free arts education for our city’s public elementary school children."

The evening features a private performance by ACO musicians Emi Ferguson (flute), Julia Glenn (violin), Jude
Ziliak (viola), Myron Lutzke (cello), and Paul Holmes Morton (theorbo) in Mozart’s Flute Quartet in D Major, K.
285 as well as selections from flutist Emi Ferguson’s debut album Amour Cruel.

The gala includes a cocktail reception with passed hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction beginning at 6:00pm,
followed by the private concert, dinner, and a raffle. The winner of the raffle, sponsored by lead sponsor
Brussels Airlines, will receive two round trip tickets in Business Class from New York/JFK to Brussels on
Brussels airlines operating flights. Raffle tickets are $50 each or $200 for five. Gala tickets are $600 per single
ticket ($350 tax deduction) and $6,000 per Patron Table Sponsor ($3,500 tax deduction).

More information on table/ticket reservation and silent auction can be found by visiting https://aconyc.org/gala/
or by calling the Development Office at 212-362-2727.

Program Information
American Classical Orchestra Gala Concert and Benefit
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
The Loeb Boathouse in Central Park | E 72nd St. & Park Drive N. | NYC

Black Tie Optional
Brussels Airlines, Lead Sponsor

6:00pm Cocktails, Passed Hors d'Oeuvres, and Silent Auction

7:15pm Concert
Emi Ferguson, flute
Julia Glenn, violin
Jude Ziliak, viola
Myron Lutzke, cello
Paul Holmes Morton, theorbo

Mozart - Flute Quartet in D Major, K. 285
Selections from ACO flutist Emi Ferguson’s debut album Amour Cruel
Ombre de mon amant
J'avais cru qu'en vous aimant
Amour cruel

8:00pm Dinner and Raffle

About American Classical Orchestra
Described as “simply splendid” by The New York Times, the American Classical Orchestra (ACO) is a leader
in the field of historically accurate performance. A period instrument ensemble devoted to preserving and
performing the repertoire of 17th, 18th, and 19th century composers, ACO recreates the sound world of the
masters using priceless historic instruments, as well as era-specific performance techniques. Comprised of the
world’s top period instrumentalists, the ACO provides audiences with the opportunity to experience classical
music in the specific way it was intended to be heard.
Highlights of the ACO's history include a concert at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in collaboration with the Museum's exhibition *Art and the Empire City: New York, 1825 - 1861*, a debut concert on the Lincoln Center Great Performers Series, a sold-out 25th Anniversary performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and a staged performance of Handel's opera *Alceste* as part of the ACO's Handelfest 2014.

Founded by Artistic Director Thomas Crawford in 1984 as The Orchestra of the Old Fairfield Academy in Fairfield, Connecticut, the American Classical Orchestra moved to New York City in 2005, emerging as the City’s premier period instrument ensemble.

The ACO is dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of classical music through educational programs, and spreading historically-informed performance practices to new generations. In order to provide audiences with first-hand insight into the music, Music Director Thomas Crawford gives informative concert previews with live musical examples from the orchestra prior to each concert. Through its immersive in-school program, Classical Music for Kids, the orchestra has inspired hundreds of thousands of young students and musicians. For this work, the ACO was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant and Early Music America prize. For more information, visit [www.aconyc.org](http://www.aconyc.org).

# # #