



BOULDER  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's 2015-2016 Season,  
Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder**

*With collaborations, star-power soloists, and a composer in residence*

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's 2015-2016 season, *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder*, shines the spotlight inward as it highlights a variety of life's inspirations expressed through music. From an opening night that captures the essence of storytelling and solo virtuosity to a grand finale with a semi-staged performance of a sacred oratorio, it's a rich and expanded season featuring great and new works, ballet and circus dancers, and a composer in residence, all with a twist and a connection that reflect the creative spirit of Boulder.

"I'm delighted that our opening night concert features our own concertmaster, Charles Wetherbee, in a performance of *The Storyteller*, based on Japanese folk tales, written for Wetherbee by Korine Fujiwara, a colleague in his Carpe Diem String Quartet," said Michael Buttermann, music director for the Boulder Phil. "We also feature the wildly popular and expressive pianist, Gabriela Montero, who joins us for one of the quintessential opening night pieces, Rachmaninoff's 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto. In addition to her accomplished artistry, Gabriela is an incomparable improviser," said Buttermann, who begins his ninth season with the orchestra in September, "and I'm counting on our audience to demand an encore so they can marvel at her truly unique ability."

The Boulder Phil performs a world premiere, *Portraits in Season*, in November, by the award-winning Denver-based composer Charles Denler, who was inspired by Thoreau's reflections on nature and life experiences. "When I first heard this work, I was immediately captivated by the exquisite beauty that so perfectly matched the natural serenity reflected in much of Thoreau's writing," said Buttermann. "I found that I couldn't hear the music without imagining scenes from nature in my mind."

To make sure the audience would experience a similar effect, Buttermann reached out to legendary photographer John Fielder, who enthusiastically agreed to curate and project a selection of his photos to match the music and Thoreau's guiding aesthetic framework. These photos will highlight intimate and at times abstract portraits of nature, presenting a different side of Fielder's work from the landscapes for which he is most well-known. Denler will be on stage to perform the piano part with the orchestra.

"It will be exciting to welcome the fabulous Anne Akiko Meyers as our special guest in February," said Buttermann, "when she'll be playing the glorious Mendelssohn Violin Concerto." The Boulder Phil opens this concert with a contemporary piece, *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*, written by Missy Mazzoli, a rising-star composer on the scene today. Mazzoli, a pianist, will spend the week in Boulder working with the orchestra, presenting chamber music in a variety of venues, talking to students, and meeting the public, as part of a composer-residency program made possible by a grant from Music Alive.



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Throughout the 2015-2016 season, the Boulder Phil will collaborate with other artistic organizations in the area. The Boulder Chorale, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, will perform *Schicksalslied*, or “*Song of Destiny*,” a short choral masterpiece by Brahms, as part of the November concert. The Boulder Ballet joins the Boulder Phil in January for a performance of Copland’s *Rodeo*, considered a quintessential work of western Americana, which was originally written for Agnes DeMille.

The season closes with a nearly unprecedented assemblage of collaborating organizations as Central City Opera, Boulder Bach Festival, CU College of Music choruses, and the Boulder Phil team up to present a semi-staged production of Bach’s immortal *St. Matthew Passion*. “This piece makes an overwhelmingly emotional impact and is infused with drama—it’s positively operatic in its sweep and pacing,” said Buttermann, who will be conducting the oratorio. “Having the opportunity to work with and experience art like this is the reason I feel privileged to be a musician—it doesn’t get any better, deeper, or more profound than this piece.”

The Boulder Phil’s special events this season include Christmas with the Phil, a lovely blend of holiday and classical treasures, and in early April 2016, it’s the return of the ever-popular, ever-innovating *Cirque de la Symphonie*, with two all-new performances, including a matinee, of circus entertainers performing highly choreographed and daring stunts to some of classical music’s most beloved melodies, often not found in standard symphony orchestra programming.

The 2015-2016 season also includes the annual collaboration with Boulder Ballet in “The Nutcracker” during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend—this year with new scenery—Discovery Concerts for local elementary school students, and free open rehearsal nights in partnership with the Dairy Center for the Arts. In addition, the Boulder Phil will continue its popular “Nature & Music” guided hikes with Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks, spotlighting musical selections inspired by nature. For information on the upcoming season, subscriptions, and individual tickets, visit [www.BoulderPhil.org](http://www.BoulderPhil.org) or call 303-449-1343 x2.

## **Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder*— 2015-2016 Season at a Glance**

### **September 13, 2015 (Sunday): Opening Night**

Maurice Ravel            *Mother Goose Suite*  
Korine Fujiwara        *The Storyteller*, with Charles Wetherbee, violin  
Sergei Rachmaninoff   *Piano Concerto No.2*, with Gabriela Montero, piano

### **November 14, 2015: Portraits in Season**

Johannes Brahms        *Schicksalslied* (“*Song of Destiny*”), with Boulder Chorale  
Charles Denler         *Portraits in Season*, with Charles Denler, piano; John Fielder, photography  
Johannes Brahms        *Symphony No. 2*

### **November 27 through November 29, 2015: The Nutcracker with Boulder Ballet**

**December 20, 2015: Christmas with the Phil, Mountain View United Methodist Church, Boulder**

**December 21, 2015: Christmas with the Phil, Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek**

**December 22, 2015: Christmas with the Phil, Lone Tree Arts Center, Lone Tree**



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with Boulder Bach Festival Chorus

**January 16, 2016: Dance, American Style, with Boulder Ballet**

**January 17, 2016: Dance, American Style, St. Luke's, Highlands Ranch (without dancers)**

William Schuman      *New England Triptych*

Leonard Bernstein      *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

Aaron Copland      *Prairie Night, Waltz, and Celebration Dance from Billy the Kid*

Aaron Copland      *Rodeo* (complete ballet), with Boulder Ballet

**February 12, 2016 (Friday): Spheres of Influence**

Missy Mazzoli      *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*, a Music Alive Composer Residency

Dmitri Shostakovich      *Symphony No. 9*

Pyotr Tchaikovsky      *Mozartiana*

Felix Mendelssohn      *Violin Concerto*, with Anne Akiko Meyers, violin

**April 2, 2016: Cirque de la Symphonie (2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.)**

**April 23 & 24, 2016: Season Finale: Bach—St. Matthew Passion**

A semi-staged production with Central City Opera, Boulder Bach Festival & CU Choruses

**Tickets and More Information:** Five- and six-concert subscription packages are now available. New subscribers save 50% off single ticket prices. Call 303-449-1343 x2 or visit [www.BoulderPhil.org](http://www.BoulderPhil.org)

*Season Sponsors: Flatirons Bank, Gordon & Grace Gamm, Boulder Arts Commission, SCFD*

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