

MARKETING FEATURE

Daily Camera Spotlight

Boulder County Business, Magnified.



Richard O'Neill. (Photo: Boulder Phil)



Rachel Barton Pine. (Photo: Lisa Marie Mazzoni)



Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance. (Photo: Art Linkart)



Marcus Roberts Trio. (Photo: Boulder Phil)

Reignite Your Senses

BOULDER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO ITS IN-PERSON ROOTS FOR ITS 2021-22 SEASON

By Adam Goldstein
for Business Plus Spotlight

After a year of virtual concerts, pre-recorded performances and other virtual options for music lovers looking to safely get their fix in pandemic conditions, the Boulder Phil is one of the many local arts organizations looking toward a silver lining in the coming months. In this case, that positive outlook means returning to live, orchestral performances for its in-person audiences.

"For our upcoming 2021-22 season, we are excited to welcome you back inside the concert hall to reignite and reawaken your senses with the energy of in-person, live performances of great music that we know you'll love," Executive Director Sara Parkinson said in a release. "The health and safety of our patrons, musicians and staff is our first priority, with all of the necessary COVID-19 safety protocols in place."

The upcoming season's theme of reconstruction, renewal and recovery finds expression in a diverse array of musical options for Boulder Phil concertgoers and subscribers. From a spotlight on the works of American jazz composer George Gershwin to a concert featuring one of the world's most accomplished double players, the Boulder Phil's upcoming season celebrates its return to in-person music-making with a comprehensive focus.

Of course, the upcoming season also reverts in the Boulder Phil's longstanding tradition of celebrating some of classical music's most accomplished composers and musicians; concertgoers can also expect fresh performances of timeless works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Stravinsky, performed by ensembles and featuring standout interpretations by world-

renowned soloists.

This diverse season lineup is all part of a push to reward longtime Boulder Phil fans for their patience and investment after a challenging year. The organization met the demands of the moment in innovative ways over the past year. Last year, the Boulder Phil offered a series of seven pre-recorded concerts taped in the city and COVID-safe setting of the Berglund Aviation hangar at the Boulder Municipal Airport, and audiences tuned in virtually.

For the first moves toward a return to normal, the organization will work to make their in-person concerts more engaging and immersive than ever, even as they abide by capacity limits and social distance guidelines spelled out by the county and the state.

These efforts will begin in October, with the Phil's performance of two limited-capacity events at the Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder. The theme of a return to normal will then find a fitting expression with the orchestra's performance of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," presented in collaboration with the Boulder Ballet at Macky Auditorium on the CU Boulder campus.

This performance will mark a return to a longstanding Boulder Phil tradition, as the ensemble formerly kicks off the season with one of Western music's most beloved musical expressions of the holiday.

The Boulder Philharmonic's formal subscription series will kick off in earnest in 2022, beginning with a celebration of the American composer George Gershwin for performances on Jan. 22 at Macky and Jan. 23 at the Lone Tree Arts Center. Boulder Phil Music Director Michael Butterman will conduct "An American in Paris" and the "Piano Concerto in E" joined by the

trio of Marcus Roberts on piano, Rodney Jordan on bass and Jason Marsalis on drums.

This jazz-infused kickoff to the New Year will be followed by a tribute to a master and a world premiere in February. Violist Rachel Barton Pine will join Butterman and the orchestra for a performance of Beethoven's 7th Symphony, as well as the debut of Billy Childs' Concerto for Violin and Orchestra on Feb. 12 at Macky.

In March, pianist Terrence Wilson will join the orchestra for takes on Rachmaninoff, as well as pieces by Cindy McTee and Herbmann. Following performances through the spring will feature pieces by Stravinsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mason Bates and Elgar, and in May, the season will wrap up with a performance by a world-renowned double bassist, John Shmookler and his trio will join the orchestra for an as-yet-undetermined program that will fuse his mastery of the four-string instrument with the orchestra's mastery of the classical canon.

Through all of these performances, Parkinson insists, the organization will include tributes to the Boulder community, incorporating the input and collaboration of fellow local artists, dancers and musicians.

"Boulder touches abound in the upcoming season, including concertmaster Charles Winkler playing the evocative 'Butterfly Lovers Concerto,' along with spectacular aerial choreography from Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance in April," she said. "We will also premiere two fascinating works of video art commissioned by the Boulder Phil to depict and enhance the experience of 'Circuits' and 'Mysterious Mountain' in March."

Along with the stunning touches of accomplished soloists like violist Rachel Barton Pine, pianist Terrence Wilson and Boulder's own Grammy-winning violinist,

Richard O'Neill, all of these are designed to properly welcome loyal audiences back after a tough year.

And with options for season-long subscription packages, the Boulder Philharmonic is hoping that those audiences will be excited to support an arts organization that's served the local community for decades in a critical way.

According to Music Director Michael Butterman, the Boulder Philharmonic serves a vital purpose for the Boulder community, one that's even more important after a year marked by a global pandemic, a local tragedy and untold trials for individuals and arts organizations alike. As Butterman worked to assemble a virtual season last year, he reflected on the power and potential of music to serve as a healing agent in tough times.

"These observations are just as applicable as the light begins to flicker at the end of the tunnel."

"For me, art is a transcendent experience. I'm able to go to another place, a different state of mind when I hear something that's profoundly moving," Butterman said. "More than ever, we need a way to escape circumstances that feel oppressive; we need a reprieve from the darkness that one may feel after a pandemic. ... I hope these concerts give us a chance to bring the audience into the experience in a new way."



For full season lineup and ticket/subscription options, visit boulderphil.org



Billy Childs. (Photo: Art Linkart)



John Shmookler. (Photo: Boulder Phil)



The Nutcracker. (Photo: D. Aumann)



Terrence Wilson. (Photo: J. Henry-Jac)