

**BELLEVUE PHILHARMONIC PRESENTS**

**A WEEKEND OF MUSIC**

**November 21, 22, 23, 2008**

Bellevue – A great **Weekend of Music** is ahead for the region’s music lovers. Renowned American composer-conductor **AARON JAY KERNIS** is the featured star on the podium of the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra Nov. 22-23, when he leads the orchestra in his own “Musica Celestis for Strings,” as part of a **MASTERWORKS SERIES** program in the Meydenbauer Center Theater.

And the orchestra’s popular “**A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**” **SERIES** of intimate music-and-wine evenings in the Bellevue Arts Museum continues Nov. 21 with two well-known Northwest pianists: **JUDITH COHEN and DEAN WILLIAMSON**, playing Ravel’s charming “Mother Goose Suite” for One Piano, Four Hands.

These programs continue the Bellevue Philharmonic’s groundbreaking 2008-09 season, dedicated to bringing renowned performers to the Eastside’s concert stages.

Aaron Jay Kernis (born in 1960) is one of today’s most successful, listenable composers for orchestra, with a long list of awards headed by a Pulitzer Prize and commissions from such organizations as the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. In the Bellevue Philharmonic’s program, Kernis also is set to conduct three other American works: Bernstein’s jazzy “On the Town” Overture, Copland’s beloved “Appalachian Spring,” and Kevin Puts’ 1997 Marimba Concerto, inspired by Mozart’s music (with Naoko Takada, marimba soloist).

Judith Cohen, who tours and records internationally, will also be heard in works of Scarlatti, Debussy, Ravel, Schulhoff, and Ginastera in the “A Little Night Music” Series event. Williamson, her partner that evening in the Ravel suite, needs no introduction to Seattle Opera audiences, where he has frequently been featured as both conductor and pianist. He now is artistic director of Opera Cleveland, and is scheduled to conduct Seattle Opera’s upcoming “The Marriage of Figaro.”

Pianist Robert Taub, originally scheduled to perform Nov. 21, will instead be featured in a Beethoven recital in the May 15th (2009) “A Little Night Music” Series.

Hear Kernis with the orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22, 2 p.m. Nov. 23, in Bellevue’s Meydenbauer Theatre (\$10-\$38, 425-455-4171 or [www.bellevuephil.org](http://www.bellevuephil.org)). The Cohen/Williamson “A Little Night Music” performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Bellevue Arts Museum (\$7-\$20, as above).

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