

July 1, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lawrence J. Fried
(425) 455-4171

BELLEVUE PHILHARMONIC ENDS RECORD-BREAKING YEAR;
ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS AT ALL-TIME HIGH.

The Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) ended the 2005-2006 concert season and fiscal year on June 30th, having achieved record-breaking ticket sales and contributions. At the recent annual meeting, executive director Lawrence J. Fried reported on the highlights of the past year:

- a 99% increase in subscription sales;
- finishing “in the black” for the fourth consecutive year, with no deficit;
- averaging 93-94% capacity for all concerts in the Theatre at Meydenbauer;
- receiving a two-year sponsorship from the Microsoft Corporation to be the “Season Guest Artist” sponsor, starting in 2006-2007;
- being awarded a three-year grant from the Paul Allen Family Foundation, to be used for audience development;
- serving 5,100 elementary school children in 43 schools with the “Sound Adventures in Schools” program, free of charge;
- offering public master classes for music students with visiting guest artists;
- creating an adult music appreciation course, taught by music director Fusao Kajima, in collaboration with Bellevue Community College.

In making the announcement, Fried said: “We are extremely gratified by the community’s response to the Bellevue Philharmonic. This unprecedented year of growth confirms that our entire Eastside community - individuals, corporations and foundations - has embraced the BPO and has encouraged us to expand our concert season next year.”

Under the direction of music director Fusao Kajima, the BPO has expanded its “Masterworks@Meydenbauer” series to include six pairs of concerts, beginning September 30 and October 1, 2006 at the Theatre at Meydenbauer in downtown Bellevue.

Following the theme “Your Passport to Great Music,” the BPO’s season includes a wide range of orchestral and vocal repertoire including a United States premiere by the contemporary Japanese composer Kaoru Wada. “Masterworks” guest soloists include: pianists Norman Krieger and Stephen Beus; violinists Sergiu Luca and Lee-Chin; singers Jennifer Check (soprano), Daniel Ebbers (tenor) and baritone Victor Benedetti (baritone) plus BPO principal harpist John Carrington.

The BPO will also present the traditional holiday program, “Messiah,” for the first time at Kirkland Performance Center plus the 4th Annual Young Artists Debut Concert at Meydenbauer. Subscription packages are available for 3, 6 or 8 concerts and are available through Ticketwindow.

For a free season brochure, contact the BPO: www.belevuephil.org or (425) 455-4171.

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