

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Opens *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder* Season

The [Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra](#) kicks off its 2015-16 concert season, *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder*, with an opening night that captures the essence of storytelling and solo virtuosity on Sunday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. at [CU's Macky Auditorium](#).

Ravel's beloved *Mother Goose Suite* sets the tone for a night of storytelling with its evocative, enchanting scenes. Ravel himself was an avid storyteller and he originally wrote the *Mother Goose Suite* for piano four hands to accompany his own storytelling sessions. Later, Ravel orchestrated it to be adapted into a full-length ballet, utilizing the endlessly expressive colors of the orchestra.

The first of the night's featured guest artists is violinist **Charles Wetherbee**, performing the Colorado premiere of *The Storyteller*. "I'm delighted that our opening night concert features our own concertmaster, Charles Wetherbee, in a performance of *The Storyteller*, based on Japanese folk tales, written for Wetherbee by **Korine Fujiwara**, a colleague in his Carpe Diem String Quartet," said Michael Buttermann, music director for the Boulder Phil. This concerto is inspired in part by the haunting sounds of *Kangen*, a type of instrumental *Gagaku* (Japanese court music), and populated by a motley cast of characters from Japanese folk tales.

Also joining the Boulder Phil on opening night is Grammy-nominated, international soloist **Gabriela Montero**. Praised by *The New York Times* for her "crackling rhythmic brio, subtle shadings, steely power in climactic moments, soulful lyricism in the ruminative passages and, best of all, unsentimental expressivity," Montero joins the Boulder Phil to perform Rachmaninoff's virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 2. "In addition to her accomplished artistry, Gabriela is an incomparable improviser," said Buttermann, "and I'm counting on our audience to demand an encore so they can marvel at her truly unique ability."

On Saturday, September 12, the Boulder Phil will hold a preview performance at St. Luke's Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, featuring Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with award-winning pianist, **Diego Caetano**. Proceeds from this concert will benefit Pura Vida, a nonprofit organization working to promote health and education in the Quiché department of Guatemala. Guest artists Chas Wetherbee and Gabriela Montero are not a part of Saturday's preview performance.

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Concert: *Opening Night*

Sunday, [September 13](#), 2015—7:00 p.m., Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder

Pre-concert talk, 6:00 p.m., free to ticket-holders.

RAVEL—*Mother Goose Suite*

FUJIWARA—*The Storyteller*, featuring Charles Wetherbee, violin

RACHMANINOFF—Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Gabriela Montero, piano

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

“Café Phil” Free Open Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 9, 7:30–10 p.m.

Watch up-close as Music Director Michael Buttermann works with the musicians of the Boulder Philharmonic to bring the music to life. Refreshments available for purchase. Dairy Center for the Arts, 2590 Walnut St. in Boulder.

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra *Preview Performance*

Saturday, September 12, 2015—7:30 p.m., St. Luke’s Methodist Church, Highlands Ranch

RAVEL—*Mother Goose Suite*

RACHMANINOFF—Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Diego Caetano, piano

Tickets: \$20-30 (\$10 for students) at www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

###