



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

APRIL 8, 2016

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTACT
Janet Braccio, Bella Voce Communications
janetbraccio@comcast.net, 303-499-9031

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Presents
Season Finale: St. Matthew Passion, April 23 & 24, 2016

Closing its season, *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder*, the [Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra](#), in an unprecedented collaboration with [Central City Opera](#), [Boulder Bach Festival](#), and [CU Boulder Choruses](#), presents *Season Finale: St. Matthew Passion*, a grand finale with a semi-staged performance of a sacred oratorio, April 23 at 7 p.m., at Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus; and April 24 at 2 p.m., at Central Presbyterian Church in Denver.

The *St. Matthew Passion* is the retelling of the story of Christ's crucifixion set to the music of J.S. Bach. First performed in a Good Friday service at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, April 11, 1727, where Bach was the choir director, this great work includes arias with texts by poet Christian Henrici (using the pseudonym Picander), Lutheran chorales chosen by Bach which were already familiar to his congregation, and text from chapters 26-27 of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Bach's score calls for double chorus, an extra choir to sing certain chorale melodies, vocal soloists, double orchestra, and two continuo sections; it moves from the narrative of the Evangelist, to the words of Jesus and his disciples, to reflections and observations of the individual believer.

"Bach demonstrated supreme mastery of every musical genre of his day, yet he never wrote an opera, per se," said Michael Buttermann, music director for the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra. "The *St. Matthew Passion* draws the listener into the story in a way that is theatrically compelling and deeply personal. We identify with the various personages in the story and find ourselves reflecting on the meaning of the actions as a collective humankind. Presenting the work in a semi-staged performance with our prominent musical partners brings this timeless work to life in a way that will touch audiences of all faiths and creeds. I'm thrilled that we can present this performance in Boulder and also in downtown Denver."

Typically, the *St. Matthew Passion* is performed in either a church or concert setting. This semi-staged production, under the stage direction of [Robert Neu](#), will bring the passion story to life through a theatrical interpretation in partnership with Central City Opera. The soloists will have entrances and exits and will act out their roles. Unlike a fully-staged production, there will not be sets, nor will the soloists and choruses be in costume. Buttermann will be conducting.

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Concert: *Finale: St. Matthew Passion*

Saturday, April 23, 2016—**7:00 p.m.**, Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder *Pre-concert talk, 6:00 p.m., free to ticket-holders.*

Sunday, April 24, 2016—2:00 p.m., Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St., Denver

Presenting Organizations

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra—Michael Buttermann, Conductor

Central City Opera—Robert Neu, Stage Director

—more—

Boulder Bach Festival Chorus—Zachary Carrettin, Artistic Director; Jason St. Claire, Guest Chorus Master
CU Boulder University Singers and CU Boulder University Choir—Dr. Gregory Gentry, Chorus Master

Guest Soloists

[Derek Chester](#), Evangelist

[Stephen Morscheck](#), Jesus

[Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson](#), Soprano

[Abigail Nims](#), Alto

[Kyle Stegall](#), Tenor

[Ryan Kuster](#), Bass

Tickets: www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343

Boulder—\$13 to \$70

Denver—General admission, \$25 to \$35

Call 303-449-1343 for student tickets to either performance

*Concert Sponsors: Rocky Mountain Wealth Management and Brewer's Association
Season Presenting Sponsors: Flatirons Bank, SCFD, and Gordon & Grace Gamm*

###