



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

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Boulder Phil Chosen to Participate in Inaugural *SHIFT Festival* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

*New Music Festival Beginning in 2017 Showcases Four Orchestras and Provides
National Platform to Celebrate Creativity and Build Community*

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra has been chosen to participate in the new weeklong *SHIFT Festival*, taking place at the Kennedy Center from March 27 through April 2, 2017. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and the Brooklyn-based ensemble, The Knights, chosen from a pool of exceptional submissions from orchestras across North America, will also be participating.

“On behalf of the Boulder Philharmonic, I am thrilled and honored that we’ve been selected to perform in our nation’s capital alongside some of the finest orchestras in the country,” said Michael Butterman, music director of the Boulder Phil. “For several seasons, we’ve been fine-tuning our new model for programming, called *The Spirit of Boulder*, which reflects our community’s own values, creativity, and sense of place. By connecting people to orchestral music, the Boulder Phil strives to be an essential part of our community’s cultural fabric. We couldn’t be more delighted to share what’s working so well in Boulder with those involved in the first *SHIFT Festival*,” said Butterman.

SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras is a weeklong spotlight on North American orchestras of all sizes that celebrates the vitality, unique identity, and extraordinary artistry of orchestras by creating an immersive festival experience in the nation’s capital. It is the first significant collaboration between the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts in their shared history. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a \$900,000 grant for the collaboration, of which \$700,000 will be leveraged as matching funds for new gifts to support the program.

In addition to compelling and diverse full-orchestra concert programs performed in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, each of the four orchestras will engage in a mini-residency, interacting with the surrounding community through educational and outreach activities, symposia, and community events in venues throughout Washington, D.C. *SHIFT* provides a national platform for today’s most innovative orchestras to share a sampling of their most creative and provocative work that embodies the individual orchestra’s identity, community, and artistic vision. Main stage concerts will be ticketed at \$25, alongside a combination of ticketed and free events throughout the city.

In recent seasons the Boulder Phil has collaborated with an impressive 45 local organizations, encompassing arts, science, nature, youth, social services and more. From multi-genre productions featuring dance, choral and visual elements to concerts with a unique hometown flavor, the Boulder Phil strives to reflect and foster all that makes Boulder special: its creativity, spirit, natural beauty, and quest for knowledge.

This sensitivity to the community’s circumstances blossomed during the Boulder Phil’s 2013-14 season, entitled *Nature & Music*. Programming capitalized on Boulder residents’ love of the city’s natural setting by exploring the many ways composers have been inspired by nature. Community

partnerships were key in the success of this programming initiative. The Boulder Phil connected the music directly to the surrounding open space lands by instituting a popular series of guided musical hikes. These both brought concert attendees outdoors, while also enticing nature enthusiasts into the concert hall.

The programs and outreach activities for the *SHIFT Festival* all draw from this collection of successful *Nature & Music* programs. Festival activities will include nature hikes in Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek, led by naturalist Dave Sutherland, from Boulder's Open Space & Mountain Parks, "stroll-to" outdoor performances by Boulder Phil ensembles, composer talks, and a full-orchestra performance in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, March 28, 2017, which includes a performance of Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, featuring Boulder's Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance.

"The *SHIFT Festival* showcases how America's orchestras have shifted their visions to reflect the music and programming that's unique to their own communities," said Butterman. "We couldn't be more honored to share our vision of the Boulder Phil, *The Spirit of Boulder*, with other orchestras across the country doing the same thing."

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Presents "Nature & Music"

The Kennedy Center, March 28, 2017

Stephen Lias—*All the Songs that Nature Sings*

(World premiere commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with choreographed visuals)

Jeff Midkiff—Mandolin Concerto: *From the Blue Ridge*, with Jeff Midkiff on the mandolin

Steve Heitzeg—*Ghosts of the Grasslands*

Aaron Copland—*Appalachian Spring*, with Boulder's Frequent Flyers® Dance

Other residency activities in Washington, D.C., include the following:

Nature hikes in D.C.'s Rock Creek Park on March 27, led by naturalist Dave Sutherland from Boulder's Open Space & Mountain Parks, "Stroll-to" outdoor performances by Boulder Phil ensembles during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, and a post-concert composer talk. The Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras will also be performing on the Millennium Stage in the Kennedy Center lobby, immediately preceding the featured performance by the Boulder Phil.

About the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

As one of Colorado's premier professional ensembles, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra is creating a new model for American orchestras through dynamic performances that reflect our community's own values, creativity, and sense of place. Voted "Best of Boulder" for the past four years in a row, today's Boulder Phil is bucking national trends with growing, enthusiastic audiences under the vision and leadership of Music Director Michael Butterman.

The Boulder Phil's main concert series—broadcast state-wide on Colorado Public Radio—is presented at Macky Auditorium, a historic jewel on the University of Colorado campus. From multi-genre productions featuring dance, choral, and visual elements to concerts with a unique hometown flavor, the Phil's imaginative programming has resulted in increasing numbers of sold-out concerts and nationwide notice in *Symphony Magazine*. In recent seasons the Phil has collaborated with an impressive 45 local organizations, encompassing arts, science, nature, youth, social services, and more. By going beyond simply performing great music, we strive to connect ever more people to the inspiring power of orchestral music.

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