



MEDIA RELEASE
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The Boulder Philharmonic Presents
Season Finale, “Heavenly Orbits”

Featuring the Ars Nova Singers and works by Morten Lauridsen and Gustav Holst

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra presents “Heavenly Orbits,” the finale of its 53rd season, featuring the Ars Nova Singers and works by Morten Lauridsen and Gustav Holst, Saturday, April 30, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., at Macky Auditorium on the CU campus.

The concert opens with *Lux aeterna*, a five-movement, non-liturgical requiem for chorus and orchestra, written by Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) and premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale in 1997. The work is based on several different Latin texts, all dealing with light and eternal light. The composer describes the work as “an intimate work of quiet serenity, centered around a universal symbol of hope, reassurance, goodness, and illumination at all levels.”

“The notion of spaciousness and eternity pervades both works on the program,” said Michael Butterman, music director of the Boulder Phil. “Lauridsen’s *Lux aeterna* (eternal light) has a slightly new-age feel, even as it sets ancient liturgical texts that reference the idea of ‘light’ in its many religious senses: light of the world, everlasting light, light from darkness. There is also an undertone of spiritual eternity, suggesting a life beyond the here and now.”

Performing the Lauridsen work with the Boulder Phil is the Ars Nova Singers, a 34-voice a cappella choir, celebrating its 25th anniversary season. Under the direction of Thomas Edward Morgan, the Ars Nova Singers specializes in music of the Renaissance and the 20th and 21st centuries, and is regarded as one of the premier chamber choirs in the Rocky Mountain Region.

The Planets, written by Gustav Holst (1874-1934), is the featured work of the second half of the concert. Premiered in 1918, this seven-movement piece—one movement for every planet except Earth and Pluto—reflects the composer’s interest in astrology.

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“In *The Planets*, Holst evokes a sense of mysticism as he describes the outermost planet of our solar system, Neptune,” said Buttermann. “His writing creates a timeless sense of the harmony of the spheres, as he blends impressionistic orchestral chords with textless choral sounds from an off-stage women's chorus. The piece ends not with a bang, but with a theatrical fade-out, suggesting a sense of continuity that extends infinitely in the distance beyond our ability to see.” The women of the Ars Nova Singers will perform in the movement, “Neptune, the Mystic.”

The Boulder Phil’s 2011-2012 season, *The Spirit of Boulder*, opens September 17, 2011, featuring pianist Hsing-ay Hsu and works by Bach and Mahler. Also featured in the upcoming season are the Takács Quartet and Conference on World Affairs favorites Rony Barrak, tabla/percussion, and Shodokeh, beatbox artist. Subscription packages for the upcoming season are on sale now.

**Program Information: Season Finale: *Heavenly Orbits*
Saturday, April 30, 2011, Macky Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**

Michael Buttermann, Music Director
Ars Nova Singers
Thomas Edward Morgan, Chorus Master

Morten Lauridsen—*Lux aeterna*
Gustav Holst—*The Planets*

Additional activities on April 30:

10:00 a.m., SuperListening Club with Don Campbell, Macky Room 102
6:30 p.m., Pre-Concert Talk with Don Campbell, Macky Auditorium

Tickets: Call (303) 449-1343, ext. 2 or visit www.boulderphil.org; prices are \$13-\$70 (\$5 for students)

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Musically Speaking, an educational outreach concert for area 4th and 5th grade classes
Fairview High School, Greenbriar Boulevard, Boulder, Colorado

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3 p.m.

Musically Speaking, a public family concert with full orchestra featuring cellist Jamie Clark, winner of the Boulder Phil’s annual Young Artist Concerto Competition
Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 East Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Tickets: \$5 at the door, or call (303) 449-1343, ext. 2

Subscriptions for the 2011-2012 season, The Spirit of Boulder, are on sale now. Single tickets on sale June 1, 2011. Call (303) 449-1343, ext. 2 or visit www.boulderphil.org.

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