



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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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. Proposed festival activities 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 Buttermann. "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."

Program, The Kennedy Center, March 28, 2017

"NATURE & MUSIC"
BOULDER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Michael Buttermann, Music Director
Steven Lias, Composer
John Fielder, Photographer
Jeff Midkiff, Mandolinist & Composer
Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance

STEPHEN LIAS—Rocky Mountain National Park Commission
World premiere, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service
Photography by John Fielder
JEFF MIDKIFF—Mandolin Concerto: *From the Blue Ridge*
Jeff Midkiff, mandolin
STEVE HEITZEG—*Ghosts of the Grasslands*
AARON COPLAND—*Appalachian Spring* with Boulder's Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance

About the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

As one of Colorado's premier ensembles, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra 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. During Michael Butterman's tenure, the Boulder Phil's imaginative programming has resulted in increasing numbers of sold-out concerts and a 70% increase in subscriptions.

Founded in 1958, the Boulder Phil became a fully professional ensemble under the leadership of Theodore Kuchar, whose tenure as music director began in 1996. Today the Boulder Phil is increasingly in demand across the Denver metro area, with regular invitations to perform at the prestigious Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek.

Under Michael Butterman's direction, the Phil has welcomed composers such as Christopher Theofanidis, Daniel Kellogg, Rony Barak, Ruby Fulton, Philip Lasser, and Bill Douglas. The Boulder Phil has performed with many of classical music's greatest stars, including Itzhak Pearlman, Hilary Hahn, Yo-Yo Ma, Mstislav Rostropovich, James Galway and Richard Stoltzman. The Boulder Phil dedicated an entire concert in collaboration with the world renowned Takács Quartet and has an ongoing relationship with violinist Sarah Chang, whose first orchestral appearance was with the Boulder Phil at age 8 just prior to her debut with the New York Philharmonic.

The Boulder Phil strives to inspire the next generation of music lovers through Discovery Concerts that have reached thousands of 4th and 5th grade students in 28 schools across three counties. For decades the Phil has also fostered new talent with the annual Young Artist Concerto Competition, and Boulder Phil musicians provide mentorship through side-by-side youth orchestra concerts. In all these ways, the Boulder Phil strives to be at the center of our community's cultural fabric.

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