



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTACT

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

OCTOBER 1, 2013

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Celebrates Appalachian Spring, November 2, 2013

*Boulder Phil performs all-American program in a grand collaboration
with CU-Boulder choirs and Boulder dance ensembles*

It's a collaborative coup on Saturday, November 2, when the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra shares the stage with Boulder Ballet, Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance, CU University Singers, and CU University Choir in an American musical showcase with works by Mason Bates, Leonard Bernstein, and Aaron Copland. This performance, the second of the 2013-2014 season that's dedicated to music inspired by nature, takes place at Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus at 7:30 p.m. Michael Buttermann, music director of the Boulder Phil, is on the podium.

"The three instrumental works on the program—*Rusty Air in Carolina*, Suite from *The Tender Land*, and *Appalachian Spring*—convey varied, though mostly peaceful and contented, impressions of rural life," said Buttermann. "In each case, the presence of nature, the land, and the environment are deeply felt."

Rusty Air in Carolina, written in 2006 by Mason Bates for orchestra and electronics, opens the concert. "Mason Bates is one of the most original composers working today," said Buttermann, "and he often finds ways to bridge the worlds of electronica and traditional acoustic music. His *Rusty Air in Carolina* evokes lazy summer evenings buzzing with both insect song and strains of bluegrass."

The concert continues with Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, written for the 1965 Southern Cathedrals Festival at Chichester Cathedral in England. The CU University Singers and the CU University Choir join the Boulder Phil in a performance of this work, sung in Hebrew, for orchestra and chorus. "The main conceptual thrust of this work seems to fit nicely with the quiet calm or 'inner glow of peace' that permeates the two Copland works on the second half of the program," said Buttermann. "Though we have moments of exuberant celebration, anguished confrontation, and 'noisy complaints' along the way, the strongest impression is made by the work's prayer for peace, a longing that, alas, always seems to be timely."

The second half of the program belongs to Aaron Copland, considered one of the great American composers of the 20th century. The Suite from Copland's only opera—*The Tender Land*—explores the struggles and rewards of pioneer farm life in the Midwest, in which the land is by turns partner and adversary. "Ultimately uplifting," said Buttermann, "the work's famous 'Promise of Living' chorus is as affirmative a musical statement as anything Copland wrote."

Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, the centerpiece for the evening, was written for Martha Graham, whose choreography made it an iconic work of modern dance. "Though this work is often presented as pure concert music, I wanted instead to collaborate with a few of our outstanding dance ensembles—Boulder Ballet and Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance—to create something truly unique and special," said Buttermann. "Our aim is to present a vision of the work that conveys not so much the specific details of the original



narrative as the ‘feel’ and ‘spirit’ of the music, giving it greater dimension through dance. I’m thrilled by this opportunity to present an ‘only-in-Boulder’ take on such glorious music.”

The Boulder Phil’s season continues with two holiday offerings: *The Nutcracker* with Boulder Ballet, Thanksgiving weekend, November 29 through December 1; and *Christmas with the Phil*, a festive new tradition, on December 21 at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek, and on December 22 at Mountain View Methodist Church. Associate Conductor Travis Jürgens leads members of the Boulder Phil and the Boulder Phil Chamber Singers in classical holiday favorites, including the “Hallelujah” chorus from Handel’s *Messiah* and works by Bach and Corelli.

Program Information: *Appalachian Spring*

Saturday, November 2—7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Buttermann, Music Director

CU University Singers, Gregory Gentry, Chorus Master

CU University Choir, David Kates, Chorus Master

Boulder Ballet, Alex Davison, Choreographer

Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance, Nancy Smith, Choreographer

Pre-concert talk with Maestro Buttermann, Alex Davison from Boulder Ballet, and Nancy Smith from Frequent Flyers, 6:30 p.m., free to ticket-holders.

MASON BATES *Rusty Air in Carolina*

LEONARD BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms*

with the CU University Singers and CU University Choir

AARON COPLAND *Suite from “The Tender Land”*

with the CU University Singers and CU University Choir

AARON COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*

with Boulder Ballet and Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance

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

Event of Note:

Post-concert party in the Macky lobby with the Boulder Phil and concert collaborators, free.

*This program is sponsored by the Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.
Season Presenting Sponsor: Flatirons Bank*

###