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**MARCH 11, 2014**

### **Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Names Charles Wetherbee as Concertmaster**

Accomplished violinist and CU music faculty member offers extensive orchestral experience

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director Michael Butterman have appointed University of Colorado Assistant Professor of Violin Charles (Chas) Wetherbee as concertmaster for the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra. This selection followed a thorough and extensive 18-month national search, with an audition that included candidates from all over the United States. Charles Wetherbee succeeds Gregory Walker who served in this position for the Boulder Phil for 25 years.

“An orchestra's concertmaster has a profound influence on its sound,” said Michael Butterman, music director of the Boulder Phil. “Chas is not only a first-rate violinist, but also a tremendously experienced orchestral musician, and the combination of artistry and ensemble expertise that he brings will have an enormous and positive impact on the Boulder Phil's performance quality. We look forward to sharing a bright future together.”

With the selection of Wetherbee, the Boulder Phil looks forward to a deepening of the mutually beneficial relationship with CU's College of Music. “Not only do we share several faculty members and numerous alumni, but we have featured many faculty in solo roles, presented works by members of the composition faculty, collaborated to bring in guests, like composer Christopher Theofanidis, and offered our guests as presenters of master classes for CU students,” said Butterman. “We also offer discounted tickets to CU students and welcome them to open rehearsals at the Dairy Center for the Arts.”

Wetherbee has already established himself as a favorite with Boulder Phil audiences through several guest concertmaster appearances this season. His noteworthy solo turns with the orchestra have included the prominent fiddle tune in the "Gold Rush" movement of Jeffrey Nytych's "Formations" Symphony, premiered in September 2013 and broadcast on Colorado Public Radio. His first official performance as concertmaster with the Boulder Phil will be on April 26, the orchestra's season finale at Macky Auditorium, a program which features mandolinist Jeff Midkiff and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, ("Pastoral").

“I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with one of Boulder's leading arts organizations,” said Wetherbee, “and I hope that my role as concertmaster allows for both stronger ties between the university and the orchestra, and another way for me to continue to get to know our Boulder musical community.”

Wetherbee was recently appointed to the violin faculty of CU-Boulder College of Music. He is the first violinist of the Carpe Diem String Quartet, a founding member of Opus 3 piano trio, and the artistic director of the Dercum Center for Arts and Humanities in Keystone, Colorado. A native of Buffalo, New York, Wetherbee is a Curtis Institute of Music graduate, where he studied with Aaron Rosand, and has received numerous honors, including the Ashworth Artist and the George Hardesty awards.



MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Wetherbee's first orchestral position was as principal second violin with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., a position he held for five years; he was concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony, in Ohio, for sixteen years. Wetherbee performs on one of the world's rare and sought after violins, the Widenhouse 44, and uses bows by Charles Espy and Bennoit Rolland.

For more information about the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, visit [www.BoulderPhil.org](http://www.BoulderPhil.org).

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