



MEDIA RELEASE

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

April 10, 2012

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra's Season Finale Celebrates Takács Quartet

One of the world's premier string quartets featured in a rare performance with full orchestra

The Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra closes its 2011-2012 season in a concert that features the [Takács Quartet](#), at CU-Boulder's Macky Auditorium, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Members of the quartet will perform together, individually, and as a duo on a program that reflects intimate collaboration, virtuosity, and passionate music, both familiar and rarely performed.

"The Boulder Phil is honored to work with Takács, one of the world's great string quartets, in residence at CU-Boulder College of Music," said Music Director Michael Butterman. "The quartet repertoire is deep, rich, and rewarding, offering more than a lifetime's worth of great material for any ensemble. Yet even so, the chance to perform as an orchestral soloist offers a welcome opportunity to project a different side of one's musical personality."

The first selection on the program is Sir Edward Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro*, written in 1905 for the London Symphony Orchestra. "This is one of a small handful of pieces written for string orchestra and 'solo' string quartet," said Butterman, "and, without question, it offers Takács a chance to perform simultaneously as a quartet and as orchestral soloists."

"We played the Elgar with the San Diego Symphony two years ago," said Takács first violinist Ed Dusinberre. "In fact the orchestra parts are much harder than the solo parts—we just color the opulent sound of the string orchestra. It's great fun," he said. "Elgar's music has this unusual combination of grand, noble sentiment with, at times, deep melancholy and nostalgia. I love it."

The following selections feature Takács violist Geri Walther in two works for solo viola: the more famous *Concerto for Viola*, written in 1774 written by Carl Stamitz for himself, and the rarely heard *Romance for Viola and Orchestra*, written in 1911 by Max Bruch. "These two pieces show two sides of the viola's sound—one crisp and technical, the other lyrical and romantic," said Butterman. "The viola has a rich and mellow voice that is an essential part of the sonic 'glue' that holds an orchestra or a quartet together, but in the hands of a virtuoso like Geri, it can also project a lovely and compelling solo voice."

"The Stamitz is fun to play and hear because it's a joyful romp in the first and last movements, giving the soloist plenty to do," said Ms. Walther, who joined the Takács Quartet in 2005 and teaches viola at CU-Boulder. "It also has a very soulful and quietly beautiful middle movement to provide a contrast." Commenting on the Bruch, Ms. Walther said that she recently performed it in her hometown in Tampa and that although it is quite short, "it's packed with lovely sounds and is a beautiful romantic jewel of a piece for the viola with orchestra."



The second half of the concert features the *Concerto for Violin and Cello*, written in 1887 by Johannes Brahms. “Like the Elgar, it’s a bit of a hybrid—part collaborative piece and part solo work,” said Butterman. “The violin and cello have to work in tandem, of course, but they also take on leadership roles both individually and as a pair. The piece is often performed by soloists who may be brought together solely for the purpose of a single evening’s collaboration and the results can be uneven, depending on how well the soloists are able to work with each other. In our case, though, we have two musicians, Ed Dusinberre and András Fejér, who are not only superb virtuosos, but also consummate collaborators—musicians whose years of playing together in the Takács make them ideal duo partners in this great concerto by Brahms,” said Butterman. “I love the richness of sonority of the combined solo instruments, and the dialogue between them,” said Dusinberre, commenting on the Brahms concerto.

“We are so looking forward to playing with the Boulder Phil,” concluded Dusinberre. “We know many of the musicians in the group, which will make the occasion really festive.”

Program Information: *Season Finale: Celebrating Takács*

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra
Michael Butterman, Music Director
Takács Quartet

ELGAR: *Introduction and Allegro*
STAMITZ: *Concerto for Viola*
BRUCH: *Romance for Viola and Orchestra*
BRAHMS: *Concerto for Violin and Cello*

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder

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

*This program is sponsored by the Boulder Arts Commission
and the Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.*

###