



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Opens Season,
Nature & Music: The Spirit of Boulder, Sunday, September 8, 2013**

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra kicks off its 56th season on Sunday, September 8, at Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus, at 7:00 p.m., with a concert that reflects Boulder's cultural spirit and sets up its theme for the season, *Nature & Music: The Spirit of Boulder*.

Music Director Michael Buttermann, beginning his eighth season, leads this all-professional orchestra in a musical "surf & turf" that includes Britten's colorful seascapes, a world premiere that draws inspiration from Colorado's geology by Boulder composer Jeffrey Nytch, and Tchaikovsky's virtuosic showpiece, the *Piano Concerto No. 1*, performed by the highly acclaimed pianist Inon Barnatan.

The opening-night concert begins with *Four Sea Interludes* from Benjamin Britten's opera *Peter Grimes*. "This is a big anniversary year for opera lovers," said Buttermann. "There's the bicentennial for Verdi and Wagner, and also the 100th anniversary for Benjamin Britten, arguably the greatest English-language opera composer in history, and perhaps the greatest opera composer of the 20th century. So, we're honoring his anniversary, as well as setting up our season-long theme of the interconnectedness of nature and music by performing the *Four Sea Interludes*," said Buttermann.

While Buttermann doesn't believe that it's essential to know the details of the opera to appreciate the vivid tone paintings and the seascapes in sound, he does consider it helpful to know that *Peter Grimes* is set in a British coastal fishing village and that the lives of the characters are inextricably linked to the ocean. "In the opera," said Buttermann, "the interludes are used as entr'actes and help to set the dramatic tone for the action to follow."

Describing the interludes, Buttermann continued, "We experience the sea in four distinct 'personalities' and at different times of day. In *Dawn*, the high unison violin and flute suggest colorless early white light reflecting on the smooth surface. *Sunday Morning* is more a depiction of the village than the sea, with its church bells and short, jagged string figures suggesting the scurrying townsfolk as they make their way to church. *Moonlight*, as the title suggests, evokes a nighttime scene with slow, low surges punctuated by occasional glimmers of flickering light. Finally, *Storm* lives up to its billing by vividly suggesting sweeping tidal surges and stinging cold wind. Under Britten's guidance, we experience the sea's vastness, its cold, endless expanse, its calm and its incredible power," said Buttermann.

Following the Britten piece on the opening night program will be the world premiere of *Symphony No. 1 ("Formations")* by Boulder composer Jeffrey Nytch, director of the Entrepreneurship Center for Music at CU-Boulder's College of Music. Inspired by the geology of the Rocky Mountain region, this four-movement work was co-commissioned by the Boulder Phil and the Geological Society of America, with support from ExxonMobil, in celebration of the Boulder-based organization's 125th anniversary.



“I have undergraduate degrees in music and geology and so the idea of writing a large-scale work inspired by geology has long been rattling around in my head,” said Nytch. “When I heard that the Geological Society of America was celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, I realized that this was my chance to make that dream a reality.”

Nytch knew he couldn't depict the entire geologic history of the mountain west, but he did try to pick some key moments from that history that would lay out a narrative of how this part of the world came to be. “The first movement focuses on the earliest geologic history of our region,” said Nytch. “I thought of it as the earth giving birth, as it was literally a time when the first continental crust was being formed. The second and third movements address the relationship between human beings and geology, specifically the gold and silver rushes of the 19th century (2nd movement) and the fossil fuels industry in the modern era (3rd movement). The last movement, ‘Majesties,’ focuses on how today's Rocky Mountains came to be,” said Nytch.

Through this piece, Nytch hopes that the audience will gain a new appreciation for the wonders of how our natural world developed and will experience it as a narrative from the standpoint of the planet—as if the earth itself were telling us this story.

The concert concludes with Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, featuring Inon Barnatan, the Israeli-born now New York City-based pianist, making his debut with the Boulder Phil. In 2009, Barnatan was awarded a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, acknowledging “the strong impression he made on the American music scene in such a short period of only three years.”

“This piano concerto displays Tchaikovsky's typical combination of beautiful lyricism with great, soaring melodies, and dramatic pacing, which is something that he honed in his work for the ballet stage, especially,” said Butterman. “This piece has the added virtue of being a true virtuoso showpiece for the soloist. The same is true of his violin concerto. But this concerto has some of the most blazing technical passages in the repertoire. Drama, memorable melodies, amazing technical demands—it's a winning combination,” said Butterman, “and a great way to end our concert.”

In addition to his American appearances, which include debut performances with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Houston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras, Barnatan has appeared as a soloist with the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, and toured with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields as a conductor and soloist. He recently performed at the 2013 Aspen Music Festival.

Tickets for the September 8 concert and subscriptions for the 2013-2014 season are on sale now. Tickets are also on sale for the September 7 concert in Highlands Ranch, where the Boulder Phil will perform the same program as the September 8 concert, except Young Artist Concerto Competition winner Kelcey Howell will perform the first movement of the Dvořák *Cello Concerto* in place the Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No. 1*.

The “Nature & Music” season theme will be enhanced throughout the season through a collaboration with the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, in which naturalists will lead geology and birding hikes including musical excerpts played in the field, as well as provide program notes to complement concert programming.



BOULDER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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The Boulder Phil returns to Macky Auditorium on November 2 with an American musical showcase that features Bernstein and Copland and collaborations with the CU University Singers, the Boulder Ballet, and Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance.

Program Information: *Opening Night: Formations*

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Buttermann, Music Director

Inon Barnatan, Piano

BRITTEN: *Four Sea Interludes from "Peter Grimes"*

NYTCH: *Symphony No. 1 ("Formations")*

TCHAIKOVSKY: *Piano Concerto No.1*

Sunday, September 8—7:00 p.m.

Pre-concert talk with Kevin Shuck and Jeff Nyтч at 6:00 p.m., free to ticket-holders.

Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder

Tickets: \$13-\$70 (\$5 for students) at www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

***Saturday, September 7—7:30 p.m.**

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Highlands Ranch

Young Artist Concerto Competition winner Kelcey Howell to perform the first movement of the Dvořák *Cello Concerto* in place of the Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No.1*.

Tickets: \$20-\$30 (\$10 for students) at www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

Additional Events:

Anatomy of a Symphony—Conversation with composer Jeffrey Nyтч

Thursday, August 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m. (no charge)

Elevations Credit Union, Diagonal Branch, 2960 Diagonal Highway, Boulder

Details at <http://www.BoulderPhil.org/concerts/opening-night- formations>

Symphony in Stone, Musical Geology Hikes

Saturday, August 31, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. (no charge)

Saturday, September 14, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. (no charge)

Led by Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks naturalist Dave Sutherland

Details at <http://www.BoulderPhil.org/concerts/opening-night- formations>

Café Phil, Open Rehearsal, Dairy Center for the Arts

Wednesday, September 4 – 7:30 to 10 p.m. (no charge)

Recital & Reception with pianist Inon Barnatan, Private Home

Thursday, September 5 – 7 to 9 p.m.

Tickets: \$75 at www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343, ext. 2

*This program is sponsored by ExxonMobil, the Geological Society of America Foundation,
the Composer Assistance Program of New Music USA, the Boulder Arts Commission,
and the Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.*

Season Presenting Sponsor: Flatirons Bank

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