



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTACT

Janet Braccio, Bella Voce Communications
janetbraccio@comcast.net, 303-499-9031

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**Celebrated Pianist Simone Dinnerstein
Performs Two Concertos with the Boulder Philharmonic, March 22, 2014**

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra presents pianist Simone Dinnerstein in a performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and the Colorado premiere of Philip Lasser's "The Circle and the Child: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra," on Saturday, March 22, at CU's Macky Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Debussy's "La mer" ("The Sea") and Heitzeg's "Ghosts of the Grasslands" complement Lasser's French-American heritage for an evening that's rich with virtuosic performances, strong melodies, and stylistic music. The concert repeats on Monday, March 24 at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek.

The two piano concertos provide the centerpiece of the Boulder Phil program. "We are thrilled to be joined by world-renowned pianist and best-selling recording artist Simone Dinnerstein, who will offer the Colorado premiere (and only the second performance anywhere) of a new concerto, 'The Circle and the Child: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra,' written specifically for her by composer Philip Lasser," said Michael Buttermann, music director of the Boulder Phil. Completing the evening program is Gershwin's ever-popular "Rhapsody in Blue," a work that had a significant impact on a number of French composers, including Debussy's compatriot, Maurice Ravel.

Lasser, on the Juilliard faculty, is an American who was raised in France, and his concerto has overt allusions to Bach—Dinnerstein's specialty—as well as ample impressionistic touches. "The Circle and the Child" continues the thread of Dinnerstein's and Lasser's shared musical aesthetic, and reflects their mutual inspiration from the music of J.S. Bach. Cast in three movements, the concerto's core thread is a Bach Chorale, "Ihr Gestirn, ihr hohen Lüfte." The work explores ideas of travel and discovery, and of memory and return.

This concert also continues the Boulder Phil's season-long look at the ways in which composers have been inspired by the natural environment: one general and universal, and the other more site-specific. "On the one hand, we are presenting Debussy's landmark work of musical impressionism—'La mer'—a kaleidoscopic exploration of the various aspects and phases of the sea's 'personality,'" said Buttermann. "On the other hand, we are pleased to offer the Colorado premiere of Steve Heitzeg's 'Ghosts of the Grasslands,' a short work that includes many references to local flora and fauna. This piece requires select musicians to perform on buffalo bones, native prairie grass bundles, and squeaky toys that imitate the sounds of prairie dog barks," said Buttermann.

To complement the performance of "Ghosts of the Grasslands," Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks naturalist Dave Sutherland is leading two musical nature hikes on the mornings of March 15 and March 22, to identify and explain the plants and animals of our native grasslands and how they have changed since the first pioneers arrived in Boulder. Sutherland's hikes take place at a prairie dog town just south of Boulder. Hikers will observe day-to-day life and learn more about how prairie dogs are an important part of the grassland ecosystem, while listening to excerpts from the Heitzeg work. These musical hikes are part of a yearlong partnership Open Space & Mountain Parks and are free and open to the public.



The Boulder Phil is honored to dedicate the March 22 concert to the memory of David Burge, former Boulder Phil conductor/music director from 1965-1972, CU School of Music Faculty, and longtime piano faculty at the Eastman School of Music. The program, which features piano as well as contemporary music, recognizes important hallmarks of Burge's career.

The Boulder Phil's season concludes on April 26 with Smetana's riverscape, "The Moldau," Jeff Midkiff's high-energy mandolin showpiece, "From the Blue Ridge," and Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony."

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Program Information: *Rhapsody in Blue*

Saturday, March 22, 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 and 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

Michael Buttermann, Music Director
Simone Dinnerstein, Piano

HEITZEG—Ghosts of the Grasslands

LASSER—The Circle and the Child: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, a Colorado Premiere

DEBUSSY—La Mer

GERSHWIN—Rhapsody in Blue

Program repeats, Monday, March 24, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are available online at <http://vilarpac.org/Online/> and by calling 888-920-2787.

Special Event: House Recital with Simone Dinnerstein

Friday, Mar. 21, 7 to 9 p.m.

Experience the "arresting freshness and subtlety" (*TIME Magazine*) of pianist Simone Dinnerstein in recital. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and desserts while socializing with Ms. Dinnerstein, Music Director Michael Buttermann and Boulder Phil music lovers.

Musical Hikes: Ghosts of the Grasslands

Join Dave Sutherland, a naturalist with Open Space & Mountain Parks, for an easy morning hike learn about the plants and animals of our native grasslands. See how prairie dogs are an important part of the grassland ecosystem, while listening to excerpts from the Heitzeg work.

Sat., March 15, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Sat., March 22, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dress for the weather: it might be cool and windy. Meet at Marshall Mesa Trailhead, near the junction of Highway 93 and Eldorado Springs Drive. Visit www.naturehikes.org for more information.

This program is sponsored by Micro Motion.

Season Presenting Sponsors: Flatirons Bank, SCFD, and Gordon & Grace Gamm

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