



*November 12, 2009*

### **Bellingham Festival of Music Announces Seventeenth Season**

BELLINGHAM, WA— The Bellingham Festival of Music announces its seventeenth season of orchestral and chamber concerts July 1 – July 18, 2010 featuring guest artists Horacio Gutiérrez, Stefan Jackiw, Heidi Grant Murphy, and Joshua Roman.

Under the direction of maestro Michael Palmer, the Bellingham Festival Orchestra brings together principal players from major American and European orchestras and exceptional musicians from regional and national ensembles to present concerts of classical music at the highest caliber of artistic excellence.

The 2010 Festival will present five orchestral concerts and two programs of chamber music over the course of two and a half weeks, an expanded offering over the previous year's programming.

Season and individual ticket prices will be announced and tickets will go on sale in the spring of 2010.

For more information online, please visit <http://www.bellinghamfestival.org>

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*Complete electronic media kits will be available beginning January 2010.*

*Attached pages:  
2010 Festival Season Programs  
About Bellingham Festival of Music / Artistic Director Michael Palmer*

**2010 BELLINGHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**  
**ORCHESTRAL and CHAMBER PROGRAMS**

**Thursday, July 1, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Palmer, conductor

Christina Smith, flute

J.S. Bach: *Suite #3 in D major BWV 1068*

C.P.E. Bach: *Flute Concerto in B minor*

Beethoven: *Symphony #2 in D Major op. 36*

**Tuesday, July 6, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Palmer, conductor

Horacio Gutierrez, piano

Weber: *Overture to Oberon*

Prokofiev: *Piano Concerto #3 in C Major*

Schumann: *Symphony #2 in C Major op. 61*

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Palmer, conductor

Joshua Roman, cello

Kernis: *Musica Celestis*

Haydn: *Cello Concerto in C Major, Hob. VIIb:1*

Tchaikovsky: *Variations on a Rococo Theme op. 33*

Ginastera: *Variaciones Concertantes*

**Sunday, July 11, 2010**

Bellingham Cruise Terminal, times TBA

Festival Chamber Players

Program TBA

**Monday, July 12, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Heidi Grant Murphy, soprano

Kevin Murphy, piano

Joshua Roman, cello

Program TBA

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Palmer, conductor

Heidi Grant Murphy, soprano

Joseph Robinson, oboe

Bellingham Festival Chorus

Bizet: *Petite Suite from "Jeux d'enfants," op.22*

Britten: *Les Illuminations, op.18*

Francaix: *Flower Clock*

Poulenc: *Gloria*

**Sunday, July 18, 2010**

WWU Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Palmer, conductor

Stefan Jackiw, violin

Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*

Mendelssohn: *Violin Concerto in E minor op. 64*

Beethoven: *Symphony #4 in Bb Major op. 60*

## **About the Bellingham Festival of Music**

Nestled between the mountains and water, Bellingham, Washington's spectacular natural beauty provides the ideal backdrop for the celebration of classical music. In 1993, noted American conductor Michael Palmer and renowned cellist, Robert Sylvester, who was at that time Dean of The College of Fine and Performing Arts and Director of Cultural Affairs of Western Washington University, recognized the yearning of the community of Bellingham to hear live classical music of the highest caliber and their willingness to support it, and founded the Bellingham Festival of Music. The dedicated group of volunteers who formed the first Board of Directors shared their vision and tirelessly built the financial and civic support required to bring the Festival into existence.

Under the baton of Maestro Palmer, the Festival became an annual tradition of presenting world class soloists in summer programs of classical music, performed by an orchestra composed of principal-chair musicians drawn from orchestras across the United States and Europe. Taking advantage of the extraordinary scenic beauty of Bellingham and surroundings, concerts have been held at such diverse locations as Western Washington University, the White Salmon Lodge on the slopes of Mount Baker, the Mount Baker Theater, and venues at the Bellingham harbor.

Over the years, the Festival has attracted an array of internationally celebrated guest artists to join the Festival Orchestra and Chorus to create unforgettable musical experiences for a generation of audiences. Such luminaries as violinist Sarah Chang, guitarist Pepe Romero, Metropolitan Opera stars Frederica von Stade and Heidi Grant-Murphy and pianists Alicia de Larrocha and Garrick Ohlsson, among others, have thrilled Festival audiences with their extraordinary performances and have put Bellingham on the musical map of America.

Recordings of live performances from the Bellingham Festival of Music have been broadcast on nationwide radio. In 2000 the Festival produced a three-CD set of the complete Piano Concertos of Beethoven featuring Garrick Ohlsson with Michael Palmer conducting the Festival orchestra in live performances. These performances were recorded live at the festival on the on the Natural Soundfields label. In 2009, the Bellingham Festival of Music received a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a resounding endorsement of the quality of the Festival and the value of the Festival to the national cultural tapestry.

## **About Artistic Director Michael Palmer**

Michael Palmer has held the post as artistic director of the Bellingham Festival of Music since 1993. Under his leadership, the Festival has become internationally recognized, and live recordings from its annual concerts have been heard across the United States on National Public Radio, featuring some of the world's finest orchestral musicians and major guest artists.

Michael Palmer has long been considered one of this country's finest conductors. His professional career began at age 21, when he was invited by Robert Shaw to become assistant conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, where he was soon promoted to associate conductor.

After 10 years in Atlanta with ASO, Palmer accepted the post of music director of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra in 1977. While at Wichita he also served as guest conductor of the Houston Symphony Orchestra (1978 – 1981), and was co-principal guest conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra (1979-1982).

From 1989 to 1997, Michael Palmer assumed the post of music director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. In 1994, Carnegie Hall invited Palmer and the NHSO to perform in New York City as part of their esteemed Visiting Orchestras Series.

In 1991 Palmer founded the American Sinfonietta, which toured Europe for ten years and served as the resident orchestra for the Bellingham Festival of Music. Under his leadership they played to critical acclaim in major concert halls in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Over the course of his career, Michael Palmer has made appearances as guest conductor with many US Orchestras, including the Rochester Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Philharmonic San Diego Symphony, as well as orchestras in Austria, Poland, China, and most recently in Greece.

Palmer returned to Atlanta in August of 2004 as director of orchestras for Georgia State University, which in 2006 honored him with the title of Charles Thomas Wurm Distinguished Professor of Orchestral Studies.