



**BOULDER  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**APRIL 14, 2014**

**Boulder Phil's April 26 Concert Brings Season of Nature and Music to a Close**

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's "Nature & Music" season comes to a grand close on Saturday, April 26, at Macky Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., with "The Moldau," Smetana's beautiful riverscape; "From the Blue Ridge," a mandolin concerto performed by its composer; and Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral," Beethoven's quintessential work of sound painting, which celebrates the central role of nature in our lives.

"The Moldau," taken from a larger work, "Má vlast," by Czech composer Bedřich Smetana, opens the program. This familiar and beloved work extols and celebrates the composer's native Bohemia, and presents a vivid musical painting of a river, from its beginnings as two springs in the hill country whose effluent gains size and strength, to its eventual cascading over rocks as whitewater, the St. John's Rapids.

"Smetana also takes us on a journey along the river, as it runs through the countryside and by the lives of people living on its banks," said Music Director Michael Buttermann. "Around one bend, we encounter a fox hunt, around the next, a peasant wedding, around the next, it is evening, and the dappled moonlight glistens on the gently flowing river." The piece's main melody traces its origin to Renaissance Italy, but became well-known in Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th century, and eventually was even adopted by Israel as the melody of "Hatikvah," its national anthem.

The mandolin concerto, "From the Blue Ridge," is the centerpiece of the Boulder Phil's last concert of the season. Written and performed by Jeff Midkiff, this work directly reflects Midkiff's roots in the Blue Ridge Mountains and his fondness for the bluegrass music tradition, with a touch of swing and jazz in the mix.

"I am thrilled to introduce our Boulder audience to this wonderful new work," said Buttermann. "Jeff is a well-known bluegrass mandolinist and was a member of the famous Lonesome River Band for many years. From swirling dry fall leaves blowing in the wind to quotations from folksong and the orchestral equivalent of a bluegrass jam session in the third movement, this mandolin concerto evokes the sights and sounds of Appalachia. Midkiff's compositional voice is inventive, but grounded in familiar styles and suggestive of 'Copland meets bluegrass.' And the music's freshness is matched by Jeff's virtuosity as a performer. His fingers seem to move at the speed of light," said Buttermann.

The concert closes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral," a fitting summation of the Boulder Phil's season-long exploration of music and nature. "Whereas many of the pieces we have presented were inspired by a specific aspect of the natural world like the sea, the prairie, and the Rocky Mountains, Beethoven's nature-inspired symphony evokes features like a brook, birds, and a thunderstorm," Buttermann said. "More important, Beethoven presents human civilization in a natural context as we hear his evocation of yodel song, peasant dancing, and 'happy feelings of the villagers at the storm's passing.'



“Beethoven presents these impressions within the form and structure of the early Romantic symphony,” continued Buttermann. “His trademark use of motivic development is present everywhere and the piece has its own musical and structural logic independent of the tone painting aspects he incorporates. The piece is effective on a variety of levels and represents one of the composer’s many great achievements.”

Subscriptions to the 2014-2015 season, *Legends: The Spirit of Boulder*, are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting [www.BoulderPhil.org](http://www.BoulderPhil.org) or calling 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

**Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Program Information: *Season Finale: The Pastoral Symphony***  
**Saturday, April 26, 2014—7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder**

*Pre-concert talk, 6:30 p.m., free to ticket-holders.*

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

Michael Buttermann, Music Director  
Jeff Midkiff, Mandolin

SMETNA, The Moldau  
MIDKIFF, From the Blue Ridge  
BEETHOVEN, Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral”

**eTown Hall Special Event with Jeff Midkiff, Michael Buttermann, Nick Forster**

Concert, Conversation, and Earth Day Celebration  
Wednesday, April 23, 7 to 10 p.m.

Join composer and mandolin virtuoso Jeff Midkiff, Michael Buttermann, and eTown’s Nick Forster for an evening of great music, conversation, and refreshments at eTown Hall in Downtown Boulder, 1535 Spruce Street. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at [www.etown.org](http://www.etown.org).

**Musical Hikes: Ribbons of Life**

Sat., April 19, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Fri., April 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy an easy walk with Open Space & Mountain Parks naturalist Dave Sutherland along one of our local creeks to enjoy its gentle sounds and learn how this meandering green ribbon shapes the lives of creatures great and small along its banks. Listen to musical excerpts from the pieces on the upcoming April 26 concert and explore how the composers were inspired by flowing waters. Meet at the Bobolink Trailhead on Baseline Road, near its junction with Cherryvale Road. Visit [www.naturehikes.org](http://www.naturehikes.org) for more information.

*This program is sponsored by The Academy and Albert & Rebecca Bates.  
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