



March 22, 2013

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Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's 2013-2014 Season Showcases Music Inspired by Nature

Season highlights include world-class artists, creative collaborations, and a world premiere

Solo virtuosic artistry, creative collaborations, and a world premiere are key features of the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's 2013-2014 season, *Nature & Music: The Spirit of Boulder*, with concerts that are designed to connect the orchestra with the community and the audience through a variety of music, artists, and local organizations.

"We are excited to present this upcoming season that combines Boulder's love for nature and the outdoors with its creative spirit," said Michael Buttermann, music director for the Boulder Phil. "As we've done in past seasons, each of our concerts has something familiar and something new for all of us to appreciate, explore, and engage in together."

The Boulder Phil, a fully professional orchestra, has continued to expand its audiences during the past seven seasons. Season subscriptions are up 70 percent from the 2006-2007 season, due in large part to Buttermann's musical leadership and community engagement. To date, Masterworks and Pops sales numbers are up 13 percent in number of tickets sold and 20 percent up in ticket income over last season.

Kicking off the season in September is the world premiere of *Symphony No. 1 ("Formations")* by Boulder composer Jeffrey Nytech, director of the Entrepreneurship Center for Music at CU-Boulder's College of Music. This work, inspired by the geology of the Rocky Mountain region, was co-commissioned by the Boulder Phil and the Geological Society of America, in celebration of the Boulder-based organization's 125th anniversary.

The "Nature & Music" season theme will be enhanced through a year-long 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 Phil chamber music performances and an art exhibit will also be presented as part of this partnership.

Continuing the spirit of collaboration is a program in November, an American musical showcase. This concert features the CU University Singers in a performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Copland's *Suite from The Tender Land*, and culminates in a semi-staged performance of Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with Boulder Ballet and Frequent Flyers Productions. "This collaboration is a wonderful way to celebrate the bond between our natural surroundings and our own creative community," said Buttermann.

The four world-class artists all making their Boulder Phil debuts during the season are Inon Barnatan performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Rachel Barton Pine performing the Berg *Violin Concerto*, Simone Dinnerstein performing both Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Lasser's *Piano Concerto*—written especially for her—and mandolin virtuoso Jeff Midkiff performing his own concerto, *From the Blue Ridge*.

Representing the heart and soul of the orchestral cannon are Brahms' *Symphony No. 4*, Debussy's *La Mer*, Smetana's *The Moldau*, and Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*, his quintessential work of sound painting.

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“Our 2013-2014 season threads together a variety of music that is inspired by nature, while at the same time reflects the creative spirit of Boulder and all that makes Boulder unique,” said Butterman. “It is a season that is attractive to our loyal audience while also open and exciting to first-time concert-goers.”

The 2013-2014 season includes the ever-popular annual collaboration with Boulder Ballet in *The Nutcracker* during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Discovery Concerts for local elementary school students, the annual Young Artist Concerto Competition in partnership with the Parlando School for the Arts, and repeat performances in locations such as Highlands Ranch (other venues TBA). For information on the upcoming season, subscriptions, and individual tickets, visit www.BoulderPhil.org or call 303-449-1343 x2.

2013-2014 Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, *Nature & Music: The Spirit of Boulder*, Season at a Glance

September 7, 2013 (Boulder) and September 8 (Highlands Ranch), Opening Night: Formations

BENJAMIN BRITTEN *Four Sea Interludes* from “Peter Grimes”
JEFFREY NYTCH *Symphony No. 1* (“Formations”), World Premiere
PIOTR TCHAIKOVSKY *Piano Concerto No. 1*, with Inon Barnatan, piano

November 2, 2013, Appalachian Spring

MASON BATES *Rusty Air in Carolina*
LEONARD BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms*, with CU University Singers
AARON COPLAND Suite from “The Tender Land,” with CU University Singers
AARON COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*, with Boulder Ballet & Frequent Flyers Productions

The Nutcracker with Boulder Ballet

Friday, November 29, 4 p.m.; Saturday, November 30, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, December 1, 2 p.m.

January 11, 2014, Three B’s

J.S. BACH/Stokowski *Komm, süßer Tod*
GUSTAV MAHLER *Blumine* (“Flowers”)
ALBAN BERG *Violin Concerto*, with Rachel Barton Pine, violin
JOANNES BRAHMS *Symphony No. 4*

February 22, 2014, A Night at the Oscars

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Boulder International Film Festival, this family-friendly concert features classic music from Oscar-winning and nominated films, including *Chasing Ice*, the climate change documentary by Boulder photographer James Balog nominated for Best Original Song. Music from *Harry Potter*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Mission*, and *Star Wars* is also programmed.

March 22, 2014, Rhapsody in Blue

STEVE HEITZEG *Ghosts of the Grasslands*
PHILIP LASSER *Piano Concerto*, with Simone Dinnerstein, piano
CLAUDE DEBUSSY *La Mer*
GEORGE GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*, with Simone Dinnerstein, piano

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April 26, 2014, Season Finale: The Pastoral Symphony

BEDRICH SMETANA

The Moldau

JEFF MIDKIFF

Mandolin Concerto: From the Blue Ridge, with Jeff Midkiff, mandolin

LUDWIG van BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)

About Michael Butterman, Music Director

Michael Butterman is making his mark as a model for today's conductors and is recognized for his commitment to creative artistry, innovative programming, and audience and community engagement. He is in his seventh season as music director for the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and also for the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and is in his 13th season as principal conductor for education and outreach for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the only position of its kind in the United States. He is also the resident conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

About the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

Under the vision and leadership of Music Director Michael Butterman, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra is celebrating its 55th season of providing outstanding orchestral music in our community. The Boulder Phil is a critically acclaimed professional orchestra, employing a core of 72 of our region's most highly trained musicians.

Voted "Best Classical Music" two years running by the readers of *Boulder Weekly*, the Boulder Phil's main performance venue is Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus, a historic concert hall which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Boulder Phil's main concert series—broadcast across the state on Colorado Public Radio—features a dynamic mix of masterpieces and promising new works, highlighting both accomplished and emerging guest artists with a special emphasis on Boulder's own creative community. The orchestra's broad reach in the community includes special events such as the annual co-production of *The Nutcracker* with Boulder Ballet as well as performances in Beaver Creek, Highlands Ranch, and other communities. The Boulder Phil also works to inspire the next generation of music-lovers through its Discovery Concerts reaching 4th and 5th grade students across three counties.

Founded in 1958, the Boulder Phil became a fully professional ensemble under the leadership of Theodore Kuchar, who began his tenure as music director in 1996. Michael Butterman was named music director in 2006, bringing a strong emphasis on education and outreach, as well as a creative approach to programming that includes a focus on collaborations with other local artists. Under his direction, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra reflects and fosters all that makes Boulder special—its creativity, spirit, beauty and quest for knowledge. By connecting people to orchestral music, the Boulder Phil strives to be an essential part of our community's cultural fabric.

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